

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**  
**Department of Social Work and Social Administration**

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

Master of Social Work

The Master of Social Work consists of 10 compulsory courses, 2 elective courses, a dissertation or 2 additional elective, 100 hours pre-placement workshop and 900 hours of field placement. All of the compulsory courses and elective courses are 6-credit courses while dissertation, pre-placement workshop is a 9-credit course and field placements are 15-credit courses. We use 150 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) as the norm for a 6-credit course, but the contact hours and output requirements for different groups of courses vary according to the learning modes employed. Each 6-credit course consists of 30-39 contact hours; each 9-credit course consists of 45-58 contact hours; each 12-credit course consists of 60-78 contact hours and each 15-credit course consists of 75-90 contact hours. The total study load is 3,250 hours in the curriculum.

The five categories of the courses may be summarized as follows:

*1. Compulsory courses (6 credits)*

The 6-credit core courses take the form of one 3-hour lecture or 2-hour lecture plus one 1-hour tutorial each week throughout a regular 12-week semester. Assessment is by various methods including projects, presentations, quizzes and written assignments, totaling about 5,000 words. (100% coursework).

*2. Elective courses (6 credits)*

Elective courses refer to elective courses offered by the Department of Social Work and Social Administration at advanced level. Different kinds of standard 6-credit elective courses offered normally take of one 3-hour lecture each week throughout a regular 12-week semester. Assessment is by various methods including projects, presentations, quizzes and written assignments, totaling about 5,000 words. (100% coursework).

*3. Pre-placement workshop (9 credits)*

The course is designed to fulfill the registration requirement of the Hong Kong Social Workers Registration Board (SWRB). Before undertaking the 900 fieldwork placement hours, students are required to attend 100 hours of placement preparation workshop. This course will be conducted throughout the whole academic year, composed of different briefing sessions and training workshops. After taking this course, students will be equipped to understand the NGO social services and the expectation from NGOs on placement students; to write up different proposals and recordings for placement activities; to make well use of supervision and to learn different skills to work with different clienteles and etc. (100% coursework).

#### *4. Field work placement (15 credits)*

Fieldwork practice is an integral part of social work education with the emphasis on learning through practicum (with 450 hours of learning). In this course, students are placed in real life work situations to deliver services commensurate with social work professional requirement under the guidance of Field Instructors. The Social Workers Registration Board requires the fulfillment of 900 placement hours for professional accreditation, thus each student are expected to take two field work placement courses in the entire study. Assessment is by various methods including direct service delivery with cases, groups and/or programmes in nature. Written outputs include orientation report, self- reflective logs, proposals/case treatment plan of around 1,000 words; session plans/groups/cases summary of around 9,000 words; final evaluation reports/case transfer summary of around 2,000 words; student's mid-term review of around 500 words; final student's learning review of around 1,000 words (totaling about 13,500 words). (100% coursework).

#### *5. Dissertation (12 credits)*

Dissertation writing is optional for final year students who demonstrated strong academic performance in the programme. Dissertation writing will last for two semesters, for a total of 12 credits. The title of the dissertation shall be presented for approval by March 31 of the final academic year of study and the dissertation shall be presented not later than August 1 of the final academic year of study. The length of their dissertation should not exceed 25,000 words. (100% course work).