Bachelor of Social Work Student Handbook

Transformative Education for Exceptional Social Work Practice

2023/2024

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Welcome to the Bachelor of Social Work Degree Program!

The Social Work Program at Mount Royal University (MRU) is pleased to welcome you as a student in the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW). Thank you for making MRU your choice for post-secondary education.

The Social Work Program office is located in the T-wing of the [Mount Royal Lincoln Park Campus](#) on the 3rd floor. Students are encouraged to stop by and meet faculty and staff in person.

The Bachelor of Social Work has earned pre-accreditation status through the [Canadian Association for Social Work Education/Association Canadienne pour la Formation en Travail Social (CASWE/ACFTS)](#). Course content and program outcomes are established by MRU Social Work faculty to meet CASWE standards. Graduates of the program are eligible to be registered with the [Alberta College of Social Workers](#) (ACSW) for practice in the province of Alberta and to apply to accredited graduate programs.

It is expected that Social Work students will be familiar with, understand, and adhere to the values and standards outlined in the [Canadian Association of Social Workers' Code of Ethics (2005)](#) and the Alberta College of Social Workers [Standards of Practice](#) (2023).

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Mission and Program Outcomes

Social Work Program Mission

Transformative education for exceptional social work practice.

Bachelor of Social Work Program Outcomes

Students will demonstrate an introductory understanding of:

Foundational Social Work Knowledge
- Develop an understanding of the historical, philosophical, ethical, and theoretical perspectives of social work practice.
- Develop a professional identity as a social work practitioner consistent with the values and goals required for professional practice.
- Have knowledge of, and demonstrate an ability to, practice within the relevant parameters of the profession, including the Alberta College of Social Work Standards of Practice and the Canadian Association of Social Work Guidelines for Ethical Practice.
- Demonstrate the ability to assess the social, economic, cultural, and structural contexts of social issues facing individuals, children and families, groups, and communities, including the impact of oppression and marginalization at a variety of levels as well as those traditionally impacting Indigenous communities in Canada.

- Acquire knowledge and skills to apply social work theories in support of service provision, professional practice, policy development, and research in local and global contexts.

Respect for Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Being
- Supporting Indigenous efforts to restore health to people, families, communities, and nations.
- Understand the history of social work interventions with Indigenous peoples, including the Residential School era, the Sixties Scoop, and contemporary Canadian contexts.
- Recognize the diversity among Indigenous peoples and communities.
- Demonstrate awareness of Indigenous ways of knowing and being and their impact on helping practices.
- Incorporate into practice the unique and diverse experiences of Indigenous individuals and communities and ensure effective engagement and collaboration with Indigenous children, families, and communities.

Child Intervention
- Preserve and support families.
- Incorporate a strength-based, safety-organized approach to child intervention with children, families and communities.
- Develop knowledge and skills to gather and critically evaluate information using a variety of evidence-informed approaches and tools to aid in conducting child intervention investigations across communities and cultures.
- Develop skills to establish, sustain and foster effective working relationships with children, families, and communities that are focused on achieving child intervention outcomes.
- Develop and apply knowledge of the impact of residential school experiences and the sixties scoop on Indigenous children and their caregivers.

Practice Skills
- Engage with individuals, children and families, groups, and communities through inclusive professional social work practice.
- Develop knowledge and practice skills in a broad range of areas, including engagement, assessment, intervention, advocacy and evaluation.
- Develop knowledge and practice skills to engage in anti-oppressive practice and advocacy with/on behalf of individuals, children and families, groups, and communities.
- Develop knowledge and demonstrate skills in critically evaluating social policies in relation to the wellbeing of children and families, groups and communities, including Indigenous peoples and immigrants in Canadian and global contexts, and contribute to policy advocacy and change.

- Acquire knowledge and skills to critique, apply, or participate in social work research and evaluation.
- Practice collaboratively and contribute to equitable partnerships within the context of teamwork, interprofessional practice, and community engagement.

Critical Thinking/Analysis
- Understand and articulate the multiple causes and impacts of complex social issues and exercise appropriate professional judgement.
- Develop skills in critical thinking and decision making
- Identify and address structural sources of injustice and inequalities in the Canadian and global contexts, including the impact of colonization on Indigenous and newcomer communities.

Human Rights, Diversity, and Social Justice
- Understand the causes of discrimination, oppression, poverty, exclusion, exploitation, and marginalization and their impacts on individuals, children and families, groups, and communities.
- Develop knowledge and skills to provide respectful, equitable and effective services to diverse populations and communities as informed by their unique history, values, and cultures.
- Develop capacity for self-reflection and a critical understanding of power, privilege and social location, as well as awareness of personal biases as they relate to professional social work practice.
- Employ professional practices that support and enhance diversity and advance social justice for individuals, children, families, groups, and communities.

Bona Fide Educational Requirements

Graduates of the program are eligible to be registered as Social Workers in the province of Alberta.The MRU Social Work Program is responsible for providing a program of study to enable students to achieve the knowledge, skills, and attributes necessary to fulfill the expectations associated with professional practice.

Students in the Social Work Program will demonstrate the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

Foundational Knowledge

Social work requires the integration of the knowledge, skills, attitude, and values in order to promote the well-being of individuals, families, groups, and communities. Our knowledge base is drawn from critical and practice theories that explain problems and guide the change process from multiple perspectives. Social work students are required to demonstrate a beginning level understanding of the link between theory

and practice through careful and critical consideration of lens, self-awareness, location and practice.

Critical Thinking/Analysis
The student must be able to critically evaluate personal performance, seek feedback and demonstrate attributes and skills that contribute to a positive, respectful learning and work environment.

Practice Skills
Students must be able to participate in situations that require skills in observation, assessment and intervention. In particular, a student must be able to accurately observe the client (individual, family, group or community) and acquire visual, auditory and tactile information. Students must also be able to assess the client's needs, have the capacity to develop a written plan using an agreed upon format, be able to articulate the plan to colleagues and supervisors/instructors, and to address client needs guided by social work values and ethics. Students are required to be aware of and practice within professional social work boundaries in their relationships with clients, supervisors, colleagues and instructors.

Academic Skills
Social work students must be able to speak, listen to, perceive non-verbal communication, respond to, and guide client populations. Students are required to communicate effectively and sensitively with clients and any member of the community, organization or agency staff. Specifically, students must demonstrate the language skills, cognitive skills and memory necessary to reason in order to analyze, integrate and synthesize information. All of these problem-solving activities must be done in a timely fashion.

Personal and Social Responsibility
Social work students must consistently demonstrate the emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities and to manage personal life issues that affect professional practice. The application of good judgment, and the prompt completion of all responsibilities associated with successful completion of educational requirements including working with others is necessary. The development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with peers, clients (individuals, families, groups, and communities) and members of agency staff are also required. Students must be able to tolerate the physical, emotional, and mental demands of the program and function effectively under stress. Adaptability to changing environments and the ability to function in the face of uncertainties that are inherent in working with all client groups are necessary. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation are all personal qualities that social work students must Page 8 demonstrate and are expected qualities for professionals as outlined by the Code of

Ethics (Canadian Association of Social Workers, 2005) and the Standards of Practice (Alberta College of Social Workers, 2019).

Bachelor of Social Work Curriculum

To earn a Bachelor of Social Work, students must successfully complete the following courses within eight years of being accepted into the program. Students should consult the MRU Academic Calendar for graduation requirements and curriculum details.

BSW First Year Entry

Students entering in the first year of the BSW will complete the following courses:

	Course #	Course Title	Course Category	Credits
	Year 1			
	SLWK 1114	Introduction to Social Work History, Philosophy and Theory	Core	3
	SLWK 1187	Social Welfare Policies and Issues	Core	3
	INST 1101	Introduction to Indigenous Studies: The Canadian Context	Core	3
	INST 1240	Fundamentals of Professional Communication	Core	3
	GNED	Foundation	GNED Foundation	3
	SLWK 2215	Social Work Assessment and Documentation	Core	3
	SLWK 2216	Counselling Skills	Core	3
	SLWK 1296	Social Work Practice I	Core	3
	GNED	Foundation	GNED Foundation GNED	3

			Foundation	
	GNED			3
	Year 2			
	SLWK 2218	Social Work Knowledge and Skills for Group Work	Core	3
	SLWK 2221	Social Work Practice with Communities	Core	3
	SLWK 2222	Social Work with Families	Core	3
	GNED	Foundation	GNED Foundation	3
	GNED	General Education (see mruGradU8)	GNED	3
	SLWK 2217	Interprofessional Practice and Leadership in Social Work Organizations	Core	3
	SLWK 2223	Social Work Practice in Addictions and Mental Health	Core	3
	SLWK 2224	Indigenous Knowledges and Practices in Social Work	Core	3
	GNED	General Education (see mruGradU8)	GNED	3
	Elective	Elective (any 3 credit course, see mruGradU8)	Elective	3
	Year 3			
	SLWK 3315	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as Anti-oppressive Practice in Social Work	Core	3
	SLWK 3316	Human Development and Social Contexts	Core	3

	SLWK 3301	Child and Adolescent Mental Health	Core	3
	GNED	General Education (see mruGradU8)	GNED	3
	GNED	General Education (see mruGradU8)	GNED	3
	SLWK 3321 SLWK 3521	Social Work Theories and Practice to Support Change (Generalist Concentration) OR Social Work Theories and Practice to Support Change in Child Intervention (Child Intervention Concentration)	Core	3
	SLWK 3397	Social Work Practice II	Core	6
	INTS 3331	International Community Development: Indigenous and Global Perspectives	Core	3
	Elective	Elective (any 3 credit course, see mruGradU8)	Elective	3
Year 4				
	SLWK 4415 SLWK 4515	Emerging Issues in Social Work Practice (Generalist Concentration) OR Emerging Issues in Social Work Practice: Child Intervention (Child Intervention Concentration)	Core	3
	SLWK 4416	Social Justice and Social Work Practice	Core	3
	SLWK 4417	Social Work Research in Practice: Empowering Individuals, Families and Communities	Core	3

	GNED	General Education (see mruGradU8)	GNED	3
	Elective	Elective (any 3-credit course, see mruGradU8)	Elective	3
	SLWK 4421 SLWK 4521	Advanced Social Work Intervention Skills (Generalist Concentration) OR Advanced Social Work Skills in Child Intervention (Child Intervention Concentration)	Core	3
	SLWK 4497 SLWK 4597	Social Work Practice III (Generalist Concentration) OR Social Work Practice III: Child Intervention Practice (Child Intervention Concentration)	Core	6
	GNED	General Education (see mruGradU8)	GNED	3
	Elective	Elective (any 3 credit course, see mruGradU8)	Elective	3

Post-Diploma, Third-Year Entry

Only students with a completed Alberta Social Work Diploma may gain direct entry into the third year of the BSW program. Students currently enrolled in an Alberta-accredited diploma program are eligible to apply in their final semester of study if they are eligible for graduation on June 30th of the year of their application.

A suggested course sequence for the post diploma follows.

		Post Diploma Year 3		
	SLWK 3315	Diversity and Inclusion in Social Work Practice	Core	3
	SLWK 3316	Human Development and Social Contexts	Core	3

	SLWK 3301	Child and Adolescent Mental Health	Core	3
	INST 1101	Introduction to Indigenous Studies: The Canadian Context	Core	3
	INTS 1240	Fundamentals of Professional Communication	Core	3
	SLWK 3321 SLWK 3521	Social Work Theories and Practice to Support Change (Generalist Concentration) OR Social Work Theories and Practice to Support Change in Child Intervention (Child Intervention Concentration)	Core	3
	INTS 3331	International Community Development: Indigenous and Global Perspectives	Core	3
	GNED	General Education (see mruGradU8)	GNED	3
	GNED	General Education (see mruGradU8)	GNED	3
	GNED	General Education (see mruGradU8)	GNED	3
	Post Diploma Year 4			
	SLWK 4415 SLWK 4515	Emerging Issues in Social Work Practice (Generalist Concentration) OR Emerging Issues in Social Work Practice: Child Intervention (Child Intervention Concentration)	Core	3

SLWK 4416	Social Justice and Social Work Prac	Core	3
SLWK 4417	Social Work Research in Practice: Empowering Individuals, Families and Communities	Core	3
GNED	General Education (see mruGradU8)	GNED	3
Elective	Elective (see mruGradU8)	Elective	3
SLWK 4421

SLWK 4521 | Advanced Social Work Intervention Skills (Generalist Concentration) OR
Advanced Social Work Skills in Child Intervention (Child Intervention Concentration) | Core | 3 |
| SLWK 4497

SLWK 4597 | Social Work Practice III (Generalist Concentration) OR
Social Work Practice III: Child Intervention Practice (Child Intervention Concentration)

General Education or Elective (see mruGradU8) | Core

GNED/ Elective | 6

3 |
| GNED OR Elective | General Education or Elective (see mruGradU8) | GNED/ Elective | 3 |
| GNED OR Elective | General Education or Elective (see mruGradU8) | GNED/ Elective | 3 |

Notes:

- A maximum of 16 junior or 1000-level courses are allowed in an undergraduate degree.
- MRU Social Work Diploma graduates who have credit for SLWK 3301 Child and Adolescent Mental Health will need to enroll in SLWK 2223 Social Work Practice in Addictions and Mental Health. Both courses are required in the BSW.

- MRU Social Work Diploma graduates who have credit for INTS 3331 International Community Development: Indigenous and Global Perspectives will need to enroll in Social Work Practice with Communities. Both courses are required in the BSW.

In addition to Social Work (SLWK) course requirements the Social Work program also requires students to complete several General Education Courses as outlined above. The General Education program at Mount Royal University is organized around four thematic clusters which constitute groups or streams of courses. These include:

Cluster 1 - Numeracy and Scientific Literacy,
Cluster 2 - Values, Beliefs and Identity
Cluster 3 - Community and Society
Cluster 4 - Communication.

Specific information about these clusters is available in the [MRU Academic Calendar.](#)

Students are responsible for ensuring that the courses they take are transferable for any programs to which you may wish to apply in the future.

Bachelor of Social Work: Core Course Descriptions

INTS 1240 - Fundamentals of Professional Communication
This course provides an introduction and overview to aspects of professional communication. Utilizing a mix of theory and application, the course provides students with opportunities to gain an understanding of the elements of professional communication and demonstrate a foundational level of knowledge and skill of the application of professional communication for use in a variety of settings.

INST 1101 - Introduction to Indigenous Studies: the Canadian Context This course provides an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of Indigenous Studies. Specifically, the course surveys the diverse histories and traditional and contemporary cultures of the various groups in what is now Canada. Taught from an Indigenous perspective, the course explores a wide range of topics, with an emphasis on colonization and decolonization.

INTS 3331 - International Community Development: Indigenous and Global Perspectives
This interdisciplinary course will provide students with an overview of international community development issues such as poverty, health care, education, human rights, foreign aid and controversy. Students will be encouraged to examine topics related to sustainable development from an interdisciplinary perspective. Specific issues related to colonization, globalization and Indigenous peoples will be explored.

SLWK 1114 Introduction to Social Work History, Philosophy and Theory This course provides an introduction to the historical, philosophical, ethical, and theoretical perspectives of social work practice. Factors distinguishing social work practice will be introduced, including social work values, ethics, theories, and models of practice. This course also examines the impact of oppression and marginalization on individuals, children and families, and communities, including the role of social work in contributing to colonization and decolonization in Canada.

SLWK 1187 Social Welfare Policies and Issues
This course is designed to help students become critically aware of the economic, social, and political environment within which they will eventually practice. It will examine the process by which social policy is developed in Canada and encourage reflection upon the ways social workers are influenced by, and in turn can influence, that process. A review and analysis of social problems, policies, and issues as they relate to the delivery and development of appropriate social services will occur. Students will be invited to examine their own values, as well as dominant ideologies present within Canada today.

SLWK 2215 Social Work Assessment and Documentation
This course provides students with an opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills required to gather and evaluate information using a variety of evidence-informed approaches and tools. Integrating an intersectional approach to trauma, family violence, and mental health, students will explore topics including assessment, case planning, goal setting, intervention, evaluation, and documentation.

SLWK 2216 Counselling Skills
This experiential course concentrates on the development of interviewing and counselling skills with an emphasis on social work practice with individuals, children, and families. Students will have the opportunity to develop an introductory therapeutic skill set through simulated counselling interviews.
Prerequisite(s): A grade of C or higher in both of INTS 1240 and SLWK 1114.

SLWK 1296 Social Work Practice I
Social Work Practice I provides students with an opportunity to observe direct practice with individuals, groups, or communities. This introductory practicum will expose students to the complexity of practice issues related to work in human services and to view societal issues from a social work perspective. During this first practicum experience students are challenged to examine how their social location influences their work with clients or client groups. Students are expected to demonstrate a beginning understanding of social work as a distinct profession.
Prerequisite(s): A grade of C or higher in INTS 1240, Social Work 1114, and 1187.

SLWK 2218 Social Work Knowledge and Skills for Group Work
This course introduces and provides an overview of social work practice with groups through a combination of lectures, observation, and experiential learning. The stages of group development, group roles and norms, facilitation, group design, implementation and evaluation will be addressed. Students will have the opportunity to develop their facilitation skills through participation in group simulations.
Prerequisite(s): A grade of C or higher in SLWK 2216

SLWK 2221 Social Work Practice with Communities
This course provides students with an introduction to community social work practice. The course will address the role of community social work practice in the context of diversity, social change movements, and activism. Students will explore a range of theoretical frameworks for community change and develop skills to work in partnership with diverse communities to create change.
Prerequisite(s): A grade of C or higher in both of SLWK 1114 and SLWK 1187

SLWK 2222 Social Work with Families
This course will focus on social work with family systems. Students will develop an understanding of the interactive, ecological, socioeconomic, and cultural influences on families. Attention will be paid to the impacts of current and historical trauma, engaging families and assessing for strengths, sources of resilience and support, and pathways to change. Students will be introduced to strategies and methods to enhance resilience, safety, connection to community and culture utilizing both formal and natural supports.
Prerequisite(s): A grade of C or higher in both of SLWK 2215 and SLWK 2216

SLWK 2217 Leadership and Interprofessional Practice in Social Work Organizations
Social work organizations require strong and effective leadership. This course will provide students with an understanding of how to lead social service agencies and programs in order to provide a healthy working environment that promotes effective service provision focused on client empowerment. Students will explore topics related to organizational development, program planning, and leadership in nonprofit organizations.
Prerequisite(s): SLWK 1287 or 1296 with a minimum grade of C

SLWK 2223 Social Work Practice in Addictions and Mental Health This course provides students with an understanding of the intersectional factors that affect mental health. Students will explore the interactions between mental health, trauma and substance abuse. This will include the impact of intergenerational trauma. Students will explore theories related to addiction and mental health and develop competencies in collaborative case management and intervention across the range of environments in which social workers engage with these areas of practice.
Prerequisite(s): A grade of C or higher in SLWK 2215

SLWK 2224 Indigenous Knowledges and Practices in Social Work
This course provides social work students with an introductory understanding of Indigenous ways of knowing and helping. Topics covered include, traditional Indigenous life-ways, worldviews, the role of spirit, significance of relationships, connection to the past, emphasis on community, respect for cultural practices, and the role of Elders within Indigenous helping practices. Students will gain an understanding of the history of social work interventions with Indigenous peoples, including residential schools, the sixties scoop, and strategies for effective engagement and collaboration with Indigenous children, families, and communities.

SLWK 3315 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as Anti-oppressive Practice in Social Work
This course explores the history of diversity in Canadian social systems. The curriculum will assist students in understanding the causes of discrimination, oppression, poverty, exclusion, exploitation, and marginalization and their impacts on individuals, families, groups, and communities. Students will examine a broad range of current critical theories informing social work practice. Students will have the opportunity to develop their capacity for self-reflection and a critical understanding of power, privilege, and social location as it relates to professional social work practice.
A grade of C or higher in Social Work 2217, 2221, and 2224

SLWK 3316 Human Development and Social Contexts
Recognizing human development as a process embedded within a social context, students will gain an understanding of how a range of life events and processes influence development. Utilizing a prevention lens, students will explore protective factors that promote resilience during adverse developmental contexts. Attention will be paid to how family, community and cultural systems shape human development by looking at the ecological influences and the ways in which healing and strengths influence development.
A grade of C or higher in Social Work 2223, and 2224

SLWK 3301 – Child and Adolescent Mental Health
This course provides students with an understanding of the many issues that affect the mental health of children and adolescents, including knowledge of the major mental health disorders, factors contributing to these disorders, and therapeutic interventions. The course also looks at the environments that optimize mental health and resilience. Consideration is given to the ecological factors that impact resilience and risk, how safety is enhanced, and the ways in which formal and natural supports are used to support positive outcomes in mental health and substance use. The course makes use of a simulation lab and naturalistic observation of children to explore how child and adolescent mental health issues are managed within a family or caregiving environment.
Prerequisite: A grade of C or higher in Social Work 2215

SLWK 3397 Social Work Practice II

Social Work Practice II builds on the skills and knowledge from the first practicum with a goal of exposure to and involvement in more complex practice situations. Students integrate social work theories and methods in work with individuals, children, and families, groups, or communities. Students are expected to demonstrate social work practice skills related to assessment, shared participation in the client change process, and interventions with a variety of client groups. A focus on reflective practice, professionalism, and social work ethics contribute to the continued development of social work identity.
Prerequisites: A grade of C or higher in SLWK 1296, 2218, 2222, 2221 and 3315

SLWK 4416 Social Justice and Social Work

This advanced course explores the central concepts of a social justice perspective including historical and current manifestations of inequity and injustice. Particular attention is given to exploring the role of social work in the context of social change movements as a human rights profession both globally and locally. Students will have the opportunity to develop skills to identify social inequalities, injustices, and barriers and work towards changing oppressive social conditions. Particular attention will be paid to the intersection between practice and the capacity of marginalized populations to develop agency in escaping oppressive practices.
Prerequisites: A grade of C or higher in SLWK 3397

SLWK 4417 Social Work Research in Practice: Empowering Individuals, Families and Communities

This introductory course will examine selected elements of qualitative and quantitative research design as it relates to knowledge generation in social work. Foundational concepts and approaches of various research methodologies will be introduced as ways of knowledge building to inform practice and influence policy. Additionally, the course will focus on program evaluation, participatory research, and Indigenous methodologies.
Prerequisites: A grade of C or higher in SLWK 3397 or equivalent.

Bachelor of Social Work: Concentration Course Descriptions

Students enrolled in the Bachelor of Social Work must complete one of the two concentrations. Students in the BSW may choose between Generalist and Child Intervention concentrations. Students are required to officially declare their concentration by the third year of the program as the course selection and the final practice course changes depending on the concentration.

Generalist Concentration

SLWK 3321 Social Work Theories and Practice to Support Change
This advanced social work course explores theories of social work practice with particular attention to those that promote change. Emphasis is on the application of theories through the development of interventions for direct social work practice. Students will be prepared to critically appraise and apply social work knowledge, as well as knowledge from other disciplines, to advance professional practice, policy development and service provision.
Prerequisites: A grade of C or higher in SLWK 3301, 2224 and 3315.

SLWK 4415 Emerging Issues in Social Work Practice
This course will engage students in investigating an area of social work practice or a population which holds interest to the student and further develops their identity as a social worker. Students are encouraged to analyze issues related to the area that they choose to investigate and use a critical and reflective lens to discuss how these issues might be experienced by individuals, children and families, groups, and communities. Particular attention will be paid to the intersection between practice and the capacity of marginalized populations to develop agency in escaping oppressive practices.
Prerequisites: A grade of C or higher in SLWK 3321 or SLWK 3521.

SLWK 4421 Advanced Social Work Intervention Skills
This course will look at intervention skills needed for working with specific populations and contexts. Populations can include the aging, marginalized groups, underserved communities, human trafficking, and other vulnerable groups. Emphasis will include direct service but also social advocacy, program development, and public policy.
Prerequisites: A grade of C or higher in SLWK 3397
Corequisite: SLWK 4497

SLWK 4497 Social Work Practice III
This advanced practicum course will offer students the opportunity to focus on either social work practice within a community context or on the enhancement of intervention skills with individuals and families. Students will work in a collaborative framework to gain a greater understanding of how to work in an interprofessional manner within the community with a goal of identifying opportunities to contribute to wellbeing. The culmination of this practicum experience will include peer presentations of their learning.
Prerequisite: A grade of C or higher in SLWK 3397, SLWK 4417
Corequisite: SLWK 4421

Child Intervention Concentration

SLWK 3521 Social Work Theories and Practice to Support Change in Child Intervention
This course serves as an introduction to theories of child intervention practice. Particular emphasis is given to understanding the role of child protection in society and its place in protecting children while enhancing family functioning. The ecological model is central to understanding how to protect a child within their own culture and support systems across agencies and systems that support families and children in a variety of serving professions. Attention is paid to the impact of colonization and the need for strengths based and anti-oppressive approaches across vulnerable populations. Students will develop understanding of the complex change process that focuses upon permanency for the child and the sustaining of meaningful relationships to encourage successful development into adulthood.
A grade of C or higher in SLWK 3301 and SLWK 3315

SLWK 4515 Emerging Issues in Social Work Practice: Child Intervention This advanced course will examine the complex issues emerging in the child intervention system. Areas of focus will include colonization, addictions and mental health, trauma, migration, and the interface with judicial systems. Particular focus will include the long standing over representation of Indigenous children in Canada's child intervention systems. The course will look at the practical application of public policy, tribunal, and international agreements. Additionally, the course introduces students to legislation and policy relevant to child intervention practice.
Prerequisites: A grade of C or higher in SLWK 3521

SLWK 4521 Advanced Social Work Skills in Child Intervention
This advanced skills course will explore assessment and case planning for complex cases such as child abuse, sexual abuse, and other forms of child maltreatment. Students will learn forensic approaches to data gathering and recording, developing case plans and presenting evidence to court. The course will consider working with resistance, safety planning, and the appropriate use of power in protecting children and family members. This course will also consider the role of the court systems in the practice of child intervention.
Prerequisite: A grade of C or higher in Social Work 3397
Corequisite: Social Work 4597

SLWK 4497/4597 Social Work Practice III / Social Work Practice III: Child Intervention
This advanced practicum course will offer students the opportunity to focus on either social work practice within a community context or on the enhancement of intervention skills with individuals and families. Students will work in a collaborative framework to gain a greater understanding of how to work in an interprofessional manner within the community with a goal of identifying opportunities to contribute to wellbeing. The culmination of this practicum

experience will include peer presentations of their learning.
Prerequisite: A grade of C or higher in SLWK 3397, SLWK 4417
Corequisite: SLWK 4421 / SLWK 4521

Social Work Degree Program: Student Leadership Opportunities

To develop leadership skills and contribute to the social work community please consider volunteering for one of the many opportunities available to students in the Social Work Program. Your service within these leadership opportunities helps to ensure the student voice and perspective are heard throughout the university. Interested students are encouraged to contact the Social Work Academic Coordinator.

Alberta College of Social Workers (ACSW) (multiple student opportunities) The ACSW is the regulatory body for the profession of social work in the province of Alberta. Periodically, there are times when the ACSW calls for student members to serve on its committees. For example, each year the ACSW requires student volunteers to assist at the ACSW annual conference.

Faculty of Health, Community and Education, Faculty Council (1 student) The Council normally meets four times each academic year. Among other things, the Council meets to approve new courses, programs, and calendar submissions from the Faculty. Council also devotes some of its meetings to panel discussions on topics of major interest and concern to offer guidance to the Dean and other committees for possible further action. One student from each department within the Faculty of Health & Community Studies is appointed annually by the Dean.

Faculty of Health, Community and Education Scholar's Council (1 student) The council's mission is to foster a culture of scholarship among faculty, staff, and students by developing and funding activities such as the Research and Scholarship Showcase and by supporting and funding conferences, workshops, and symposia. Committee members meet two to three times a year to plan events and review funding applications.

Social Work Advisory Committee
The purpose of this working committee is to help guide the work of the Social Work Program. The committee meets two times per year to discuss course development plans, employment needs from the community, issues and trends impacting the profession, and generally support the social work program and its students. This committee consists of social work agency representatives from across the social service sector, students, an alumni member, the Dean of the Faculty of Health & Community Studies, the Chair of Child Studies and Social Work, and the Social Work Academic Coordinator.

Social Work Students Collective

The social work students' collective is an official club of the Students' Association of Mount Royal University (SAMRU). The collective organizes activist events for social work students as well as social activities. There are five elected/appointed positions including President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Events Organizer. In addition, the collective general membership is open to all members of the social work program.

Mount Royal University – Policies and Resources

Students should ensure they are familiar with the policies that govern their participation at MRU and in the Social Work Program. In order to ensure relevance and accuracy, a list of important policies is provided as part of this handbook.

Online links to each policy are provided to assist students in easily and effectively locating the information required. A searchable Policy and Procedures website is also available.

The following are general policies that apply to Social Work students in all courses:

MRU Academic Regulations

Academic regulations are detailed in the MRU Academic Calendar. These policies and regulations govern all staff, faculty, and students at the university. Policies related to grading, exams, assignments, grade appeals etc. can be located here.

Students should also familiarize themselves with the MRU Grades Policy which provides additional detail related to grading and assessment.

MRU Code of Student Community Standards

The Office of Student Community Standards (OSCS) is a resource for students, faculty and staff at Mount Royal University that helps define community standards for academic and personal conduct. The office supports students, community, and campus partners in navigating conflict using various dispute resolution pathways. They also promote the rights and responsibilities of students through the administration of the Code of Student Community Standards and the Code of Student Academic Integrity.

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the Code of Student Community Standards and the Code of Academic Integrity. Faculty may use anti-plagiarism software to detect incidents of academic misconduct. All incidents of potential academic and non-academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Student

Community Standards.

Academic Misconduct: All MRU students are expected to consistently submit original work, give credit to other peoples' ideas and work, and complete all submissions independently and honestly. Academic Misconduct is any action that is dishonest, misrepresents information, or creates an unfair advantage. Academic misconduct occurs when a student/s misrepresents facts or information and gains an unfair academic advantage over other students. It is the policy of the program to report all instances of academic misconduct. Students should ensure that they are familiar with the policies and processes related to breach of this policy.

Non-Academic Misconduct: MRU students are always held accountable for their personal conduct including when off campus or in practicum. Broadly, non-academic misconduct would include behaviours that potentially threaten the safety or well-being of any member of the MRU community. The MRU Social Work Program holds Social Work students responsible to the Social Work Code of Ethics (CASW) and Standards of Practice (ACSW). Violation of either code could result in course failure or being required to withdraw from the program.

MRU Human Rights Policy

Mount Royal University is committed to creating and maintaining a supportive working and learning environment that is free from discrimination and harassment. In keeping with efforts to establish and maintain an environment in which the dignity and worth of all members of the Mount Royal community are respected, it is the policy of Mount Royal that discrimination and harassment of students, employees, and visitors, to our campus is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

The fundamental objectives of the Human Rights Policy are to prevent discrimination and harassment on grounds protected by the Alberta Human Rights Act and to provide procedures for handling complaints and remedying situations.

If you encounter or witness discrimination and harassment of any form while at MRU or in practicum, please speak to a faculty member immediately.

MRU Personal Harassment Policy

Mount Royal University is committed to creating a supportive working and learning environment that is free from personal harassment. The MRU Personal Harassment Policy applies to all members of the MRU community and provides resources for defining, reporting and managing situations related to personal harassment.

If you encounter or witness personal harassment of any form while at MRU or in practicum

please speak to a faculty member immediately or contact the Office of Safe Disclosure.

Gender Based Violence and Misconduct Prevention and Response Policy

The Gender-Based Violence and Misconduct Prevention and Response Policy represents the University's ongoing efforts to foster a culture of respect and safety, while providing support for those who have been impacted by gender-based violence and misconduct. This policy applies to all members of the Mount Royal University community. Everyone within our community is expected to engage in respectful and consensual interactions and to foster an environment that does not tolerate harmful behaviours. Details on reporting and support options are available through Dating, Domestic and Sexual Violence Services.

Academic Accommodation for Students Experiencing Disabilities Policy and Procedures

MRU is committed to access, equity and inclusion. Access and Inclusion Services assists the University in creating an accessible learning environment that encourages full participation in academic courses for students experiencing disabilities.

Students should familiarize themselves with the Academic Accommodation for Students Experiencing Disabilities Policy and Procedures.

Accommodations are available to registered students with documented conditions who face barriers in the post-secondary environment. Students experiencing a disability are responsible to facilitate an accommodation by contacting a student advisor in the Access and Inclusion Services office. It is the student's responsibility to register with Access and Inclusion Services early in the term and to request academic accommodations if required.

MRU Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

The personal information that you provide to Mount Royal University including instructors and staff of the social work department is collected under the authority of the Post-Secondary Learning Act and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act – Section 33(c). The information will be used for the routine administration of the department including reviewing student progress in the social work program and determining or verifying a student's suitability or eligibility for practicum and other benefits. Additionally, disclosed information may be used for the routine administration of Mount Royal academic support services including but not restricted to the Office of Students Community Standards, Student Learning Services, Access and Inclusion Services, Student Counseling, Iniskim Centre, and Academic Advising. Collected personal information is protected from unauthorized access, collection, use and disclosure in accordance with the FOIP act and can be reviewed upon request subject to the provision of the Act. Questions regarding the collection of personal

information can be directed to the Academic Director of Social Work.

Social Work Code of Ethics

Social work students are responsible for being familiar with, understanding, and adhering to the values and standards outlined in the Canadian Association of Social Workers' Code of Ethics (2005) and the Alberta College of Social Workers Standards of Practice (2019).

Student misconduct and/or a violation of the Code of Ethics or Standards of Practice could result in a formal referral to the Office of Student Community Standards (OSCS), the failure of a course or the requirement to withdraw from the program.

Social Media and Social Work Practice - Program Policy

Students in the social work program, including in practicum, are considered to be practicing social work with the same obligations to the profession, staff and colleagues, practicum agencies and to clients. The use of social media is common, but students need to understand and acknowledge that there are ethical limitations that must be honored.

It is impossible to cover all aspects of personal presence on social media. Be guided by the notion that your public presence is part of who you are as a social worker. If you have questions about this policy, please direct them to the Academic Director for the Social Work Program.

Students should review and be familiar with the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) guidelines on Social Media Use and Social Work Practice. Familiarity with The Alberta College of Social Workers Standards of Practice is encouraged and will assist in ensuring professional behavior.

Social media includes, but is not limited to, platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, LinkedIn, Reddit, YouTube, WhatsApp, Instagram, Snapchat, Pinterest, and dozens of other similar sites. It can also include messenger services such as FaceTime, Facebook Messenger, and WhatsApp.

Your personal online presence is part of your professional presence, image, and ethical behavior. Content shared on social media enters the public forum and becomes a public record of events, circumstances, and information about people, yourself, and others.

When entering agency practice for practicum, take time to review and understand the policies and practices your agency has regarding the use of social media. You should engage in discussions with your supervisor around any restrictions that the university has with respect to social media use and explore any areas of concern.

MRU and practicum agencies are bound by Information and Privacy laws and Human Rights Legislation in Alberta. If in doubt about whether information can be shared, it is recommended to not share it until you have clarified that it is permissible to do so. For your purposes as a student, MRU standards and expectations apply even if something is permitted by the agency.

Privacy and Confidentiality:

Client and colleague confidentiality must never be compromised and the posting of any information about a client on social media is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to
● names or any other potentially identifying information;
● photographs that may include a client, information about a client, including their physical location or a client's involvement with an agency;
● reference to attending an event that may link to a client; and
● having photographs with you, taken by a client for possible publication on their social media.

Professional Boundaries:

● You may not friend a client on any social media platform. This includes the client's family and friends.
● You may not use social media to search for information about a client.
● You may not enter into a social relationship with a client or former client including through social media.
● It is vital to maintain professional boundaries with your online presence.
● You must take steps to block your personal information such as your phone number if you are using personal communication devices for contact with clients
● The privacy policies of agencies must also be respected. This may include such concerns as not posting locations, photos of interiors of facilities or other information that could compromise the privacy and security of clients.
● Posting anything that you think is non-identifying data about an agency, colleague or client may have sufficient information to allow someone to figure out who you are speaking about. Case information should never be posted on social media.
● Your colleagues and Instructors also deserve to have their privacy protected. Remember that they too are connected to clients. Refrain from sharing any information about your colleagues via social media.
● Avoid discussion of the behaviors of clients or colleagues in general or specifically.
● Posting about student colleagues is also not permitted, and shows a lack of professionalism. What occurs in class, class assignments, course group work or other course related materials should not be shared via social media.
● Sharing photographs or recordings of students or class activities are subject to

requirements of formal consent, for which you do not have authority. Students have the right to anticipate privacy of their information when shared in class and course situations. Refrain from sharing any information about your students or class activities via social media.

Taking Proactive Steps:

- Ensure that your privacy settings on social media are such that it is unlikely that a client will be able to search and find your personal information.
- Review your content in public forums to remove information that would compromise your position as a social worker.
- Be cautious about what you post and share. As a social worker, you need to be careful about posting information via social media.

Breaches of Policy:

Breaches of this policy will be brought to the attention of the Academic Director for Social Work. Students breaching these policies may be reported to the Office of Community Standard and subject to course failure, or requirement to withdraw from the program.

Social Work Program – Academic Performance Requirements

Policies related to continuance in the Social Work Program are outlined in the MRU Academic Calendar.

In matters of progression and continuance, there are instances in addition to institutional processes when a student may be required to withdraw from a program. These circumstances are:

- Violations of a professional code of ethics and/or standards of practice. A committee established by the program will assess violations of relevant codes and standards and whether the student will be required to withdraw from the program based on the seriousness of the violation.
- Students who are unsuccessful after two registrations in the same core course (as defined by the program) will be required to withdraw from the program. This includes, but is not limited to, the following examples of unsuccessful registration:
    - Students who do not achieve the minimum required grade (as defined by program) in one or both registrations;
    - Students who earn a grade of "F" in one or both registrations; and
    - Students who withdraw from the course with a "W" in one or both registrations.

● Students who are denied a practicum placement by an external stakeholder because of an assessed detrimental impact on the client, client group, or community being served. Students who are unable to meet clinical or field course requirements on this basis will be required to withdraw from the program.

Appeal Process for the "Requirement to Withdraw from Program" (RTWP)

Students may appeal a "Requirement to Withdraw from Program" decision on two grounds:

- medical illness or severe emotional distress which was not previously known, or
- extenuating circumstances not previously known.

Complete an appeal form for the "Requirement to Withdraw from Program" (RTWP) which is available from the Chair's Office. The appeal form must include a letter describing the reason/grounds for appeal. If the reason is medical illness or severe emotional distress, the appeal must be accompanied by documentation from a Mount Royal counsellor or other certified health care professional. If the reason is other extenuating circumstances, then relevant information must be attached. An appeal will not be considered without supporting documentation.

- At the end of the semester or course, in which the student meets the conditions to be required to withdraw from the program, the Coordinator, Practicum and Advising, will send an email alerting the student of the requirement. A letter from the Chair will follow confirming the requirement to withdraw from the program.
- The letter from the Chair will be considered the official notification of the requirement to withdraw from the program. The letter will be sent by registered mail/courier and by email.
- Students have two weeks (10 business days) from the date on the Chair's letter to file the appeal.
- Students may continue to attend classes until a decision is made regarding the appeal, except in the following circumstance. Students will not be permitted to remain registered in program specific courses pending the outcome of the appeal, if the reason for appeal was:

    a. Violations of a professional code of ethics and/or standards of practice

    b. Denial of a practicum placement by an external stakeholder because of an assessed detrimental impact on the client, client group, or community being served.
- The Dean or Director, who is the Chair of the Appeal Committee, will decide based on the documentation whether to convene a committee to review the appeal.
- The Appeal Committee will review the documentation and determine the need for further information from the student, faculty, or other relevant sources.

Appeal Deadlines "Requirement to Withdraw from Program (RTWP)

- Students must submit the appeal within 10 business days of the date on the Chair's letter.
- The Chair of the Appeal Committee will determine within one week (5 business days) of submission of the appeal if a committee will hear the appeal. Notification of this decision will be sent to the student by email.
- If the Appeal Committee is convened, they will meet within two weeks or 10 business days of the submission of the appeal.
- Students will be informed of the outcome of the appeal within one week (5 business days) of the Appeal Committee's meeting regarding their decision. Notification will be by email to the student's MRU account, followed by a letter sent by registered mail or courier.

Appeal Committee Membership

- A representative from the Dean's or Director's office will act as chair of the Appeal Committee
- Two (2) faculty members, appointed by the Chair of the Appeal Committee, from the Department or School
- One (1) faculty member from the Faculty of Health and Community Studies
- One (1) student from programs belonging to the Faculty of Health and Community Studies, but not from the same program as the student who is appealing the RTWP
- One (1) student representative from SAMRU executive or designate
- A representative from clinical practice will serve as a resource when the case involves professional/ethical issues
- Academic advisors will serve as resources

Students who are appealing an RTWP are entitled to support and assistance from the SAMRU Student Advocacy Resource Centre.

Social Work Program – Practicum Requirements

Policies related to practicum requirements in the Social Work program are outlined in the MRU Academic Calendar and the BSW Work Practicum Manual. All students will be selected for practicum on the basis of academic performance, professional suitability, and availability of practicum sites.

A student may be prohibited from attending or completing a practicum if there is evidence to suggest that the student's physical and/or psychological health may be detrimental to client care.

At the time of practicum, students will be required, at their own expense, to obtain a Police Information Check. It is each practicum agency's decision to accept or reject a student for placement or observation experience based upon the results of police information or other background checks. Students must have their police information check approved by their

practicum agency.

Since both completion of course requirements and eventual employment in a field of study may be dependent upon the results of such checks, students who have concerns should discuss the matter with the Academic Director or designate prior to applying for admission.

Student Resources

There are times in your university career that can be made better by accessing some of the free services provided to students. Listed below are a few of the key programs that will benefit you. Links to each of these programs are embedded in the title to make it easy for you to connect to the services you need quickly and effectively

Dating, Domestic and Sexual Violence Services

Specialized services and support are available for those who have been impacted by dating, domestic and sexual violence. Support is available to any MRU student regardless of when or where the violence occurred. There is no obligation to report. DDSV Services can help with navigating resources both on and off-campus, accessing academic accommodations, safety planning, exploring options and coping strategies; understanding reporting options, making a report to MRU, and supporting someone in your life who has been affected by dating, domestic and/or sexual violence.

The MRU Office of Safe Disclosure

The Office of Safe Disclosure provides a range of services related to equity, human rights, discrimination, and other safe disclosure concerns. Students, staff, faculty and all other members of the Mount Royal community are all welcome to access these services. When you connect with the Safe Disclosure Office, you can expect to have your concerns heard in a confidential, safe, and neutral space. Your personal information, as well as reasons for reaching out, will remain confidential except where required by law or where there is a risk of significant harm to anyone's health or safety. To book an appointment with the Safe Disclosure Advisor, please fill out this form.

Students' Association of Mount Royal University (SAMRU)

The Students' Association is a student government body that represents and serves MRU students. In addition to student leadership, SAMRU also organizes helpful services for students including student advocates, a Good Food Box program, and free breakfasts!

The SAMRU Student Advocacy Resource Centre

The Student Advocacy Resource Centre provides confidential services, support and options

for individual students experiencing both academic and or non-academic advocacy concerns and questions. Students experiencing a situation which is affecting their success at Mount Royal University, are encouraged to contract their office for assistance and representation in matters of progression and continuance.

Student Counselling and Mental Health Services

Student Counselling Services are completely free and available only to MRU students. Alumni are eligible for one appointment post-graduation with a focus on how to access off-campus resources. Student Counselling is here for you so you can continue to enjoy your activities, live well, and have a great MRU experience. Student Counselling can be reached at 403.440.6362

Student Learning Services

Student Learning Services offers many programs to students including a Peer Tutor Program, Writing and Learning Services, and career mentorship.

Iniskim Center

The Iniskim Centre is an academic support centre for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students. Iniskim Centre offers a wide range of programs and services including counseling, tutoring, and advising programs.

Pride Centre

The SAMRU Pride Centre is dedicated to fostering a safe, inclusive, and celebratory environment for people of all genders and sexual orientations. Services available in the Pride Centre include community support resources, a library, free prophylactics as well as referrals and in-centre expertise on topics related to relationships, identity and sexual health. The Pride Centre also hosts events and programs that promote education and awareness on campus.

Applying For Registration As A Graduate

Graduates of Social Work educational programs in Alberta are eligible to apply for provisional registration. As a regulated profession, registration is required to use the title or identify as a Social Worker or to work within the scope of practice. Complete information is available on the Alberta College of Social Workers (ACSW) website.

Closing Comments

We hope that your experience with the Mount Royal Social Work Program provides you with a strong foundation to work effectively as an ethical social worker. We encourage you to make use of the many programs and services available at Mount Royal. These services are provided to help you achieve academic and personal success. Please do not hesitate to contact members of your faculty and staff with any questions.