

# **Clinical Content Requirements for Students in MSW Programs**

New standards for clinical licensure will go into effect August 1, 2011. Students who wish to pursue a clinical social work license (LICSW) in the state of Minnesota need to have completed 360 clock hours (one semester credit = 15 clock hours) in the following clinical knowledge areas:

1. 108 clock hours (30 percent) in differential diagnosis and biopsychosocial assessment including normative development and psychopathology across the life span;
2. 36 clock hours (ten percent) in assessment-based clinical treatment planning with measurable goals;
3. 108 clock hours (30 percent) in clinical intervention methods informed by research and current standards of practice;
4. 18 clock hours (five percent) in evaluation methodologies;
5. 72 clock hours (20 percent) in social work values and ethics, including cultural context, diversity, and social policy; and
6. 18 clock hours (five percent) in culturally specific clinical assessment and intervention.

This requirement may be satisfied (i) through a graduate degree program; or) up to 90 continuing education hours. For more information contact the Minnesota Board of Social Work at [www.socialwork.state.mn.us](http://www.socialwork.state.mn.us)

## **UMD MSW Students and the new LICSW Academic Requirements**

Each course in the MSW program has been reviewed for clinical content hours. Students in the Standard program should be able to complete the required clinical hours with careful course planning. Most advanced standing students will need to complete some of the hours through continuing education after they complete the MSW program (on-going continuing education is required for all licensed social workers before they apply for a LICSW).

Students who wish to pursue a LICSW in the future should carefully select their optional/elective coursework. Forms have been developed for both the Advanced Standing and Standard Programs that lists the clinical content hours available in each course. Students can use the form to track the number of hours they have completed in each clinical knowledge area and to help plan which courses they should take. They should keep a record of this form with the UMD Department of Social Work and for themselves. These forms are available at: <http://www.d.umn.edu/sw/FORMS/index.htm>