

Social Work

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK DEGREE

Why earn a Master of Social Work degree?

Graduates of the MSW program at UFV will demonstrate:

- a critical understanding of social work theory, social problems, and the development of policy initiatives and processes in social work
- a core professional knowledge base for advanced assessment and intervention
- advanced competence in social work practice and research
- skills and knowledge that advance the principles of social justice, including the analysis of social policies and practices
- critical thinking for the analysis of social work knowledge, skills, and values
- a commitment to self-directed and life-long learning
- an ability to articulate ethical social work practice
- ways in which individual professional practice is systematically evaluated.

WHY EARN MY MASTER'S DEGREE AT UFV?

Our MSW program builds on the School of Social Work and Human Services' successful BSW program, and draws on the expertise of the School's experienced and diverse faculty members. Strong relationships and consultation with community agencies in the Fraser Valley and Lower Mainland enhance the delivery of our MSW, particularly in terms of practicum placements and supervision.

Our program goals include respect for Aboriginal self-determination and a commitment to working in partnership with local First Nations communities. As well, the MSW encourages students to integrate principles of anti-oppressive and cross cultural social work into their practice frameworks. Our program also emphasizes social work education through practices and partnerships that respect ethno-cultural diversity, development through research, and collaborative community work.

These goals are consistent with the principles of inclusion and social justice, and the mandates of UFV, the BC College of Social Workers, and the Canadian Association for Social Work Education.



“The MSW program provides future leaders with a flexible and stimulating learning environment that encourages critical analysis of research, policy, and practice. This is in response to the identified needs of the diverse population of the Fraser Valley and beyond.”

— ELIZABETH DOW, PHD, RSW
DIRECTOR, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL
WORK & HUMAN SERVICES.

Master of Social Work



“I am ecstatic about the opportunity to complete my MSW degree at UFV; it is a unique university with a lot to offer students. Upon completing my BSW, I had no doubts that I would want to return for my masters.”

— SHAWNA BARNSCHER,
Social Services diploma, 2008; BSW, Child Welfare Specialization, 2010.

WHAT IS THE FOCUS OF THE MSW PROGRAM AT UFV?

UFV’s MSW is a five-semester, two-year program comprised of 30 credits, including a 450-hour practicum.

The program’s core courses and electives are designed to develop a broad professional competency base at the graduate level. Core courses provide a comprehensive perspective on supervision and leadership, the integration of anti-oppressive and cross-cultural practice in social work, social policy, and advanced assessment techniques.

Based on your interests and career path, you will select one elective course (Health, Children and Families, or Mental Health), and complete a major paper/project in your area of interest.

SEMESTER ONE/WINTER

COURSE	TITLE, DELIVERY MODEL
SOWK 700 3 credits, mandatory	Advanced Intervention and Assessment Techniques <i>Three one-day weekend workshops including an orientation workshop, plus online learning</i>
SOWK 720 3 credits, mandatory	Critical Perspectives on Social Justice and Anti-Oppressive Social Work <i>One-day weekend class plus online learning</i>

SEMESTER TWO/SUMMER

Chose one of the following electives

COURSE	TITLE, DELIVERY MODEL
SOWK 750 3 credits	Advanced Intervention in Health <i>Delivery model to be determined</i>
SOWK 783 3 credits	Advanced Social Work Practice with Children and Families <i>Delivery model to be determined</i>
SOWK 797 3 credits	Advanced Intervention in Mental Health <i>Delivery model to be determined</i>

SEMESTER THREE/FALL

COURSE	TITLE, DELIVERY MODEL
SOWK 704 3 credits, mandatory	Research & Program Evaluation <i>one-day weekend class, one-day at end of term, plus online</i>
SOWK 710 3 credits, mand.	Advanced Social Policy <i>completely online</i>

SEMESTER FOUR/WINTER

COURSE	TITLE, DELIVERY MODEL
SOWK 730 (A) 4.5 credits mandatory	Two day/week Practicum and Advanced Direct Practice Seminar <i>Two one-day weekend classes, plus online learning</i>
SOWK 711 3 credits, mandatory	Leadership and Supervision in the Human Services <i>Two or three half-day classes, plus online learning</i>
SOWK 799 3 credits, mandatory	Major Paper/Project <i>Meetings arranged on an individual basis</i>

SEMESTER FIVE/SUMMER

COURSE	TITLE, DELIVERY MODEL
SOWK 730 (B) 4.5 credits	Two day/week Practicum and Advanced Direct Practice Seminar <i>Two one-day weekend classes, plus online learning</i>

I WORK FULL-TIME. CAN I FIT THIS INTO MY SCHEDULE?

Our MSW program is specifically designed to meet the diverse learning needs of our students. We use a mixed delivery model that combines online, flexible evening and weekend classes. The practicum is two days per week over two semesters. This allows greater accessibility, especially for students who are busy with work and family commitments.

Faculty in the School of Social Work and Human Services are experienced with online program delivery and have expertise in pedagogical practices related to distance delivery of courses.

WHAT DO I NEED TO GET IN?

Academically you must hold a Bachelor of Social Work degree from an accredited program, with a minimum overall grade of B (75-79%). You must also have successful completion of introductory statistics and a research methods course.

NOTE: Foundation social work curricula will be developed for those who do not have a BSW currently, but hold an undergraduate degree within a related discipline. This group will be encouraged to apply for admission to designated social work foundation courses (up to 30-credits) as early as 2012. Details will be posted at www.ufv.ca/msw as soon as they are available.

Professionally, you must have at least two years (3,600 hours) of documented employment in social services, social work, or a closely related field.

UFV will admit approximately 20 students based on a two-year cohort model. Admission is competitive and is based on seat availability, so you are encouraged to submit your completed application package in a timely manner. Meeting the minimum standard does not guarantee your admission.

Please see General Regulations for Graduate Studies in the UFV calendar at www.ufv.ca/calendar

IF I DON'T HAVE A BSW, WILL I HAVE TO TAKE ADDITIONAL COURSES BEFORE I START ?

Yes. If you do not have a BSW, you will be required to complete up to 30 credits of foundation social work curricula before you can start the MSW program.

Please note that for the first intake of the MSW program (Jan 2011), we will be unable to consider candidates who have not yet completed their BSW. Foundation social work curricula will be developed for those who do not have a BSW, and will hopefully be in place by 2012.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Your application must include the following items, otherwise it will be deemed incomplete and not considered for admission. Visit www.ufv.ca/msw to find the forms you need.

1. UFV application for MSW Graduate Studies (including the \$75 processing fee for new students.)
2. Official sealed transcripts for all previous post-secondary credit, including courses in-progress, to be mailed directly from the issuing institution to Admissions & Records at UFV.
3. Detailed personal resume organized chronologically, starting with most recent, including position title, name of immediate supervisor, start and end dates, and whether the experience was full or part-time. Please include research experience, publication lists, related interests, skills, etc.
4. Work hours summary sheet to be completed by each applicant, clearly listing and totaling the number of hours worked in all relevant human/social service related positions (paid and volunteer). This will determine applicant eligibility under the required 3,600 hours of related work experience.
5. Three professional letters of reference with at least one referee addressing your most recent academic experience and potential, and at least one from a supervisor, addressing the demonstrated skills and abilities in your most recent related work experience. These letters must be on the official reference forms for the MSW available at www.ufv.ca/msw.
6. Declaration of Concentration form indicating your preferred concentration
7. A personal statement (to be assessed and rated), typed and double spaced, 1,500-2,000 words in length, clearly addressing the following questions (no more than 500 words under any one section heading):

BSW APPLICANTS

What experiences have motivated you to continue your social work education?

Describe at least two recent professional experiences that demonstrate your capacity for innovative and independent thinking.

Describe your most substantial accomplishment within your professional practice, particularly as it relates to your ability to uphold the Social Work Code of Ethics.

Select a social issue of personal importance, explain why the issue is important to you, and discuss how you believe a Social Worker should facilitate change to address or resolve the issue.

NON-BSW APPLICANTS

What is your motivation to pursue a Master of Social Work at this point in your career?

Describe at least two recent professional experiences that demonstrate your understanding of the purpose and nature of social work.

Describe your most substantial accomplishment within your professional experience(s), particularly as it relates to your ability to uphold the Social Work Code of Ethics.

Select a social issue of personal importance, explain why the issue is important to you, and discuss how you believe a Social Worker should facilitate change to address or resolve the issue.

WHEN DO I APPLY?

Apply right away! We are launching this new program quickly to meet demand. As a result, timelines for application are tight this first year. Your application package should be mailed to UFV Admissions & Records by September 30, 2010 for you to be considered and admitted to the January 2011 inaugural cohort.

If this timeline causes you concern, please give us a call. Applications received later will still be considered only as space permits.

WHO WILL BE TEACHING ME?

Learn more about the accomplished faculty in UFV's School of Social Work and Human Services by visiting www.ufv.ca/msw. You will be interacting with highly qualified instructors and researchers who have decades of experience in the field of social work, both locally and in locations across the globe.

CAN I GET ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE GAINED IN MY CAREER TO DATE?

Yes. UFV offers Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR), a flexible assessment process that evaluates your experiential learning (what you already know and can do) for post-secondary credit.

Experiential learning includes independent study, volunteer activities, non-credit courses, workplace learning and experience. To find out more, visit the PLAR website at www.ufv.ca/plar or contact the PLAR Coordinator at 604-851-6342 or susan.brown@ufv.ca.

WHAT SORT OF SUPPORT WILL I HAVE?

While earning your MSW, there may be times when you need to seek program advice or just get some helpful information.

Our program advisor and academic advisor will work with you, to ensure you have the correct resources, information, and advice that will guide you throughout your program of study.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

UFV's MSW is conveniently delivered in the Fraser Valley, allowing you to live at home and carry on working full-time while you earn your MSW.

Graduate fees for 2010/11 are \$509.23 per credit, or \$1,527.69 per 3-credit course, for a total MSW program tuition cost of \$15,276.90. Ancillary student fees are an additional cost of \$112.50 per semester. Textbooks and travel costs are also your responsibility.

I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS...

More detailed information about our MSW can be obtained at www.ufv.ca/msw or by calling 604-864-4631, or 1-800-504-7441, local 4631.

We look forward to hearing from you!



UFV is actively seeking accreditation for this program from the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE).

The information contained in this document is subject to change. Please refer to www.ufv.ca/msw for up-to-date information. UFV reserves the right to cancel courses and programs.



About UFV

Nestled in the beautiful Fraser Valley just east of Vancouver, in B.C., UFV is a fully accredited, public university that enrolls more than 15,000 students each year. UFV has campuses in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Mission and regional centres in Hope and Agassiz, and a growing presence in Chandigarh, India.

UFV is committed to exceptional post-secondary instruction and a nurturing learning environment. We are large enough to offer variety, yet small enough to offer the personal attention that our students need to thrive. Our small class sizes and focus on teaching allow our students to get to know their instructors and learn in a hands-on setting.

We offer more than 100 programs, including 15 bachelor's degrees, two master's degrees, 80+ diplomas and certificates, and more than a dozen trades and technology programs.

We believe that anyone who wants to go to university should be given the chance, so our admission policies are flexible, and we provide university prep courses and high school completion options. There are many options for learning: full-time, in class, online, as part of a structured program or one tailored specifically to your interests.

Many of our programs "ladder" into one another, allowing students to keep their options open. Our international programming makes for a culturally diverse student body and great opportunities to study abroad, while our continuing studies offerings make learning a lifelong experience.

UFV is recognized nationally for student success, an excellent learning environment, creative integration of programming, and our work with our local communities.

Get to know us better at www.ufv.ca

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