SOCIAL WORK/PUBLIC HEALTH (MSW/MPH)

The MSW/MPH dual degree program provides a multidisciplinary education covering both client-centered and population-based health perspectives to train those who will work to address the health and social needs of vulnerable populations. The dual degree program is designed to prepare social work and public health leaders who understand and respond to social and health issues in order to promote the well-being of communities at local and global levels. The program will have an emphasis on eliminating social and health inequities through transformative education, rigorous research, and active community engagement.

Related Programs

Master's

- Public Health (MPH) (https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/health-sciences/master-public-health-mph/)

Certificate

- Public Health Certificate (https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/health-sciences/public-health-certificate/)

Combined

- Medicine/Public Health (MD/MPH) (https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/dual-degree-programs/medicine-public-health-md-mph/)

Curriculum

MSW/Master of Public Health

The MSW/MPH program blends coursework from the School of Social Work and the Master of Public Health (MPH) program.

Students in the dual degree will select the Micro Practice Specialization with Advanced Clinical Practice Track (https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/social-work/msw-specializations-tracks/advanced-clinical-practice-track/). Within the MPH program, students complete the Public Health Policy and Management (https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/health-sciences/master-public-health-mph/) track.

The focus of the **MSW Program** is to prepare students to become practicing social workers in a variety of settings. The curriculum of the MSW program is designed to prepare students to have the knowledge and skills necessary for them to effectively intervene with and on behalf of the client systems that they serve.

The **MPH Program** provides students with the theoretical, methodological, and practical experience relevant to addressing contemporary public health issues. The MPH curriculum consists of required course work in all five areas of concentration in public health (Health Services Administration, Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Environmental Health, and Social/Behavioral Health), track-specific and elective courses, and a practicum training experience, and a capstone project.

The dual degree has been carefully crafted to fulfill both program requirements while maximizing opportunities for curriculum integration through shared content. The resulting curriculum requires 75 credit hours which can be completed within three years on a full-time basis.

Code	Title	Hours
MPH Requirements		
MPH Core Courses		
MPBH 400	Determinants of Population Health	3
MPBH 402	Public Health Practice and Management	3
MPBH 403	Introduction to Epidemiology	3
MPBH 404	Biostatistics for Health and Biological Science	3
MPBH 407	Public Health Policy: Concepts and Practice	3
MPBH 499	Public Health in Action	3
Public Health Policy and Management Track Courses		
MPBH 416	Health Services Research Methods	3
MPBH 425	Policy Analysis	3
Management-oriented Courses		
CMAN 533	Fiscal Management in Health Care Organizations	3
MPBH 422	Population Health Planning & Management	3
Bioethics (BEHL) 400-Level Elective		*3*
Choose one of the following:		
BEHL 402	Justice & Health Care	
BEHL 404	Biomedical Ethics and Law	
BEHL 407	Social Determinants of Health and Bioethics	
BEHL 411	Systems Ethics Frameworks	
BEHL 412	Organizational Ethics I: Business, Professionalism, and Justice	
BEHL 418	Advancing Health Equity Practice	
BEHL 432	Global Bioethics	
MPH 400-Level Elective		6
MPBH 411	MPH Capstone	1-3
MSW Requirements		
Generalist MSW Courses		
SOWK 500	Life Span Development, Human Behavior, Trauma, & Theory	3
SOWK 501	Assessment of Client Concerns in Context	3
SOWK 502	Power, Oppression, Privilege, and Social Justice	3
SOWK 503	Practice Skills with Individuals and Families	3
SOWK 505	Group Work Practice in Social Work: Micro/Mezzo/Macro	3
SOWK 508	Integrated Micro, Mezzo, and Macro Practice [1]	3
or SOWK 504	Integrated Micro/Mezzo/Macro Theory and Practice	
SWII 530	Internship I & Simulated Experience	0.5
SWII 530S	Integrative Seminar	1
SWII 531	Internship II & Simulated Experience	0.5
Specialized Courses		
SOWK 680	Advanced Micro-Level Practice	3
SOWK 682	Advanced Mezzo and Micro Practice [1]	3
or SOWK 681	Advanced Mezzo & Macro Practice	
SWII 632	Internship Instruction III & Simulated Experiences	0.5
SWII 632S	Integrative Seminar	1
SWII 633	Internship Instruction IV & Simulated Experiences	0.5
Micro Practice Specialization with Advanced Clinical Practice Track Courses		
SOWK 603	Seminar in Brief Treatment	3
or SOWK 645	Crisis Intervention	

SOWK 614	Clinical Social Work Practice in Health Care	3
Total Hours		**75**

[1] Students who matriculated before Fall 2025 should take SOWK 504 and SOWK 681. Student who matriculated in Fall 2025 or after should take SOWK 508 and SOWK 682.

Specialization & Track

The Social Work/Public Health (MSW/MPH) is only compatible with the Micro Practice Specialization with Advanced Clinical Practice Track (https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/social-work/msw-specializations-tracks/advanced-clinical-practice-track/).

Suggested Sequence of Courses

MPH and MSW Dual Degree Template - Micro Practice Specialization Management Focus, Micro Specialization-Advanced Clinical Practice Track This option assumes field starts in year 2.

The below sequence of courses is meant to be used as a suggested path for completing coursework. An individual student's completion of requirements depends on course offerings in a given term as well as the start term for a major or graduate study. Students should consult their advisor for assistance with course selection.

Course	Title	Hours
Year 1		
Fall		
SOWK 501	Assessment of Client Concerns in Context [1]	3
SOWK 503	Practice Skills with Individuals and Families [1]	3
MPBH 400	Determinants of Population Health [2]	3
MPBH 402	Public Health Practice and Management [2]	3
SOWK 502	Power, Oppression, Privilege, and Social Justice [1]	3
	Hours	**15**
Spring		
SOWK 500	Life Span Development, Human Behavior, Trauma, & Theory [1]	3
SOWK 504	Integrated Micro/Mezzo/Macro Theory and Practice [1]	3
MPBH 404	Biostatistics for Health and Biological Science [2]	3
	Hours	**9**
Summer		
SOWK 505	Group Work Practice in Social Work: Micro/Mezzo/Macro [1]	3
MPBH 407	Public Health Policy: Concepts and Practice (MSW elective) [2,3,4]	3
	Hours	**6**
Year 2		
Fall		
MPBH 403	Introduction to Epidemiology [2]	3
MPH Elective	Elective [2]	3
MPBH 416	Health Services Research Methods [2,4,5]	3
SWII 530	Internship I & Simulated Experience	0.5
SWII 530S	Integrative Seminar	1
	Hours	**10.5**
Spring		
CMAN 533	Fiscal Management in Health Care Organizations [2]	3
MPBH 499	Public Health in Action [2,4,7]	3
MPBH 425	Policy Analysis [2]	3
Select one of the following:		3
SOWK 603	Seminar in Brief Treatment [1]	
SOWK 645	Crisis Intervention [1]	
SWII 531	Internship II & Simulated Experience	0.5
	Hours	**12.5**
Summer		
SOWK 680	Advanced Micro-Level Practice [1]	3
BEHP 4xx	Bioethics Elective [2]	3
	Hours	**6**
Year 3		
Fall		
SOWK 614	Clinical Social Work Practice in Health Care [1]	3
MPBH 422	Population Health Planning & Management [2,4,8]	3
MPBH 411	MPH Capstone [2]	1
SWII 632	Internship Instruction III & Simulated Experiences	0.5
SWII 632S	Integrative Seminar	1
	Hours	**8.5**
Spring		
SOWK 681	Advanced Mezzo & Macro Practice [1]	3
MPH Elective	Elective [2]	3
MPBH 411	MPH Capstone [2]	1
SWII 633	Internship Instruction IV & Simulated Experiences	0.5
	Hours	**7.5**
	Total Hours	**75**

[1] MSW

[2] MPH

[3] Counts for SOWK 602 Health and Behavioral Health Policy and Systems

[4] Shared credit

[5] MPBH 416 Health Services Research Methods substitutes for SOWK 506 Research and Evaluation in Social Work Practice

[6] MPBH 410 MPH Practicum (1 hr credit sharing it will map to both SWII 530 Internship I & Simulated Experience and SWII 531 Internship II & Simulated Experience)

[7] MPBH 499 Public Health in Action substitutes for SOWK 509 Social Work Policy and Community Intervention

[8] MPBH 422 Population Health Planning & Management is equivalent to SOWK 606 Practicum in Research & Evaluation-counts as a Social Work elective

Dual Degree Programs

Students in dual degree programs are responsible for abiding by academic policies and graduation requirements of both academic units

to which they are enrolled. It is strongly recommended that students schedule regular meetings with academic advisors from both units to ensure timely degree completion. Dual degree programs may have slightly different degree requirements from the standard for one or both of the degrees earned. Students should closely read through all degree requirements and ask for clarification as needed.

Graduate & Professional Standards and Regulations

Students in graduate and professional programs can find their Academic Policies in Graduate and Professional Academic Standards and Regulations (https://catalog.luc.edu/academic-standards-regulations/graduate-professional/) under their school. Any additional University Policies supersede school policies.

MPH Learning Outcomes

Students will graduate with public health competencies in the areas of evidence-based approaches, public health and health care systems, planning and management, policy, leadership, communication, interprofessional practice, and systems thinking. For a description of the **MPH Learning Outcomes**, go to the **MPH Program** description page.

MSW Program Specialized Micro Learning Outcomes

Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior

Social workers understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards, as well as relevant policies, laws, and regulations that may affect practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand that ethics are informed by principles of human rights and apply them toward realizing social, racial, economic, and environmental justice in their practice. Social workers understand frameworks of ethical decision making and apply principles of critical thinking to those frameworks in practice, research, and policy arenas. Social workers recognize and manage personal values and the distinction between personal and professional values. Social workers understand how their evolving worldview, personal experiences, and affective reactions influence their professional judgment and behavior. Social workers take measures to care for themselves professionally and personally, understanding that self-care is paramount for competent and ethical social work practice. Social workers use rights-based, antiracist, and anti-oppressive lenses to understand and critique the profession's history, mission, roles, and responsibilities and recognize historical and current contexts of oppression in shaping institutions and social work. Social workers understand the role of other professionals when engaged in interprofessional practice. Social workers recognize the importance of lifelong learning and are committed to continually updating their skills to ensure relevant and effective practice. Social workers understand digital technology and the ethical use of technology in social work practice.

Social workers:

- Demonstrate professional use of self as a social worker, reflecting knowledge of personal professional strengths, limitations, challenges, and cooperatively resolving interpersonal conflicts.
- Demonstrate ethical use of advanced modalities in practice and any related technological applications in the micro field of social work.

- Recognize and manage ethical violations and resolve conflicting ethical obligations.

Competency 2: Advance Human Rights and Social, Racial, Economic, and Environmental Justice

Social workers understand that every person regardless of position in society has fundamental human rights. Social workers are knowledgeable about the global intersecting and ongoing injustices throughout history that result in oppression and racism, including social work's role and response. Social workers critically evaluate the distribution of power and privilege in society in order to promote social, racial, economic, and environmental justice by reducing inequities and ensuring dignity and respect for all. Social workers advocate for and engage in strategies to eliminate oppressive structural barriers to ensure that social resources, rights, and responsibilities are distributed equitably and that civil, political, economic, social, and cultural human rights are protected.

Social workers:

- Articulate human rights violations the client and client's system are experiencing, including environmental and economic issues that endanger the health of the client system.
- Demonstrate understanding of the impact of intersectionality of marginalized identities, systemic racism, and associated oppressions and plan practice accordingly.
- Demonstrate ways in which social workers can advocate for human rights at the individual, family, group, organizational, and community system levels as it relates to the micro field of social work practice

Competency 3: Engage in Anti-racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI) in Practice

Social workers understand how racism and oppression shape human experiences and how these two constructs influence practice at the individual, family, group, organizational, and community levels and in policy and research. Social workers understand the pervasive impact of White supremacy and privilege and use their knowledge, awareness, and skills to engage in anti-racist practice. Social workers understand how diversity and intersectionality shape human experiences and identity development and affect equity and inclusion. The dimensions of diversity are understood as the intersectionality of factors including but not limited to age, caste, class, color, culture, disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, generational status, immigration status, legal status, marital status, political ideology, race, nationality, religion and spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status. Social workers understand that this intersectionality means that a person's life experiences may include oppression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation as well as privilege and power. Social workers understand the societal and historical roots of social and racial injustices and the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination. Social workers understand cultural humility and recognize the extent to which a culture's structures and values, including social, economic, political, racial, technological, and cultural exclusions, may create privilege and power resulting in systemic oppression.

Social workers:

- Understand and demonstrate an understanding of anti-racism practice at the individual, group, organizational, community, research, and policy levels that will allow for diversity, equity, and inclusion practice in the micro-level field of social work.
- Demonstrate an understanding of discrimination patterns in society and how micro-level oppression impacts micro-level social work

practice regarding race, class, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, age, and any other social categories in which oppression occurs.

- Demonstrate the ability to formulate how an anti-racist practice will advance the client and client system's human rights.

Competency 4: Engage In Practice-Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice

Social workers use ethical, culturally informed, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive approaches in conducting research and building knowledge. Social workers use research to inform their practice decision making and articulate how their practice experience informs research and evaluation decisions. Social workers critically evaluate and critique current, empirically sound research to inform decisions pertaining to practice, policy, and programs. Social workers understand the inherent bias in research and evaluate design, analysis, and interpretation using an anti-racist and anti-oppressive perspective. Social workers know how to access, critique, and synthesize the current literature to develop appropriate research questions and hypotheses. Social workers demonstrate knowledge and skills regarding qualitative and quantitative research methods and analysis, and they interpret data derived from these methods. Social workers demonstrate knowledge about methods to assess reliability and validity in social work research. Social workers can articulate and share research findings in ways that are usable to a variety of clients and constituencies. Social workers understand the value of evidence derived from interprofessional and diverse research methods, approaches, and sources.

Social workers:

- Demonstrate understanding of and be able to contribute to the evaluation of social research regarding advanced micro practice.
- Critically evaluate and select potential practice models relevant to the client's systems.
- Use their experience from their internship or practicum placement to identify real-life challenges and address the practical needs of clients
- Engage in partnerships with experienced social workers to help bridge the gap between theory and practice and broaden knowledge of social work practice as it relates to the micro field of social work.

Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice

Social workers identify social policy at the local, state, federal, and global level that affects wellbeing, human rights and justice, service delivery, and access to social services. Social workers recognize the historical, social, racial, cultural, economic, organizational, environmental, and global influences that affect social policy. Social workers understand and critique the history and current structures of social policies and services and the role of policy in service delivery through rightsbased, anti-oppressive, and anti-racist lenses. Social workers influence policy formulation, analysis, implementation, and evaluation within their practice settings with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers actively engage in and advocate for anti-racist and anti-oppressive policy practice to effect change in those settings.

Social workers:

- Communicate to stakeholders and policymakers the implications of policies and policy change in the lives of clients.
- Conduct and design a plan for organizational analysis and change, working with relevant constituencies to evaluate interventions that

impact clients and communities utilizing best practice models reflecting social work values, ethics, and the organization's mission.

- Collect, maintain, interpret, and analyze data from both internal and external organizational environments, the community of stakeholders, and diverse client groups to identify and prioritize social problems.
- Recognize how oppression and social injustice affect client groups, organizations, and communities and intervene proactively for human rights and justice.
- Understand strategies and techniques for advocating at local, state, and federal levels in policy development.

Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Social workers understand that engagement is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with and on behalf of individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

Social workers value the importance of human relationships. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and person-in-environment and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge to facilitate engagement with clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers are self-reflective and understand how bias, power, and privilege as well as their personal values and personal experiences may affect their ability to engage effectively with diverse clients and constituencies. Social workers use the principles of interprofessional collaboration to facilitate engagement with clients, constituencies, and other professionals as appropriate.

Social workers:

- Apply culturally appropriate resources available to assist with problem-solving.

- Recognize and describe self-reflective competency in identifying bias, countertransference, and potential microaggressions when engaging diverse client systems.

- Implement and describe the use of reflective listening tools when needed to engage and empower members of families and groups.

Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Social workers understand that assessment is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and person-in-environment, as well as interprofessional conceptual frameworks, and they critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in culturally responsive assessment with clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Assessment involves a collaborative process of defining presenting challenges and identifying strengths with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities to develop a mutually agreed-upon plan. Social workers recognize the implications of the larger practice context in the assessment process and use interprofessional collaboration in this process. Social workers are self-reflective and understand how bias, power, privilege, and their personal values and experiences may affect their assessment and decision making.

Social workers:

- Collect and organize data to support their professional decision-making as well as demonstrate critical thinking to interpret information from clients and constituencies.
- Illustrate knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the analysis of assessment data from clients and constituencies, understanding the lack of political neutrality in their work.
- Exemplify a process in which mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives are generated based on the critical assessment of strengths, needs, and challenges within clients and constituencies in their social environment; and
- Convey a deeper understanding of how to select appropriate intervention strategies informed by assessment, research knowledge, and values and preferences of clients and constituencies through the exercise of antiracist practice principles.

Competency 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Social workers understand that intervention is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice. Social workers understand theories of human behavior, person-in-environment, and other interprofessional conceptual frameworks, and they critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in selecting culturally responsive interventions with clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand methods of identifying, analyzing, and implementing evidence-informed interventions and participate in interprofessional collaboration to achieve client and constituency goals. Social workers facilitate effective transitions and endings.

Social workers:

- Practices self-reflective understanding of the professional use of self in interventions with diverse types of client systems in order to understand and challenge oppressive social forces as well as to avoid perpetuating racist biases, microaggressions, and disempowerment of clients.
- Use supervision and consultation appropriate to developing skills for advanced and interdisciplinary practice.
- Demonstrate an ability to intervene collaboratively and collectively with clients in choosing treatment plans and their implementation.

Competency 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Social workers understand that evaluation is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with and on behalf of diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers evaluate processes and outcomes to increase practice, policy, and service delivery effectiveness. Social workers apply anti-racist and anti-oppressive perspectives in evaluating outcomes. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and person-in-environment, as well as interprofessional conceptual frameworks, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in evaluating outcomes. Social workers use qualitative and quantitative methods for evaluating outcomes and practice effectiveness.

Social workers:

- Demonstrate understanding of the logic and method of single case evaluation of practice from diverse theoretical and methodological perspectives.
- Competently demonstrate case evaluation, including identifying problems and their resolution, the fulfillment of goals co-identified with client, and managing systemic problems that impinge on client well-being.
- Demonstrate competence in incorporating client feedback processes in planning and carrying out the intervention plan.