

# MA/MSW DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM

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### **PURPOSE**

In 1989 the Dual Degree in Social Work (MSW) and Pastoral Ministry (MA) Program was developed by the Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry (IREPM), now part of the School of Theology and Ministry (STM), and the Graduate School of Social Work (GSSW) for students who are interested in serving both the pastoral and social needs of individuals, families, groups and communities. The program reflects the University's mission to educate individuals who are committed to the pursuit of social justice. A specific goal is to develop the skills and credentials necessary to plan, administer and/or provide social services within a local church or church-related agency. Students admitted to the program may expect to receive both the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry (MA) and the Master of Social Work (MSW) degrees in approximately 3 years of full-time study (less if taking STM summer courses; more if approved for part-time study by the GSSW).

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. To educate practitioners in social work and pastoral ministry who can effectively integrate their theological understanding with the theories and practice of social work.
2. To provide the core curriculum of each discipline while enabling students to concentrate in the specific area of knowledge and practice that corresponds to their professional goals.
3. To provide applied learning experiences with professional supervision through two field internships. In the second year the student is under LICSW supervision. The opportunity for pastoral supervision is also provided.
4. To prepare practitioners who have a commitment to work with the church in bringing about a human condition that is free from violence, oppression and discrimination, and one that protects and promotes the development of all peoples.

### **INTERVENTION METHODS**

In the Graduate School of Social Work students must choose an intervention method: Clinical Social Practice or Macro Practice. Clinical students focus on practice directly with individuals, families, and groups in dealing with personal, interpersonal, and social problems. Macro students develop specific knowledge and skills to achieve change in organizational and community settings.

### **FIELD-OF-PRACTICE CONCENTRATION**

Prior to entering the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, students will choose a Concentration from one of the following areas: Children, Youth, & Families, Health & Mental Health, Older Adults & Families, or Individualized. Dual degree students are not normally eligible to take the Global Practice concentration because of the required full-time Spring field placement. However, with sufficient planning and approval, students may be able to adjust their STM and GSSW class schedules to be eligible for applying for

the Global Concentration.

## **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

1. Students must be accepted independently to the STM and to the GSSW.
2. Students may begin their studies in either the STM or GSSW or by taking courses in both programs simultaneously (see notes on Options A, B, and C worksheets). GSSW requirements are sequenced but STM requirements need not be.
3. The program is designed for completion in three years with extension to four years for those starting on a part-time basis. Requests for extensions must be approved by the GSSW Academic Standards Review Committee and the Dean of the GSSW.
4. The integrity of both the MA and the MSW degrees is to be maintained as follows:
  - a. GSSW requires 65 credits for the MSW degree, 9 of which are taken in STM courses.
  - b. STM requires 35 credits for the Summer Program (Option A) MA degree, 8 credits of which are taken in GSSW courses.
  - c. STM requires 44 credits for the Integrated Program (Option B) and School-Specific Program (Option C), 10 credits of which are taken in GSSW courses.
  - d. Dual degree students in the STM Summer Program (Option A) complete the requirements for both degrees with a total of 83 credits rather than 100 credits if taken independently; and students in the Integrated Program (Option B) and the School-Specific Program (Option C) complete the degrees with 90 credits rather than 109 credits if taken independently.
5. Students are to develop an appropriate course of study working with the designated faculty advisors at the respective schools.
6. All MA/MSW students enroll in TM730 Holistic Formation for the Practice of Ministry (1 credit) in the fall and continue through the spring semester of their first full academic year, regardless of whether they are enrolled in STM or GSSW.
7. Students pursuing the STM Summer Program (Option A) normally receive both degrees on August 30<sup>th</sup>; and students pursuing the Integrated Program (Option B) and the School-Specific Program (Option C) are expected to receive both degrees at May commencement.
8. The two required field internships are through the GSSW. The first internship is during the student's MSW first full-time year; the second is during the final academic year.

## **STUDENT ADVISEMENT**

The GSSW and the STM assign each student Faculty Advisors in their respective schools when a student begins his or her program of studies for the dual degree. Students are encouraged to meet with advisors in each school to plan their individual programs.

The School of Theology and Ministry and the Graduate School of Social Work each have a Liaison for the MA/MSW Dual degree Program. They can help answer your questions regarding the program in general and will serve as your primary contact in each of the schools throughout the course of your studies. The Liaisons for the Dual Degree Program are:

- **STM:** John Shea, Adjunct Professor, 617-552-1315 or john.shea.3@bc.edu *and* Jennifer Bader, Associate Dean, 617-552-4478 or baderje@bc.edu, both at 9 Lake St.
- **GSSW:** Regina O’Grady-LeShane, Associate Dean, McGuinn 134, 617-552-4762 or ogrady@bc.edu.

For information concerning adding or dropping a course, course scheduling and availability, etc., please contact:

- **STM:** Donna DeRosa, Assistant Director, Financial Aid and Academic Services, 617-552-8441 or derosado@bc.edu
- **GSSW:** Regina O’Grady-LeShane, Associate Dean, Academic & Student Services, 617-552-4762 or ogrady@bc.edu.

### **FIELD EDUCATION**

The dual degree requires two field placements during the two years of social work study. Both are under the auspices of the Graduate School of Social Work. The first-year social work placement is designed to be a broadening experience, and can be done in a religious setting or a placement setting that honors the spiritual dimension of the person. The second year of field education affords the student the option of being placed within an agency that is consistent with the student’s pastoral goals. These include hospital-based placements, mental health centers, hospice programs, various programs with Catholic Charities, women’s shelters, etc. There are opportunities for working with children, families, the aging, teens, etc., in clinical, community organizing, and administration settings.

In planning for your second placement, students should meet with the Field Faculty at the GSSW before finalizing the placement application.

**Field Placements:** Bob Johnson, Field Education Specialist, 617-552-0776 or johnsofa@bc.edu.

### **TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID**

Tuition is paid to the school in which the dual degree student is currently enrolled. If a full-time student is taking some courses in each of the two schools, they should pay tuition to the school they are enrolled in more than part-time. For Option A, students pay tuition to the STM in Summers I, II, and III, and to the GSSW in Academic Years I and II; and for Options B & C, tuition is paid to the STM in Academic Year I and in the Summer Session prior to Academic Year III and to the GSSW in Academic Years II and III. Financial aid packages are provided by each school independently. Students must apply for financial aid in each school. For example, students who begin their studies in Social Work in the fall should complete applications for financial aid to the STM in the following spring to be applied the following academic year when they will be studying Pastoral Ministry.

### **MAILBOXES**

The Graduate School of Social Work and the School of Theology and Ministry will each provide individual mailboxes in the Student Lounge (McGuinn 128 and 9 Lake St. Rm 209 respectively) for those dual degree students who are currently studying in the respective school. On a space available basis, they will provide boxes for the dual degree students who have already completed a year in that school and are currently studying in the other school. Students should check these boxes for mail from the GSSW and the STM.

## **MA/MSW STUDENT FORUM**

The dual degree students lead a Student Forum which has proven to be an effective link between the two schools. The forum has contributed to the academic, social, and professional life of the students and to the development of the dual degree program. Student Forum programs may include a panel of social worker/ministers sharing their experiences of integrating their professional identities, a discussion of career opportunities open to dual degree graduates, potluck dinners, and a retreat for dual degree students.

Look for posting of the first meeting of the Student Forum during the academic year. This meeting will provide an opportunity for both continuing and new students to get to know one another and make suggestions for Student Forum events.

## **COURSE WORK**

The following pages are worksheets for Option A (STM Summer Program), Option B (Integrated Program), and Option C (School-Specific Program) of the MSW/MA Dual degree Program.

GSSW lists specific course requirements while the STM course requirements listed on the worksheets identify areas of study—not necessarily specific courses. This means that there may be several options available to fulfill the area requirement. For example, for the Psychology and Religion requirement a student may take Psychological Foundations of Pastoral Counseling, Psychology and Religion, or Fostering Faith Across the Lifecycle.

The STM does not require that courses be sequenced in the order that they are listed on the worksheets. Students should meet with their Course Selection Advisor to discuss course options prior to registration.