

**Hong Kong Shue Yan University
Minor Programme**

Department of Social Work

Minor Programme Offered: Minor in Social Work #

(Available for Year 1 Entry: 2023 cohort onwards; Year 2 Entry: 2024 cohort onwards; Year 3 Entry: 2025 cohort onwards)

Completion of the minor programme will not lead to the same professional recognition as students who complete the programme as major.

Students are required to complete a minimum of 15 credits consisting of a compulsory core i.e., SW100: Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare, and four electives. Quotas for students minoring in Social Work are limited and usually will not be more than three for each course. The list of courses for Minor in Social Work is as below:

Course Code	Course Title	Credits	Pre-requisite(s)
Compulsory Core			
SW100	Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare	3	Nil
Electives (Any 4 from Below)			
SW130	Fundamentals in Social Policy and Advocacy	3	Nil
SW290	Introduction to Mental Health Practice	3	Nil
SW310	Working with Young People	3	Nil
SW323*	Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in Social Work Practice	3	Nil
SW324*	Theory and Practice of Social Work on Sustainability	3	Nil
SW325*	Satir Model in Social Work Practice	3	Nil
SW340	Working with Older Adults	3	Nil
SW360	Working with New Arrivals and Ethnic Minorities	3	Nil
SW390	Social Work Practice for Children with Special Educational Needs and Their Families	3	Nil
SW420	Social Work in Primary Health Care	3	Nil
SW430	Working with Persons with Disabilities	3	Nil
SW460	Addressing Gender and Sexuality in Social Work Practice	3	Nil
SW480	Social Service Management	3	Nil

Note: The course codes and the course list of the Minor Programme are subject to change.

* Newly added courses from 2024/25AY

DESCRIPTION OF COURSES (MINOR IN SOCIAL WORK)

SW100 Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare

1 Term; 3 Credits

This course serves to help first year students to gain basic knowledge and general understanding about the philosophy and concepts of social work and social welfare. Knowledge on the basic elements and issues of “what” and “why” of the social work discipline will be covered. The course is an important foundation in social work study in order to pave way for further pursuit in the social work profession.

SW130 Fundamentals in Social Policy and Advocacy

1 Term; 3 Credits

This course introduces the ideologies, concepts, theories, and principles related to social policy and advocacy, and how social policy contributes to the solution, control and amelioration of social issues and problems globally, regionally, and locally. The course will facilitate students to identify and review how the structural and macro factors affect the efficiency and effectiveness of policymaking and implementation in Hong Kong and/or the Greater Bay Area. Students will also critically discuss how social justice can be advocated in different stages of policy process.

SW290 Introduction to Mental Health Practice**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course aims to develop students' basic concepts related to mental health and mental disorders. The history of mental health practice evolving from a medical to recovery paradigm and the common types of mental disorders including schizophrenia, depressive disorders, bipolar and related disorders and anxiety disorders will be covered in this course. Practice concepts and application of different models will also be introduced.

SW310 Working with Young People**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course aims to prepare students to work in services for young people. It facilitates students to develop a reflective understanding of social issues of young people in changing landscape of socio-cultural context. The course equips students to apply multi-level approaches and models to assess and work with young people in Hong Kong. The course equips students with critical perspective to evaluate current youth services and social policy in and outside Hong Kong, and ethical issues of working with young people.

SW323 Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in Social Work Practice**1 Term; 3 Credits**

The purpose of this course is to give students a basic understanding of the theory and techniques of cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) in social work with diverse clients. Upon completing this course, students should be able to assess clients and create interventions in different social work settings using the concepts and skills of CBT. The course will cover not only the Western-focused CBT but also address cross-cultural issues related to the application of CBT strategies and tactics.

SW324 Theory and Practice of Social Work on Sustainability**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course aims to introduce students to the foundational theories of sustainability within the social work discipline, exploring their intersection and mutual influence. It examines both potential and current social work practices that promote sustainability through case studies and real-world examples, encouraging critical analysis of the role of social work in addressing ESG (environmental, social, and governance) opportunities and challenges. The course emphasizes the importance of interdisciplinary approaches, integrating knowledge from environmental, policy, and management studies, while aligning social work competencies with sustainable practices. Ethical considerations, such as biodiversity, environmental and intergenerational justice, human-nature relationships, and inclusivity, are highlighted. Additionally, the course explores the role of social workers in shaping and advocating for sustainability policies at various levels. Students will engage in community-based projects, fostering hands-on learning and real-world impact, thereby enhancing their professional development and practical skills.

SW325 Satir Model in Social Work Practice**1 Term; 3 Credits**

The course aims to develop students' mastery of Satir Model basics, related concepts and theories, and their practical use in social work, starting with an examination of essential theoretical principles. Subsequently, they will progress to applying these concepts in diverse social service settings. The course will help students construct analytical frameworks, implement vehicles of change, and evaluate the impact of enhanced self-awareness on the efficacy of their interventions. By the conclusion of the course, students will possess the requisite skills and knowledge to proficiently employ the Satir Model for effective social work interventions.

SW340 Working with Older Adults**1 Term; 3 Credits**

This course aims at equipping students with knowledge about different aspects of the ageing process, including the physical, psychological, and sociological perspectives. Emphasis will be placed on discussing various theoretical approaches, skills and values in working with older adults as well as caregivers. The current service provisions, models, and welfare policies concerning care for older adults in Hong Kong will be examined.

SW360 Working with New Arrivals and Ethnic Minorities

1 Term; 3 Credits

The course enables students to understand and analyze the factors influencing ethnic minorities and new arrivals from settlement and integration in the host country, including the topics related to acculturation, multiculturalism, social inclusion/social exclusion, social cohesion, and poverty. The course also facilitates students to critically evaluate the current policies and practices in supporting ethnic minorities and new arrivals. Upon completion of the course, students can develop a better understanding, sensitivity, and respect for cultural diversity, and be more competent in intercultural communication, cultural competence, anti-discriminatory and anti-oppressive practice when working with ethnic minorities and new arrivals to Hong Kong.

SW390 Social Work Practice for Children with Special Educational Needs and Their Families

1 Term; 3 Credits

This course provides a general knowledge of children with special educational needs (SEN). It aims at enhancing the understanding of the emotions and behaviours of children with SEN, and equipping students with practical skills in working with the target clientele and their families in various social work settings. Characteristics of children with SEN, service models, policies and service trend will be covered in the course.

SW420 Social Work in Primary Health Care

1 Term; 3 Credits

This course will enable students to understand the tasks and roles of social workers practicing in primary health care settings. Topics include theoretical models and concepts related to physical and mental health, illness, disability, death and dying, loss, grief, bereavement; and therapeutic techniques in working with people with physical health and/or mental health needs. The ethical considerations of a social worker working in healthcare settings, the role of the social worker as a member of a multi-disciplinary team with medical, health, allied health, and other professionals will also be covered. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to recognise the core knowledge, models, concepts, theories, and skills relevant to social work in primary health care, critically review and reflect on the ethical issues in healthcare and collaborate professionally with other disciplines to advocate for health equalities and health inclusion for people with disabilities in the society.

SW430 Working with Persons with Disabilities

1 Term; 3 Credits

The course provides a general concepts and knowledge of disability. It aims at enhancing students' understanding on the needs of people with disabilities (PWDs) and their competency in working with PWDs. The development of rehabilitation framework, needs of PWDs, rehabilitation policies and updated service approaches will be covered in the course.

SW460 Addressing Gender and Sexuality in Social Work Practice

1 Term; 3 Credits

This course is designed to explore the physiological, psychological and socio-cultural variables associated with sexual identity, sexual orientation and sexual behavior of a variety of client groups. The course will introduce human sexuality in the practice of social workers. Through acquisition of knowledge in sexual expression and behaviors as well as skills in supporting clients, students will be better prepared to help service users address issues of gender and sexuality.

SW480 Social Service Management

1 Term; 3 Credits

This course aims at providing students with basic knowledge in management in social service organizations. Theories and models of administration in the social service and non-profit, human service sector will be examined. Administrative skills, leadership roles, social enterprises, human resource development, strategic planning, financial and risk management will also be covered in the course. Issues related to quality assurance and performance assessments will also be examined.