

Fall 2025

MSW Elective Course Descriptions

HWC 579 Special Topics in Social Work; Social Work Practice and Aging

This course focuses on social work practice with older adults and families within a life course perspective. We are in the midst of an aging revolution. Nearly 10,000 people turn 65 years old each day, most of whom will live long enough to experience multiple chronic conditions that will result in dependency and require some level of care. This course emphasizes micro and macro level practice skills essential to effective work with older adults. Major areas of focus include: assessment and diagnostic tools; evidence-based interventions; coping with age-related changes; caregiving demands; legal and financial planning; elder abuse; and grief and loss. A thoughtful exploration of the diverse dimensions of aging will include: ability, age, class, color, culture, ethnicity, family structure, gender identity, material status, race, religion or spirituality and sexual orientation.

HWC 579 Special Topics in Social Work; Essentials of Social Work Leadership and Management

This course helps students build critical knowledge and practices to cultivate the unique skills that will help them develop into successful social work managers and leaders. This course was developed in collaboration with community based social service leaders through funding from NY Community Trust. The course's content will draw from a four-quadrant model of social work leadership that is informed by societal context, social work ethics, justice, equity, inclusion, and anti-racism perspectives. Skills specific to leadership, strategic planning, communication, program planning, budgeting, grant writing, diversity, and human resources development, along with other topics will be presented with the understanding that social work leaders work within a climate of scarce resources. The course will culminate in a final project in which students design an intervention or strategy for a social service agency based on the skills presented in the course. Students will present their final project to a panel of social work social service leaders in the community for feedback and possible inclusion in their programs.