Garland School of Social Work

**Concentration in Trauma Response Guidelines**

The MSW Concentration is an option designed collaboratively by a student and a supervising faculty member to develop a student’s knowledge base more comprehensively in one arena of social work knowledge and practice. The concentration may go more deeply into one of the program’s areas of specialized practice, or it may span the areas of specialized practice, but it does not replace the specialization (clinical or community). Students completing requirements of the concentration receive documentation of completion at the time of the awarding of the MSW degree. This document certifies that the student has completed learning requirements in a substantive area within at least one of the areas of specialized practice. The requirements for the concentration are the same for both Advanced Standing and Standard Degree option students.

**Concentration Plan**

For all concentrations, students will select a School of Social Work faculty member (supervising faculty) with expertise in the area of interest to assist them in planning, engaging, and evaluating learning related to the concentration. Standard Degree Option students may choose to begin a concentration plan at any point in the generalist year. The Standard Degree Option student may develop a beginning plan with a faculty advisor and refine the plan during the generalist year. For both standard and advanced standing students, a plan for completion of the concentration during the Specialized year, to include the substantive area that will be the focus of the concentration and for completion, will be electronically submitted for approval to the supervising faculty no later than 4 weeks into the semester the student begins specialized course work. The plan is developed in collaboration with the supervising faculty who will assist the student in determining how the concentration will be integrated into specialized course work. The supervising faculty will notify the MSW Program Director of the student’s intention to pursue a concentration and of the faculty member’s willingness to supervise the student’s learning. The MSW Program Director will approve the concentration and be responsible for notifying the Curriculum Committee. The student may petition the MSW Program Director for a change of mentor to the faculty member supervising the concentration.

Additional learning activities related to the concentration may also be included as the student and supervising faculty contract for meeting the requirements for completion of the concentration. It is possible for students to include learning that occurred as part of a course of study in an accredited baccalaureate or graduate foundation year if the supervising faculty determines that the learning meets or exceeds expectations for preparation for advanced social work practice.

The supervising faculty is responsible for approving the concentration plan and submitting the approved plan to the MSW Program Director for review. The supervising faculty approves of the plan, with the MSW Program Director reserving the right to review and request changes. If a review, revision or denial is requested, the MSW Program Director and/or the supervising faculty may ask for an additional review by the Curriculum Committee. The MSW Program Director submits all the forms to Curriculum Committee, who reserves the right to review plans, and may be requested to do so by the MSW Program Director.In the unlikely event that the MSW Program Director asks for changes, or denies a plan, the MSW Program Director will provide the faculty member submitting the request and the student with a reason for denial or request for revision.

**Requirements**

The student will plan and carry out a course of study that focuses in the area of concentration. The student will successfully complete advanced learning in areas detailed in the application form below.

# Portfolio:

Documentation of all of the concentration requirements (completed projects and papers, field placement evaluations, documentation of CEU equivalents) is placed in an electronic portfolio, which the student submits to the supervising faculty by the last day of graduate capstone seminar. Portfolios are evaluated by the supervising faculty to determine whether requirements for the concentration were met. Applications for retroactive concentration recognition will not be approved.

**For a Social Work Concentration in Trauma Response:**

The Trauma Response Social Work Concentration is an option designed collaboratively by a student and a supervising faculty member to develop a student’s knowledge base more comprehensively in trauma social work practice. A template for the Concentration was developed in conjunction with the CSWE Advanced Practice Social Work in Trauma and Baylor University School of Social Work. The Concentration will provide specific focus in the area of trauma and recovery and social work. It is intended to enhance the student’s concentration, but does not replace it. Students completing requirements of the trauma social work Concentration receive a certification of completion at the time of the awarding of the MSW degree. This document certifies that the student has completed learning requirements for work with persons in a trauma context, within at least one of the concentrations. The requirements for the Concentration are the same for both Advanced Standing and Standard Degree option students.

Students desiring this Concentration should complete the Concentration Application Form and make note in each section of the assignment plan of ways in which papers, presentations, or projects will focus on understanding behavior of and practicing competently with relation to trauma.

CSWE Guidelines

In 2012 the Council for Social Work Education established the following as skills needed for social workers to be prepared to work in the context of a trauma. Please include as many of these items as possible in your plan:

“Trauma informed practitioners recognize the following:

* The nature of trauma and traumatic experiences are inherently complex.
* Trauma affects children, adults, and families in specific ways.
* Trauma recovery is possible but presents specific, often context related challenges.
* An emphasis on safety.
* Offer opportunities to rebuild control and empowerment.
* Emphasis on strengths-based approaches rather than deficit-oriented ones.

Source:CSWE (2012) Advanced Social Work Practice in Trauma, found on the CSWE website <http://www.cswe.org/File.aspx?id=63842> .

**Garland School of Social Work**

**Trauma Response Concentration Application Form**

**Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Faculty Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Concentration Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Concentration Plan:** Complete the Assignment Plan column in the following table with details for how course assignments will help you complete your Concentration.

| **Content Area** | **Course Work** | **Assignment Plan** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Advanced Internship | SWO 5190/5790 or 5494/5490 (8 hrs) |  |
| Advanced Practice Skill | SWO 5379 and the family or health track advanced practice course (6 hrs) |  |
| Advanced Practice Theory | Advanced Clinical Theory (3 hrs) AND Advanced Clinical Practice (6 hrs)) |  |
| Advanced Policy | SWO 5323 Administrative Practice in Social Work (3 hrs) or advanced clinical theory (3 hrs) |  |
| Advanced Administrative  Practice | SWO 5323 Administrative Practice in Social Work (3 hrs) |  |
| Advanced Research | SWO 5182/5383 or 5282/5283 (4 hours) |  |
| Elective | Select 1 for advanced standing and 2 for foundation students from the following:   1. Grief and Morning 2. EMDR 3. Disaster Crisis Intervention 4. Faculty mentor approved alternative |  |
| Continuing Education | The equivalent of 3 trauma response CEUs from workshops or conferences |  |
| Other | Student and faculty discretion |  |