

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

DIVISION OF SOCIAL WORK

Dept. 3632, 1000 E. University Ave. • Room 330, Health Sciences • Laramie, WY 82071-3632
(307) 766-6112 • fax (307) 766-6839 • e-mail: socialwork@uwyo.edu • www.uwyo.edu/SocialWork

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK GRADUATE PREPARATORY CERTIFICATE

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: The **SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK GRADUATE PREPARATORY CERTIFICATE** provides specialized educational preparation for social workers who have graduated with an MSW degree in other concentrations or specializations and want to come back to the university to gain the prerequisite coursework for to be able to be certified as a school social worker from the Professional Teaching Standards Board of Wyoming (and possibly certified 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 preparatory certification for school social workers are as follows: (1) prepare post-graduate 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 qualified post-graduate MSW professionals 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 CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS: Preparation for the certificate will require students to successfully complete the following courses:

SOWK 5810 Working with Children and Families in the Schools 3 credits
SOWK 5450-02 Foundation Field Practicum I 3 credits

APPLICATION, ELIGIBILITY PROCESS, ADVISOR ASSIGNMENT: MSW post-graduates may apply for this preparatory certificate program. Persons applying for this certificate program must have a completed MSW from an accredited social work program. Applicants must

- Apply through the UW Admissions Office as a non-degree seeking graduate student Official college transcripts must be submitted to the Registrar directly.
- Contact the current Field Education Director and email copies of MSW transcripts and diploma along with a statement of intent to pursue the school social work certification.
 - If you are already employed in a school social work or counseling position within a Wyoming school district and will be while you pursue the certificate the deadline to submit these documents is July 1st for enrollment in the subsequent fall semester
 - If you are not employed within a Wyoming school district in a school social work or counseling position and will not be while you pursue the certificate, the deadline is March 1st for enrollment the following fall semester due to the need for a placement to be secured for you.
- Collaborate with the Field Education Director to arrange for a school field placement which may be your employment if you work for a Wyoming School District in a school social work position
 - Complete the Field Placement Process in Tevera, the field management software used by the Division of Social Work for all field placement documentation
 - Assist Field Education Director in identifying an MSW, preferably with school social work experience, to provide supervision during the accumulation of the 120 practicum hours
 - Wyoming is a frontier rural state and school field placements are limited. It is possible that a school placement in the community where you live will not be available. If you are willing to travel to another community, the opportunities increase. If a placement cannot be secured for you, you will need to pursue the certification at another time.

BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

SOWK 5810 (3 credits) Working with Children and Families in the Schools (Traditional grading)
School Social Work courses includes the following content: School Law, Disabilities (IEP, Transition Services, Resources), School history, Consultation and Collaboration, Applied Child Development, School safety, Disciplinary practices, Child Welfare and Family Services and information specific to School Social Work in Wyoming.

SOWK 5450-02: (3 credits) Foundation Field Practicum 1

(Grading: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory)

Supervised Practicum (minimum of 120 hours) Student will log practicum hours, participate in weekly supervision meetings and complete related documentation, a learning contract and end of semester evaluation will also be completed as part of the practicum course week.

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK GRADUATE PREPARATORY CERTIFICATE

For more information, please contact Billie Chapman billchap@uwyo.edu at the Division of Social Work.

CERTIFICATE REVIEW FOR AWARD OF PREPARATORY CERTIFICATION COMPLETION

LETTER- Before final approval for the preparatory certificate, the Field Education Director must affirm that the applicant has met the objectives specified in the school learning contract. Learning will be documented and evaluated through the practicum and elective course work.

ANTICIPATED COURSE DELIVERY SCHEDULE: The Division of Social Work offers SOWK 5810 in the Fall semester. The SOWK 5450-02: Foundation Field Practicum 1 is also offered in the Fall semester. Students must be concurrently enrolled in both courses and must complete both courses with passing grades prior to receiving the certificate.