

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION**

**CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT**

**Master of Social Sciences in the field of Social Work**

The Master of Social Sciences (Social Service Management) Programme consists of 6 compulsory courses and 4 elective courses or 2 elective courses with a dissertation (equivalent to 2 courses). All of the compulsory courses and elective courses are 6-credit courses while the dissertation are 12-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 at least 30-39 contact hours and each 12-credit course consists of 60-78 contact hours. The total study load is 1,500 hours in the curriculum.

*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 the 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 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, totally about 5,000 words. (100% coursework)

*3. 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% coursework).