

Abilene Approval Chart for Curriculum Changes

A = Approve I = Information Item R = Respond In Writing

Course Number:

or Degree Plan(s): Master of Science in Social Work

Rationale: The Advanced Standing MSSW degree plan allows those with a BSW from an accredited CSWE institution to enroll in an integrated (4 + 1) program and complete their MSSW in 33 credit hours. The leveling course for this degree plan is SOCW 702 Advanced Standing Seminar. All admitted Advanced Standing students must complete this course before they can progress in other advanced level SOCW courses. In the residential option, Advanced Standing students take this course in the summer term in preparation for advanced level courses in the fall and spring. Online Advanced Standing students are also required to take this course in their first term.

We are requesting that students who do not earn a grade of "B" or higher may only be allowed to retake the course once (two attempts). If they do not earn a grade of "B" or higher on the second attempt, they must enroll in the Standard degree plan (60 hours) to remain in the program. This change also catches those professionals with a BSW who may have practice experience over 5 years and addresses our plan if they do not meet the generalist competencies as required by CSWE before moving into advanced-level competencies.

We are also changing some of the wording in the catalog to more accurately describe the differences between the Standard and Advanced Standing Degree Plans.

	Campus-Level Academic Review ¹	D e p t . / S c h o o l	C o l l e g e	D e a n	T E C	A U A C / G r a d	P r o v o s t
	Change to a Course Include signatures from all chairs/program directors for cross-listed courses. ¹						
1.	Title (description unchanged)	A	A	A	I	I	I
2.	Description (not affecting content)	A	A	A	I	I	I
3.	Course term(s)	A	I	A	I	I	I
4.	Content (change of course outcomes)	A	A	A	I	I	A
5.	Number of credit hours	A	A	A	A	A	A
6.	Course number within the hundred	A	A	I	I	I	I
7.	Course number beyond the hundred	A	A	A	A	A	A
8.	Prerequisites	A	A	A	I	I	I
9.	Course restriction (e.g., majors only, junior standing)	A	A	A	A	A	A
10.	Level change (U to G or G to U)	A	A	A	A	A	A

11.	Cross list course	A	A	A	A	A	A
12.	Department of record	A	A	A	A	A	A
13.	Open or close a course	A	A	A	A	A	A
	Change to a Degree Plan						
14.	Educational Program — Revise	A	A	A	A	A	A
15.	Educational Program — Adopt/revise admission requirements	A	A	A	A	A	A
16.	GPA — Revise program-required GPA	A	A	A	A	A	A
17.	Minor — Revise	A	A	A	A	A	A

	Full Review	De pt. /Sc hol	Col leg e	De an	TE C	AU AC /Gr ad	Pro vos t	Ca mp us Fac ult y	Se nio r VP AA	Pre sid ent
	Change to Catalog Information (for Campus)									
18.	General requirements for Bachelor's and Associate Degrees	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I
19.	Policies governing academic probation and suspension	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I
20.	Requirements for graduating with honors	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I
	Change to a Degree Plan									
21.	Educational Program — Add or Discontinue ²³	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	I
22.	Educational Program — Discontinue (Provost-proposed)	R	-	R	A	A	A	A	A	I
23.	Minor — Add or Discontinue	A	A	A	A	A	A	-	A	I
24.	Minor — Discontinue (Provost-proposed)	R	-	R	A	A	A	-	A	I
25.	Degree — Add or Discontinue	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	I
26.	Degree — Discontinue (Provost-proposed)	R	-	R	A	A	A	A	A	I

	Change to General Education Requirements for Undergraduates (System)	De pt. /Sch ool	Col leg e	Dea n	AU AC	Pro vos t	UG EC	Uni versity Fac ult y	Se ni or VP AA	Pre sid ent
27.	Change course outcomes of an included course	A	A	A	A	A	A	-	A	I
28.	Add or drop a required course from the General Education Requirements	A	-	A	-	A	A	A	A	I

29.	Add or drop a course from a menu within the General Education Requirements	A	-	A	-	A	A	-	A	I
30.	Comprehensive revision of General Education Requirements	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I

Notes

² Any change to a cross-listed course requires the signature of both department chairs or program directors overseeing the course to ensure that the courses stay in sync. This includes courses taught at other campuses (e.g. BIBL 101 and BIBO 101).

³ For undergraduate majors, a minimum of 30 hours is required. These programs must have a minimum of 6 elective hours, unless the requirements of external accrediting bodies make it impossible. Master's programs must include a minimum of 30 hours, and doctoral programs must include a minimum of 30 hours beyond the master's.

⁴ When a department/school or dean proposes closing a program, approval routing follows the typical process beginning with the department/school. An administrative proposal by the provost or senior vice president for academic affairs would follow the "provost-proposed" routing on the chart.

Updated 8/1/2023

Department/School(s)



04/10/26

Chair Signature

Date

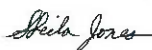


04/10/26

Chair/Program Director Signature

Date

College Academic Council(s)



05/01/2026

Chair Signature

Date

Chair Signature

Date

Dean(s)

J. Dirk Nelson
J. Dirk Nelson (May 2, 2026 08:27:27 CDT)

05/02/2026

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Teacher Education Council

Signature

Date

**Campus Academic Council:
Abilene Undergraduate or Abilene Graduate**

Signature

Date

Provost

Signature

Date

University General Education Council

Signature

Date

University Faculty

Abilene Faculty Senate Chair signature

Date

Dallas Faculty Council Chair signature

Date

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Signature

Date

President

Signature

Date

Graduate Programs

The School of Social Work offers a Master of Science in Social Work (MSSW) degree and a Graduate Certificate in Social Services Administration, which may be completed while in the MSSW program of study.

The ACU MSSW program offers an innovative curriculum aimed at preparing leading edge social work practitioners. It is designed to produce versatile social work leaders who are aware of their clients' and their own spirituality and faith perspectives. ~~They~~ Graduates of the program also learn to employ technology in ethical and appropriate ways and are capable of selecting and applying current research to identify and use evidence-based informed interventions. This produces practitioners who ~~employ-develop the-most~~ forward-thinking programs and policies to empower and instill hope in their clients and to promote positive social change.

There are two degree plans leading toward the MSSW: Standard and Advanced Standing. Both the Standard and Advanced Standing degree plans may be completed through full-time or part-time enrollment. The full-time Standard Program degree plan ~~requires~~ is typically completed within two years (60 hours). ~~In~~ The first year, students focus on learning an eclectic base of frameworks and skills that fit the unique needs of clients across multiple settings and populations. ~~introduces important ideas and concepts that are at the heart of what it means to be a social worker and to engage in advanced evidence-based practice.~~ The second year of the program degree plan (also known as the advanced year or Advanced Standing degree plan) concentrates on a multi-dimensional approach integrating theory, research, policy, and practice that prepares students to be ethically driven leaders who embody cultural and spiritual humility. ~~on evidence-based social interventions with systems of various sizes.~~ The part time Standard degree plan program may be completed in four years ~~of half-time enrollment status.~~ The part time Advanced Standing degree plan program may be completed in two years ~~of part-time enrollment status.~~

The Advanced Standing degree plan (33 hours) is for students who have completed a BSW from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. ~~Full-time~~ Advanced Standing students must ~~enroll in the 3-hour seminar~~ successfully complete SOCW 702 Advanced Standing Seminar (3 hours) before ~~and moving~~ directly into the remaining 30-hours in the degree plan ~~second-year-of-study.~~ Those who do not earn a grade of "B" or higher in SOCW 702 will only be allowed to retake the course once. If they do not successfully complete the course on the second attempt, they will be transitioned to the Standard degree plan if they want to remain in the program. Accelerated Advanced Standing students or Part-time Advanced Standing residential students must complete the seminar prior to enrolling in SOCW 751 and SOCW 781.

Both degree plans combine academic courses with supervised practicum in social service agencies.

In cooperation with the Graduate School of Theology, the School of Social Work has developed plans whereby students can pursue the MSSW degree concurrently with the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (MACM) degree.

The MSSW program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

Signature: Karen Witemeyer

Karen Witemeyer (May 4, 2026 08:29:02 CDT)

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