Master of Social Work (SW80)

Year offered: 2011
Admissions: Yes
CRICOS code: 075076D
Course duration (full-time): 4 semesters
Course duration (part-time): 8 semesters
Domestic Fees (indicative): 2011: CSP $2,721 per semester (indicative)
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: Enquiries to swhs.enquiries@qut.edu.au or phone 07 3138 4697
Campus: Kelvin Grove

Date claimers in 2011
You are required to attend on-campus sessions, but you only attend the sessions relating to the units in which you are enrolled.

Please consult the timetables for SWN001, SWN002, SWN003 and SWN004 which are available via the class timetable search at: https://qutvirtual2.qut.edu.au/portal/pls/portal/ttab_unit_search_p.show

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.

Students enrolled in units for first semester must participate in the on-campus activities associated with the units and scheduled as detailed in the date claimers above at Kelvin Grove Campus.

This participation is an essential and mandatory part of attendance, and will require students to have access to a computer with 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 $150. Total costs for a computer, internet access, webcam and MP3 player is approximately $1500.

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).

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

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.

The course has a number of prerequisite units and students should take careful note of these when planning their course progression and professional placements.

Part-time study
Students undertaking part-time study must enrol in SWN001 in their first semester. Students may take advantage of Summer Semester offerings to accelerate their course completion.

B Human Services (QUT) Advanced Standing Structure
Students who have completed the Bachelor of Human Services degree from QUT or equivalent will follow the structure outlined below for BHumServ graduates.

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://student.qut.edu.au/studying/jobs-and-work-experience/work-experience-and-placements/blue-cards.

Hepatitis B vaccination
Hepatitis B vaccination is mandatory before beginning placements.

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

Further information
For further information contact the Social Work and Human Services Academic Program on +61 7 3138 4697 or swhs.enquiries@qut.edu.au

SW80 - Full-time course structure for students who commenced in 2011

Year 1, Semester 1
- SWN001 Planning, Literacy and Research For Professional Practice
- SWN002 Trends, Challenges and Opportunities in Social Work
- SWN004 Professional Communication Skills

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 2, Semester 1
- SWN011 Professional Practice 1
- SWN015 Transition to Social Work Practice

Year 2, Semester 2
- SWN006 The Socio-Cultural Context of Professional Practice
- SWN008 Group, Team and Community Work for Professional Practice

Year 3, Semester 1
- SWN001 Planning, Literacy and Research For Professional Practice
- SWN005 Health, Wellbeing and the Human Condition
- SWN009 Social Work Assessment and Intervention

Year 3, Semester 2
- SWN010 The Socio-Cultural Context of Professional Practice
- SWN012 Professional Practice 2

Summer Semester
- SWN014 Developing Social Work Practice Frameworks
- SWN015 Transition to Social Work Practice
Year 4, Semester 1  
SWN013 Professional Practice 3  
Part-time course structure for BHumServ graduates

Year 1, Semester 1  
SWN001 Planning, Literacy and Research For Professional Practice  
SWN009 Social Work Assessment and Intervention

Year 1, Semester 2  
SWN007 Casework Practice  
SWN008 Group, Team and Community Work for Professional Practice

Year 2, Semester 1  
SWN010 The Socio-Cultural Context of Professional Practice  
SWN005 Health, Wellbeing and the Human Condition

Year 2, Semester 2  
SWN012 Professional Practice 2  
SWN006 The Ethical, Legal and Organizational Context of Practice

Summer Semester  
SWN014 Developing Social Work Practice Frameworks  
SWN015 Transition to Social Work Practice

Year 3, Semester 1  
SWN013 Professional Practice 3

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  
Campus: Kelvin Grove  
Teaching period: 2011 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  
Campus: Kelvin Grove  
Teaching period: 2011 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  
Campus: Kelvin Grove  
Teaching period: 2011 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 cultural 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  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove  
**Teaching period:** 2011 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  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove  
**Teaching period:** 2011 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  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove  
**Teaching period:** 2011 SEM-1 and 2011 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 facilitating of change.

**Prerequisites:** SWN001  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove  
**Teaching period:** 2011 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  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove  
**Teaching period:** 2011 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  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove  
**Teaching period:** 2011 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:** 2011 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:** 2011 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:** 2011 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  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove  
**Teaching period:** 2011 SEM-1, 2011 SEM-2 and 2011 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:** 2011 SEM-2 and 2011 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:** SWN013 can be studied in the same semester.  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Teaching period:** 2011 SEM-1, 2011 SEM-2 and 2011 SUM