Master of Social Work (SW80)

Year offered: 2010
Admissions: Yes
Course duration (full-time): 4 semesters
Course duration (part-time): 8 semesters
Domestic fees (indicative): 2010: CSP $2,655 (indicative) per semester
Domestic Entry: February
Total credit points: 192
Standard credit points per full-time semester: 48
Standard credit points per part-time semester: 24
Course coordinator: Mr Ross Daniels
Campus: Kelvin Grove

Date claimers in 2010

SEMESTER 1
Compulsory 2 week on-campus study block
Monday 15 February – Friday 26 February (including Saturday 20 February).

Week 7 compulsory study block
Friday 16 – Sunday 18 April (inclusive).

In week 7 students will be required for either on-campus or be available for on-line (remote) lectures/discussion groups.

SEMESTER 2
Students should refer to the semester 2 timetable for dates of on-campus requirements for individual units.

Overview
Social Work is an exciting, challenging and rewarding profession. This new, innovative and contemporary course provides a high level qualification for the real world of social work practice. It is designed to produce graduates who can genuinely enhance the life quality and human potential of each individual, family, group and community within our society. It reflects a deep commitment to assisting, respecting and empowering the neglected, vulnerable, marginalised and disadvantaged.

The course focuses on the six core areas of social work practice namely direct practice, service management, organisational development and system change, policy analysis and development, research, education and professional development. It enables students to develop the knowledge, practice skills and organisational expertise critical for social work practice. It emphasises core values of social justice, human dignity and human rights and incorporates these into the development of ethical and professional practice frameworks.

The course is deliberately planned using a blend of on-campus and virtual learning, integrated and connected through supervised professional field placements. It seeks to meet each student's professional and personal career aspirations by offering significant flexibility in learning and assessment options including the potential for specialisation. It recognises the diversity of student background and experiences. In particular, it acknowledges the enormous and competing demands that arise from balancing work, family and study. The course makes strategic use of time on campus with virtual learning using a variety of user friendly information, communication and presentation technologies. This will allow for a significant amount of study to be completed at home and at times of the student's choosing. Throughout the course students will receive considerable support including a one-on-one mentoring partnership with a designated staff member.

The course leads to a wide range of professional Social Work positions involving direct and indirect practice in a range of government, non-government and not for profit organisations at the state, national and international levels. For more details on employment outcomes visit http://www.hlth.qut.edu.au/swhs/about/jobs.jsp

Attendance requirements
The course is delivered in a blended mode which combines on campus and virtual learning. Students are not required to attend on-campus lectures each week, however throughout the semester all students must participate in the various virtual activities and forums associated with each unit.

This participation is an essential and mandatory part of attendance, and will require students to have access to a computer with full internet access, webcam and MP3 player (4 gig minimum). In addition to the internet access, the approximate cost of the webcam and MP3 player is $250. Total costs for a computer, internet access, webcam and MP3player is approximately $1720.

Students enrolled in units for first semester 2010 must participate in the on campus activities associated with the units and scheduled from Monday 15 February to Friday 26 February at Kelvin Grove Campus. This includes Saturday 20 February but does not include Sunday 21 February.

Students enrolled in units for first semester 2010 must be available for either on campus learning or for virtual learning activities scheduled from Friday 16 April to Sunday 18 April 2010.

Entry requirements
Applicants must have successfully completed a relevant Australian undergraduate degree or equivalent, normally at a grade point average of 4 or above.

**Advanced standing**
Students who have completed the Bachelor of Human Services degree from QUT or equivalent will receive one semester advanced standing and will be able to complete the course in three semesters over 13 months including a Summer Semester.

**Professional recognition**
Graduates will be eligible for membership with the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) as this course has provisional accreditation from AASW.

**Course structure**

**Standard 2 Year Program**
Students enrolled full-time in the Master of Social Work complete 192 credit points over four semesters.

Students undertaking part-time study may take advantage of Summer Semester offerings to accelerate their course completion.

The course includes a minimum of 980 hours of fieldwork placements supervised by a professional social worker undertaken over three Social Work Practice units. Professional Practice 1 and Professional Practice 2 are each 245 hours and Professional Practice 3 is 490 hours.

**B Human Services (QUT) Advanced Standing Program**
Students who have completed the Bachelor of Human Services degree from QUT or equivalent will receive one semester advanced standing and will be able to complete the course in three semesters over 13 months including a Summer Semester.

**Other requirements**

**Blue Card**
As required by the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act (2000), students must undergo a criminal history check and be issued with a Blue Card before commencing clinical practice/field experience/practicum in an organisation where they may work with children or young people. For more information, visit http://bluecard.qut.com.

**Hepatitis B vaccination**
Hepatitis B vaccination is mandatory before beginning placements in Queensland Health facilities.

**Course articulation**

Students who wish to exit the MSocWk and have completed a minimum of 48 credit points in units within the course, will be eligible for a Graduate Certificate in Social Care which is available as an exit-only option.

Students who wish to exit the MSocWk and have completed a minimum of 96 credit points within the course, will be eligible for a Graduate Diploma in Social Care which is available as an exit-only option.

**International student entry**
This course is not available to international students.

**Further information**
For further information contact the Social Work and Human Services Academic Program on +61 7 31384697 or swhs.enquiries@qut.edu.au

**Full-time course structure**

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<tr>
<th>Year 1, Semester 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SWN001 Planning, Literacy and Research For Professional Practice</td>
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<td>SWN002 Trends, Challenges and Opportunities in Social Work</td>
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<td>SWN003 Political Economy and Policy Making</td>
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<td>SWN004 Professional Communication Skills</td>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SWN007 Casework Practice</td>
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<td>SWN008 Group, Team and Community Work for Professional Practice</td>
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<td>SWN011 Professional Practice 1</td>
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<td>SWN012 Professional Practice 2</td>
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<td>SWN005 Health, Wellbeing and the Human Condition</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWN009 Social Work Assessment and Intervention</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWN010 The Socio-Cultural Context of Professional Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWN006 The Ethical, Legal and Organizational Context of Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWN014 Developing Social Work Practice Frameworks</td>
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<td>SWN013 Professional Practice 3</td>
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<td>SWN015 Transition to Social Work Practice</td>
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**Full-time course structure for BHumServ graduates**

Published on: 16 May 2011
### Year 1, Semester 1
- **SWN001** Planning, Literacy and Research For Professional Practice
- **SWN005** Health, Wellbeing and the Human Condition
- **SWN009** Social Work Assessment and Intervention
- **SWN010** The Socio-Cultural Context of Professional Practice

### Year 1, Semester 2
- **SWN006** The Ethical, Legal and Organizational Context of Practice
- **SWN007** Casework Practice
- **SWN008** Group, Team and Community Work for Professional Practice
- **SWN012** Professional Practice 2

### Year 1, Summer
- **SWN014** Developing Social Work Practice Frameworks
- **SWN013** Professional Practice 3
- **SWN015** Transition to Social Work Practice

### Part-time course structure including Summer Semester

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<td>SWN004</td>
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<td>SWN007</td>
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<td>Professional Practice 1</td>
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### Potential Careers:
- Aged Services Worker, Community Corrections Officer, Corrective Services Officer, Counsellor, Director of Health Programs and Services, Disability Services Worker, Family Services Officer, Health Policy Officer, Health Researcher, Health Services Manager, Human Services Practitioner, Policy Officer, School Counsellor, Social Worker, Youth Worker.

### UNIT SYNOPSES
SWN001 PLANNING, LITERACY AND RESEARCH FOR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE
This unit commences with a staff-mentored process which requires each student to conduct a reflective professional / personal audit identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges as they begin study. It includes a review of communication skills, learning styles, personal values, career experiences, knowledge of other disciplines and anticipated areas for future professional practice. The audit culminates in a Personal Learning Plan which provides a base line position for planned, self-directed learning within the Course. The unit introduces research methodologies relevant for postgraduate study, social and evidence based research for professional practice.
Credit points: 12 Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1

SWN002 TRENDS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN SOCIAL WORK
This unit describes and analyses the characteristics of the contemporary social work sector. It provides an overview of current social work issues and places particular emphasis on the dynamic interplay of existing social, economic and political events and their implications for social work practice and institutional contexts. Employing the AASW Practice Standards, it reviews the nature and scope of the social work sector and workforce and describes contemporary generic methods of intervention and practice.
Credit points: 12 Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1

SWN003 POLITICAL ECONOMY AND POLICY MAKING
This unit recognizes the importance of political and economic factors for professional practitioners in the human service and social welfare sector. It describes and analyses the fundamentals of the Australian political system including the Parliamentary structures and law making processes at different levels of government. It explores the ‘real politik’ of political parties and vested interest groups in the political process giving particular attention to the development of policy. It provides an overview of public sector policy making process including the budgetary procedure. The unit encourages students to be active actors in relevant political / economic processes.
Credit points: 12 Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1

SWN004 PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS
This unit builds the fundamental communication skills essential for professional social work within a diversity of practice settings. It pays particular attention to the needs of Indigenous peoples and clients from ethnically and culturally diverse backgrounds. It develops necessary skills in interpersonal dynamics, interviewing, empathic engagement, relationship building, insight, negotiation, advocacy and reflective practice. It acknowledges the need for professionals to be proficient in written and audio communications and ensures competence in the use of a range of contemporary information, communication and presentation technologies.
Credit points: 12 Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1

SWN005 HEALTH, WELLBEING AND THE HUMAN CONDITION
This unit considers the contested and changing understandings of human well being across the life cycle. Key aspects of wellness and health are examined for their impact on individuals, groups, and community well being. It explores selected psychosocial theories and looks at their utility for social work practice particularly in relation to mental health, child and family welfare, and disability services. The unit views health and well being from a holistic perspective, and critiques the dominant biomedical model and challenges perceptions that quality of life is determined merely by acquisition and consumption.
Credit points: 12 Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1

SWN006 THE ETHICAL, LEGAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEXT OF PRACTICE
This unit locates social work practice within its ethical, legal and organizational context. It emphasizes the imperative for students to know, understand and actualize core social work values particularly those incorporated in the profession’s national and international codes of conduct, professional standards and ethical practice requirements. The statutory and organisational dimensions of social work practice are described and explored with case scenarios providing opportunities to develop strategies for self management within diverse organisational contexts.
Credit points: 12 Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2

SWN007 CASEWORK PRACTICE
This unit builds on the fundamental communication skills essential for professional social work case work and case management practice. It assists students to achieve professional levels in understanding and applying contemporary social work theories and principles which underpin case work and case management. The application of core principles that are essential in Social Work practice, such as client self determination and empowerment, are developed through experiential learning of skills including interviewing techniques, counselling, short term intervention, problem solving and facilitation of change.
Prerequisites: SWN001 Credit points: 12 Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2

SWN008 GROUP, TEAM AND COMMUNITY WORK FOR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE
This unit critically reviews the theory of group work, team work, and community work and explores the strategic use of each as an intervention method in professional practice. It requires students to develop and demonstrate high level skills for the effective use of each of these as intervention methods for addressing disadvantage and marginalisation. It focuses particularly on group, team and community engagement, and tests skills for capacity building, advocacy, negotiation, conflict resolution, project management, planning and leadership.

**Prerequisites:** SWN001  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-2

**SWN009 SOCIAL WORK ASSESSMENT AND Intervention**

This unit extends students' skills developed in professional communication, case, group, and community work, to apply assessment and intervention skills at the micro, meso, and macro levels of practice. The unit explores a range of assessment methods, intervention skills and a professional practice framework to interpret the particularities of the client’s life circumstances. The practice skills of assessment, planning, intervention, make decisions and judgments, solve problems, and promoting change at the relevant level of practice to enhance client well being are personalised in real life contexts.

**Credit points:** 12  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-1

**SWN010 THE SOCIO-CULTURAL CONTEXT OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**

This unit locates professional practice within the socio – cultural context of Australia. It includes an historical and descriptive mapping of the Australian population giving particular attention to age, health, socio / economic, Indigenous, cultural and ethnic characteristics. The unit focuses on the history of Indigenous Australians and the profound cultural, social and economic consequences of colonisation and institutional racism. It emphasises the acquisition of cultural competence in particular in relation to Indigenous Australians. It employs a range of sociological analytical tools - power, authority, class, status, race and gender – to allow students to explore the structure of Australian society to promote principles central to social care professional practice including, well-being, the protection of human rights, the promotion of social justice and the empowerment of people.

**Credit points:** 12  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-1

**SWN011 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE 1**

This Professional Practice unit requires students to complete 245 hours of professionally supervised, staff monitored, field practice in a period of not less than 40 days. In accordance with AASW requirements, students are required to engage in planned activities which may include: direct practice with individuals, groups and communities; service management; organisational development and system change; policy development, implementation and change; research and knowledge generation; education and professional development. This unit is one of three Professional Practice units. [Designated unit]

**Prerequisites:** SWN001, SWN002, SWN004, SWN007 and SWN008. SWN007 and SWN008 may be taken concurrently  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-2

**SWN012 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE 2**

This Professional Practice unit requires students to complete 245 hours of professionally supervised, staff monitored, field practice in a period of not less than 40 days. In accordance with AASW requirements, students are required to engage in planned activities which may include: direct practice with individuals, groups and communities; service management; organisational development and system change; policy development, implementation and change; research and knowledge generation; education and professional development. This unit is one of three Professional Practice units. [Designated unit]

**Prerequisites:** SWN001, SWN002, SWN004, SWN007, SWN008 and SWN011. SWN007, SWN008 and SWN011 may be taken concurrently  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-2

**SWN013 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE 3**

This Professional Practice unit requires students to complete 490 hours of professionally supervised, staff monitored, field practice in a period of not less than 40 days. In accordance with AASW requirements, students are required to engage in planned activities which may include: direct practice with individuals, groups and communities; service management; organisational development and system change; policy development, implementation and change; research and knowledge generation; education and professional development. This unit is the final of the three Professional Practice units. Details of activities, requirements, standards, learning outcomes, supervision and other arrangements are set out in SWN011 Professional Practice 1: Guidelines, Standards and Outcomes which incorporates provisions of the AASW Education and Accreditation Standards, AASW Practice Standards for Social Workers: Achieving Outcomes and the AASW Code of Ethics. Designated unit.

**Prerequisites:** SWN001, SWN002, SWN004, SWN007, SWN011, SWN012  
**Credit points:** 24  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SUM

**SWN014 DEVELOPING SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE FRAMEWORKS**
This unit focuses on student's appreciation of practice and the building of a professional practice framework that integrates knowledge, skills, values, client needs and organizational settings. It requires students to articulate their framework, and to reflect on and recognize the differences between that professional framework and their personal values, assumptions, beliefs and attitudes.

**Prerequisites:** SWN011, SWN012 and SWN013. SWN013 may be taken concurrently.  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SUM

**SWN015 TRANSITION TO SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE**

This unit commences with a staff mentored process which engages each student in a reflective professional / personal audit of their skills, knowledge and values against AASW standards. It provides a number of flexible, individualised learning opportunities for students to identify and work on competencies that are required for preferred social work positions and career aspirations. Students review their Personal Learning Plans and transform these into a Continuing Professional Education Plan. They finalise and present their EPortfolio in a social work job interview scenario.

**Prerequisites:** SWN011 and SWN012  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SUM