

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

DIVISION OF SOCIAL WORK

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SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK GRADUATE CONCENTRATION

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: The **SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK GRADUATE CONCENTRATION** provides a specialization in the social work program and serves as a specialized educational preparation for social workers who plan to work in the Wyoming school systems. This concentration is designed to support the master of social work student who plans to seek certification with the Professional Teaching Standards Board of Wyoming (and possibly through other School Boards in the U.S.).

RATIONALE: Working in the K through 12 school environments holds great challenges and demands for social workers. Educational policies and procedures mandate extensive social service options for children and families. Social workers often are responsible for major aspects of meeting the supportive services for students and their families. Ultimately, the school provides supports to allow students to achieve their educational potential. School social workers are a vital member in the primary and secondary educational arena. These social workers must learn about the educational issues that surround this area of practice. Issues include mainstreaming, access to educational resources, “no child left behind,” and educational assessments that support the individualized educational planning for children and youth.

The Division of Social Work at the University of Wyoming is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and within its current program offerings for matriculated graduate students has stipulated requirements to meet the preparatory requirements for school social work. This preparatory coursework has been evaluated by the Wyoming Department of Education Professional Teaching Standards Board and deemed sufficient for graduates of our program. From time to time, however, graduate students do not anticipate working in the school setting, and thus, while attaining their graduate social work degree, they do not choose to enroll in school social work preparatory coursework. After graduation, the Division gets requests from post-graduates (often our alumni as well as MSW graduates of other social work programs) to access our school social work curriculum so they can readily gain employment in the school environment. In addition, the Wyoming Department of Education often refers post MSW professionals to our Division to attempt to obtain the requisite coursework.

The goals for this concentration for school social workers are as follows: (1) prepare MSW social workers who can help children and their families overcome the barriers to learning through interventions in the home, school, and community; (2) enable graduate social work students to meet the Professional Teaching Standards Board requirements for school social work certification in Wyoming and, (3) secondarily, encourage communities through the state to develop and maintain effective school social work services.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENTS: Students must successfully complete the following courses:

SOWK 5810 Working with Children and Families in the Schools (Fall)	3 credits
SOWK 5850 Advanced Field Practicum (Fall and Spring semesters in a school setting)	10 credits

APPLICATION, ELIGIBILITY PROCESS, ADVISOR ASSIGNMENT: When you begin the placement process for your Advanced Year, let the Field Education Director know that you are interested in pursuing the school concentration. The Field Director will work with you to secure a school placement if one is available in your area. If a school placement is not available for your Advanced Year in the program, you can consider coming back to pursue the school social work preparatory certification after you complete your MSW.

BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

SOWK 5810 School Social Work (3 credits) (Traditional grading)

This School Social Work course includes the following content: School Law, Disabilities (IEP, Transition Services, and Resources), School history, Consultation and Collaboration, Applied Child Development, School safety, Disciplinary practices, Child Welfare and Family Services and information specific to School Social Workers in Wyoming.

SOWK 5850: Supervised Practicum (10 credits) (Grading: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory)

Supervised Practicum (represents a minimum of 500 hours)

Supervised Practicum (two concurrent semesters) must be in a school setting, arranged in accordance with Field Practicum policies and procedures. The placement must use the School Social Work Learning Contract