COURSE OUTLINE

SWK700 Master of Social Work Field Education 1

School: School of Law and Society

2026 | Trimester 2

UniSC Sunshine Coast
UniSC Moreton Bay

BLENDED LEARNING

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Please go to unisc.edu.au for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1. Description

Master of Social Work Field Education 1 provides the first opportunity to apply classroom-based learning to a social work practice context. It allows social work values, theories, knowledge and skills be integrated into practice in a supervised environment. Social work practice is emphasised in an agency, demanding you actively engage in what it means to work in an organisational context. It enables experience in social work methods, knowledge and theories applied, and skills developed. Critical reflection on your practice and the impact of organisational contexts will be emphasised.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On campus Pre-Placement Workshop - 7 Hours in the week before O Week	7hrs	Pre-trimester/session	Once Only
Placement – Field Placement - 500 Hours	500hrs	Orientation week	Once Only
Tutorial/Workshop 2 – University-based field placement integration workshop - 3 Hours in Trimester Break Week	3hrs	Break week	Once Only

1.3. Course Topics

This course is a social work field placement and course topics are linked to the AASW Practice Standards and Code of Ethics.

1.4. Mature Content

Adult themes

2. What level is this course?

700 Level (Specialised)

Demonstrating a specialised body of knowledge and set of skills for professional practice or further learning. Advanced application of knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

36 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	GRADUATE QUALITIES MAPPING Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...	PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAPPING * Australian Association of Social Workers
1 Articulate and apply social work theory, skills and values in a practice situation and in accordance with the AASW Practice Standards.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Ethical Engaged Sustainability-focussed	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
2 Apply and demonstrate the theories, values and ethical principles of social work in accordance with the AASW Code of Ethics.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical Engaged Sustainability-focussed Communication Problem solving	1
3 Identify and promote the rights of the people that social workers work with.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical Engaged Sustainability-focussed Collaboration Problem solving	3
4 Apply an intersectional lens in their approach and practice respectfully and inclusively with regards to culture, gender, disability and diversity more broadly.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical Engaged Sustainability-focussed Problem solving Information literacy	4
5 Recognise and draw upon the cultural knowledge, experience and wisdom provided by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to guide approaches to practice.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical Engaged Communication Collaboration	2
6 Demonstrate respectful, professional communication skills, with clients, colleagues and community members.	Knowledgeable Ethical Engaged Sustainability-focussed Communication Collaboration	1, 6
7 Begin to analyse organisational systems and processes and societal systems, to identify inequalities.	Knowledgeable Engaged	3

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	GRADUATE QUALITIES MAPPING Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...	PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAPPING * Australian Association of Social Workers
8 Promote fair and equitable access to resources for the people and communities that social workers engage with.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical Engaged Sustainability-focussed Collaboration Problem solving	3
9 Apply theory, research and social policy to social work practice.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Ethical Engaged Sustainability-focussed Problem solving	5
10 Be an active learner, embracing feedback, new and emerging knowledge, research and evidence informing practice.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical Engaged Sustainability-focussed Communication Problem solving Information literacy	9
11 Act in a professional manner, working effectively with others in a team environment and in accordance with the relevant Codes of Conduct.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical Engaged Communication Collaboration Problem solving	7
12 Actively participate in professional social work supervision and learning opportunities to enhance professional and ethical practice.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical Engaged Sustainability-focussed Communication Collaboration	8
13 Critically reflect on your own practice and values.	Creative and critical thinker Engaged	1, 5, 8
14 Demonstrate professional written skills and use appropriate technologies for completing professional documentation.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Ethical Engaged Communication Organisation Applying technologies Information literacy	6, 9

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES MAPPING	PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAPPING *
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...	Australian Association of Social Workers
15 Record evidence of learning experiences as a basis for ongoing reflective practice.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Engaged Communication Organisation	5, 8, 9
16 Sustain learning and engagement for required days and hours per week, for the duration of the field placement.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker Ethical Engaged Sustainability-focussed	1, 9

* Competencies by Professional Body

CODE	COMPETENCY
AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS	
1	Practice Standard 1: AASW Code of Ethics
2	Practice Standard 2: Working alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
3	Practice Standard 3: Human rights and social justice
4	Practice Standard 4: Culture, identity and intersectionality
5	Practice Standard 5: Critical thinking in practice
6	Practice Standard 6: Exercising professional judgement
7	Practice Standard 7: Professional identity
8	Practice Standard 8: Professional supervision
9	Practice Standard 9: Professional growth

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the UniSC Glossary of terms for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1. Pre-requisites

36 units from Program AR707 (excluding SWK701) and including SWK704

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

You will have a beginning understanding of social work practice within contemporary Australian society. You will have a beginning understanding of your social work practice framework and how it incorporates personal values and practices and how these align with social work values and ethics.

5.5. Microcredential Information

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Limited Grading (PNP)

Pass (PU), Fail (UF). All assessment tasks are required to be passed for successful completion of the course.

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

Feedback on progress will be delivered at key points in the placement experience. Early feedback on the design of the student learning plan (assessment task 3) will be provided in the liaison meeting in the first 3- 4 weeks of placement. Student performance in this course will be further reviewed by the placement supervisor, liaison officer and student via the mid-placement evaluation document and discussed during the second liaison meeting (at approx. 250 hours of placement).

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Code of Conduct	Individual	1 online quiz. 1 code of conduct form. Professional conduct assessed over placement duration.	Refer to Format	Online Submission
All	2	Activity Participation	Individual	10 hours, comprising of: (1) 7 hour pre-placement workshop (2) 3 hour mid-placement integration workshop	Refer to Format	In Class
All	3	Placement performance	Individual	Completed over duration of placement using the social work learning plan and assessment report template.	Refer to Format	Online Submission
All	4	Written Piece	Individual	Completed using the Process record and reflection template.	Week 12	Online Submission
All	5	Report	Individual	A minimum of 500 hours undertaken in an approved social work field placement setting.	Refer to Format	Online Submission

All - Assessment Task 1: Code of Conduct

GOAL:	To undertake professional practice while on placement in accordance with the professional body's/bodies' Code of Ethics, together with agency's code of conduct and the student code of conduct at the University of the Sunshine Coast.
PRODUCT:	Code of Conduct
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	Pre-placement code of conduct quiz completed on CANVAS prior to commencing placement. Code of Conduct statement in SONIA to be read, signed, and uploaded to SONIA Checks, prior to commencing placement. Student professional conduct assessed throughout the placement.
CRITERIA:	

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Behaviour that is in accordance with the professional association's code of ethics.	2 11
2	Behaviour that is in accordance with the placement agency code of conduct.	6 11
3	Behaviour that is in accordance with the USC Student Code of Conduct.	6 10 11

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation

All - Assessment Task 2: Engagement in University-Based Structured Learning

GOAL:	To adequately prepare students for field placement and to integrate theory and knowledge with practice in accordance with accreditation.
PRODUCT:	Activity Participation
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	Pre-Placement Workshop: Compulsory attendance at, and participation in the pre-placement workshop on campus. This workshop is scheduled prior to Orientation Week each trimester. Mid-placement integration workshop: Compulsory attendance at, and active participation in an on-campus workshop. Scheduled during mid-trimester break week.
CRITERIA:	

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Demonstrate emerging critical reflection skills for professional, quality and ethical social work practice.	1 7 10 13
2	Demonstrate ability to transfer, adapt and apply knowledge and skills in diverse professional contexts.	3 4 5 9
3	Demonstrate an understanding of the organisational context of practice by identifying how structure, policies, and systems influence service delivery and the role of social work.	1 2 4 7 8 13
4	Demonstrate the ability to connect theoretical concepts with practical experience in professional contexts through active participation in workshops.	1 2 7 9
5	Demonstrated active participation and engagement with workshop activities.	6 11 12 16

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation

All - Assessment Task 3: Placement Learning Plan & Assessment report

GOAL:	To assess student's performance on placement in accordance with practice guidelines.
PRODUCT:	Placement performance
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	Draft Learning Plan: The Learning Plan formalises the placement process and the goals and aims to be achieved. This document is uploaded in CANVAS, and discussed in a meeting with student, supervisor(s) and liaison officer. The first draft is due at the end of week 3 of the student's placement. Templates and resources to assist students with drafting the Learning Plan are available on CANVAS. Mid-placement Learning Plan and Assessment Report: The student and their supervisor(s) jointly review the placement thus far, and determine progress, strengths, and areas for development. Areas of concern can be identified and plans to address them can be implemented during the remainder of the placement. This document is uploaded in CANVAS. It is due once the student has completed 250 hours of placement. Final Learning Plan and Assessment Report: The student and their supervisor(s) evaluate the student's overall performance on placement. This document is uploaded in CANVAS and then assessed by the liaison officer. The final learning plan and evaluation is due within 5 days of the student completing placement.
CRITERIA:	

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Demonstrate beginning competency in ethical decision-making, accountability and professional conduct, applying AASW ethical principles in practice and articulating the professional values that underpin professional decision making.	1 2 13
2	Demonstrate emerging professional identity and professionalism by actively engaging in supervision, responding constructively to feedback, participating in reflective practice, and showing commitment to lifelong learning and professional development.	1 2 6 12
3	Demonstrate beginning competency in culturally safe and inclusive practice by critically reflecting on one's own positionality. Apply knowledge and sensitivity, while engaging respectfully with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.	1 2 4 5 13
4	Demonstrate beginning competency in applying social work theories, frameworks, and methods to address the needs of individuals, groups, and communities, while critically examining dominant discourses and power structures that shape practice contexts.	1 3 7 8 9 13
5	Demonstrate effective communication and interpersonal skills across diverse practice settings, building rapport, maintaining professional boundaries, and engaging in collaborative relationships with services users, colleagues and other professionals.	1 2 6 11
6	Demonstrate competency in professional documentation and information sharing that aligns with AASW ethics and practice standards and organisational standards. Effectively use prescribed documentation templates and tools, meeting submission milestones	2 14

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation, Applying technologies, Information literacy

All - Assessment Task 4: Process Record and Reflection

GOAL:	To recall, write and critically reflect on a practice scenario.
PRODUCT:	Written Piece
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	Submitted to CANVAS no later than week 12 of trimester.

CRITERIA:

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Demonstrate an understanding of the organisational context of practice by applying and reflecting on relevant social work theories and frameworks within the scope of your work in the agency.	1 2 7 13
2	Demonstrate critical reflection through articulating your understanding of practice situations and explaining your decision-making processes, and how theory and feedback have informed professional growth.	1 10 13
3	Completion of a process record and reflection using designated template.	14 15
4	Use of correct grammar, punctuation, spelling and clear quality of expression.	14

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation

All - Assessment Task 5: Placement-Based Record of Attendance

GOAL:	To evidence completion of 500 hours of professional field practice in accordance with the practice standards of the accrediting body.
PRODUCT:	Report
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	Students keep a record of their attendance at field placement, using the Hours Verification template available on CANVAS. This is regularly checked by the nominated placement supervisor throughout the placement. Hours completed are verified in the Learning Plan and Assessment Report document by the nominated placement supervisor. Students must submit the Hours Verification template to CANVAS within 5 days of completing placement.

CRITERIA:

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Completion of the required 500 hours.	11 16
2	Professionalism, accountability and ethical conduct.	6 10 11

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation, Information literacy

6.4. Assessment to competency mapping

PROGRAMME DELIVERY MODE	ASSESSMENT TYPE	TITLE	COMPETENCY	TEACHING METHODS
AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION AND ACCREDITATION STANDARDS (ASWEAS)				
All delivery modes	Activity Participation	Engagement in University-Based Structured Learning	1	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			6	Taught, Practiced, Assessed

PROGRAMME DELIVERY MODE	ASSESSMENT TYPE	TITLE	COMPETENCY	TEACHING METHODS
			7	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			8	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			9	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
	Code of Conduct	Code of Conduct	1	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			9	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
	Placement performance	Placement Learning Plan & Assessment report	1	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			2	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			3	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			4	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			5	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			6	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			7	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			8	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			9	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
	Report	Placement-Based Record of Attendance	8	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			9	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
	Written Piece	Process Record and Reflection	5	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			8	Taught, Practiced, Assessed
			9	Taught, Practiced, Assessed

7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Canvas site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

You need regular access to the resource(s) below. Many texts are available as ebooks through the Library at no additional cost.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	EDITION	PUBLISHER
Required	Helen Cleak and Jill Wilson	2022	Making the Most of Field Placement	5th	Cengage AU

8.2. Specific requirements

To enrol in this course, students must complete the mandatory pre-placement compliance requirements as outlined in the pre-placement information and processes provided by the Fit For Placement Office and Social Work and Human Services Field Education Unit. This includes holding a valid Blue Card for the duration of placement. Please note that some placements require additional compliance requirements such as criminal history checks (AFP Type 37 clearance), NDIS worker screening check and vaccinations, etc. It is important to discuss this with the field education unit at the pre-placement interviews for students.

There are mandatory onsite requirements that must be met for this course. This includes attendance on site in the host placement agency and attendance on campus for the pre-placement workshop and the integration workshop.

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Risk assessments have been performed for all field activities and low to moderate levels of health and safety risk exists. Moderate risks may include working in an Australian bush setting, working with people, working outside normal office hours for example. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the online induction training for students, and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

This course will be graded as Pass in a Limited Grade Course (PU) or Fail in a Limited Grade Course (UF) as per clause 5.1.1.3 and 5.1.1.4 of the Grades and Grade Point Average (GPA) - Academic Policy.

In a course eligible to use Limited Grades, all assessment items in that course are marked on a Pass/Fail basis and all assessment tasks are required to be passed for a student to successfully complete the course. Supplementary assessment is not available in courses using Limited Grades.

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

You must contact your Course Coordinator and provide the required documentation if you require an extension or alternate assessment.

Refer to the Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs – Procedures.

10.4. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching

10.5. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The Student Charter sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

10.6. General Enquiries

For course-specific questions, contact your teaching staff or Course Coordinator.

For other enquiries or to access support, please contact Student Central:

- UniSC Student Central
- UniSC Adelaide Student Central