

**ADVANCED STANDING POLICY**  
**School of Social Work, McMaster University**

**Preamble**

The purpose of the Undergraduate program (BA/BSW or post degree BSW) of the School of Social Work is to prepare graduates for entry-level, generalist professional practice in accordance with the standards of the University and the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work (CASWE). In order to sustain the integrity of a McMaster degree in social work, students must complete a substantial amount of work in the School of Social Work.

This policy aims to ensure that all program graduates accomplish the program objectives and that prior study and learning is carefully assessed and properly recognized; the duplication of studies does not serve students' development well and may hinder their full engagement in new learning experiences.

Accordingly, special consideration is given to students whose social work studies prior to admission to the McMaster School of Social Work have given them a degree of theoretical knowledge and ability in social work. Specifically, advanced credit may be given for social work to applicants who are transferring from other Schools of Social Work or who have completed community college social service programs.

The assessment of advanced standing is made in two stages: first by the University in keeping with University-wide advanced standing and transfer regulations and, second, by the School once the student has gained admission to the social work program. Initial assessment of credit is completed by the office of the Associate Dean of Social Sciences in consultation with the School of Social Work.

**School of Social Work Advanced Standing Regulations**

1. The maximum amount of advanced credit will be 21 units of social work. This means that to qualify for the BA/BSW degree or the BSW degree, the student must complete a minimum of 39 units of social work at McMaster University.
2. The 39 units of social work at McMaster University must include Social Work 4D06 and 4DD6 (fourth year field placement and accompanying integrative practice seminar).
3. Applicants who are transferring to McMaster University from accredited Schools of Social Work in Canada or in the United States may receive credit for social work courses taken in those programs up to the maximum amount. A student who is given advanced credit must also satisfy the residency requirements of the University for a McMaster degree.
4. Advanced credit will be given only for those courses in which the applicant has attained the grade of 67 percent or C+ or a pass in a pass/fail program.
5. Graduates from a two-year community college social services program will be considered for advanced credit according to established University-wide policies. Normally, the maximum advanced credit for a two-year community college graduate will be limited to 24 units of liberal arts credits, depending on the student's college GPA. Once accepted into the Social Work program and following successful completion of SW 2A06 (Theory, Process & Communication Skills) at a B+ level, students may apply for additional advanced credit in Social Work 3DD6, Field Practicum I.

6. A post degree B.S.W. student may be granted advanced credit up to 21 units. Credit will be limited to university-level courses taken in addition to those required for the first degree in compliance with University-wide policies preventing duplication of credit in subsequent degrees.

7. For SW 3D06 and SW 3DD6 (third year field placement and accompanying integrative practice seminar), there are two (2) possible levels of exemption (NOTE: Exemption does not necessarily imply academic credit; each case is examined on its own merits and assessed for eligibility for the accompanying credit):

(a) exemption from field placement (SW3DD6)-

- i. Minimum of B+ in 2A06 and one of (ii) or (iii);
- ii. Equivalent of three years paid work experience in the social work field. Letters requesting exemption must include the following items: a positive evaluation of the student's work performance in the form of a SW 3DD6 evaluation completed by someone with direct knowledge of his/her work and who has, normally, a minimum of a B.S.W. degree; a formal job description from the place of employment of the work completed by the student; the student's updated resume.
- iii. Community College Diploma in Social Services.

(b) exemption from field placement (SW3DD6) and integrative practice seminar (SW3D06) –

All of i, ii, and iii above.

8. Students who receive advanced credit in SW3DD6 (Field Practicum I) cannot use their place of employment for their fourth year field placement in SW4DD6.

#### **Application for Advanced Credit**

In order to apply for advanced credit after admission to the School of Social Work, students should apply in writing to the Director of the School and submit materials to that demonstrate the equivalency of the courses claimed.

November 1, 1999

Approved by the Undergraduate Studies Committee

Revised March 2013