



BOSTON COLLEGE

Graduate School of Social Work
Master of Social Work (MSW)
Credit-Hour Values
June 1, 2011

The MSW Program requires 65 credits. The MSW credit-hour workload requirements consist of in-class instruction, out-of-class major assignments, out-of-class required and recommended reading, and the application of course content within a supervised field practicum. The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) defines field education as the signature pedagogy of the curriculum, which is responsible for connecting theory and practice. Therefore, the field practicum is an integral part of the credit-hour values of all MSW courses.

The MSW Program exceeds the in-class and out-of-class workload expectations as defined by the U.S Department of Education. The U.S Department of Education defines 1-credit as approximately 45 hours of work per semester, consisting of a mix of in-class instruction and out-of-class student work. In the MSW Program, 1-credit consists of 53.2 hours of instruction and student work over a 13-week semester. Over the course of one semester, 1-credit consists of the following workload requirements:

- 8.7 hours of in-class instruction
- 8.7 hours of student work on major assignments
- 17.3 hours of required and recommended student reading
- 18.5 hours of supervised field work

Most courses in the MSW Program are 3-credit courses. These 3-credit courses (conducted over a 13 week semester) total 159.5 hours per course (compared to 135 hours recommended by the U.S. Dept of Education). Over the course of one semester, 3-credits consist of the following workload requirements:

- 26 hours of in-class instruction
- 26 hours of student work on major assignments
- 52 hours of required and recommended student reading
- 55.5 hours of supervised field work

Monitoring compliance with the School's definition of credit-hour values is primarily the responsibility of the Academic Planning Committee (APC). This Committee is composed of the Director of the MSW Program, four Concentration Chairs, Director of Field Education, Director of Admissions, and two student representatives. All new courses are evaluated for compliance with the credit-hour values by the Concentration Faculty, the APC, the full Faculty, and the Executive Board. Once a course is approved, the APC conducts a biennial review of all courses that includes adherence to the credit-hour values, as well as currency of content and readings, and the inclusion of CSWE mandated competencies.