



Faculty Qualifications: Discipline Description

School of Social Work

Active Teaching Disciplines		
For Administrative Use Only – Please do not edit		
CIP Code	Description	NCES Definition For more information on the NCES CIP taxonomy, see <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55">http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55</a>
44.0701	Social Work	A program that prepares individuals for the professional practice of social welfare administration and counseling, and that focus on the study of organized means of providing basic support services for vulnerable individuals and groups. Includes instruction in social welfare policy; case work planning; social counseling and intervention strategies; administrative procedures and regulations; and specific applications in areas such as child welfare and family services, probation, employment services, and disability counseling.

The qualifications described below represent commonly accepted good practices for teaching in the discipline(s) included in this unit. [1]

Please provide a general description of unit, including programs and course offerings [2]

The School of Social Work Offers:

- Social Work, BS
- Social Work, MS

The School of Social Work also offers:

- Certificate in Social Work Administration
- Certificate in Children’s Services
- Aging Studies Minor and Certificate
- Joint Certificates with the College of Education on Marriage and Family

**Terminal degree(s) for each discipline taught in the unit [3]**

*A terminal degree in the teaching discipline qualifies a person to teach throughout the broad scope of the teaching discipline at the undergraduate and graduate levels. [4]*

Currently, the terminal degree in the profession of Social Work is generally considered the Masters in Social Work (MSW).

Some faculty members may later decide to obtain a PhD in Social Work or Social Welfare, Doctor of Social Work or Social Welfare (DSW), or a PhD in a related discipline with an emphasis in Social Work or Social Welfare, whereas, these degrees are generally considered terminal research and/or practice degrees in certain areas of practice.

**Broadly related discipline(s) for each discipline taught in the department**

*Specialization qualifies a person to teach throughout the broad scope of teaching discipline (approximately five or more courses on distinct topics)*

In Social Work all direct practice related courses are taught by an instructor that has a minimum of an MSW degree in the discipline. Preference is generally given to individuals with a PhD or DSW in Social Work or Social Welfare although in select cases, individuals who teach in the discipline of social work may have a doctoral degree in related fields such as:

- Psychology
- Counseling
- Marriage and Family
- Public Administration
- Public Affairs
- Child Development and Family Studies
- Sociology

**Selectively related discipline(s) for each discipline taught in the department**

*Specialization does not qualify a person to teach distinct topics throughout the broad scope of the teaching discipline but does qualify to teach a more restrictive set of courses in the discipline (approximately four or fewer courses on distinct topics)*

N/A

**Justification for use of faculty with 'other' teaching qualifications and additional faculty teaching qualifications information [5] [6]**

All of the courses offered through the School of Social Work are taught by faculty members with the terminal degree of Masters in Social Work. This is required for social work practice courses. In addition to the minimum academic qualifications articulated above, faculty members teaching practice courses

are expected to have completed two or more years of post-M.S.W. work experience in the field.

[1] The unit chair/director, in consultation with unit faculty, has responsibility for identifying and articulating commonly accepted good practices in each teaching discipline taught in the unit and for providing appropriate justification as needed. In the case of an emerging discipline for which common collegiate practice has not yet been established, a compelling case must be provided as necessary to substantiate the claims made.

[2] Please provide a general description of the unit course and program offerings at the undergraduate and graduate levels (e.g., degree and certificate programs, minors, departmental contribution to interdisciplinary core courses). This section may also be used to provide other pertinent information about the unit and the discipline(s) it represents (e.g., discipline accreditation, faculty research emphases).

[3] List those degrees for each discipline taught in the unit that are regarded by the respective disciplinary community as terminal degrees in the discipline and thus, qualify a faculty member to teach throughout the broad scope of that discipline at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. In most fields, a terminal degree is the commonly accepted highest degree in the given field of study. In such instances, the terminal degree is usually considered to be the academic (or research) doctorate (e.g., Doctor of Philosophy). However, some academic fields have, through custom, recognized terminal degrees that are not doctorates (e.g., Master of Fine Arts, Master of Social Work). Note that terminal degrees from other disciplines may be appropriate for teaching in the discipline as well, but such credentials should be listed as broadly or selectively related degrees, as appropriate.

[4] A non-terminal master's degree in the teaching discipline qualifies a person to teach throughout the broad scope of the teaching discipline at the undergraduate level, not at the graduate level.

[5] Please use this section to provide justification that helps to make the case for special circumstances that apply to your unit including the use of faculty qualified to teach by 'other' qualifications and other special situations. Typically the statements provided in this section should be of a general nature, and not address specific individuals. (Justification for specific individuals is typically handled separately during the teaching certification process.) As appropriate, please cite to appropriate authorities to justify departmental practices (e.g., discipline accreditation guidelines, state regulations).

[6] When a faculty member cannot be qualified to teach on the basis of academic credentials (degree(s) and course work) alone, qualifications other than academic credentials (or combined with credentials) may be appropriate for teaching particular courses. Consideration of other teaching qualifications either in conjunction with or in lieu of academic credentials must be made on a case-by-case basis. Such cases should be exceptional and the evidence of other demonstrated competencies and achievements provided must be compelling. It should also show substantial and significant evidence of professional progress as related to the faculty member's teaching assignment.