Department of Addiction Studies, Psychology and Social Work

The Department of Addictions Studies, Psychology, and Social Work (ASPSW) offers three undergraduate programs and one graduate program leading to the following degrees:

- Bachelor of Science degree in Addiction Studies
- Bachelor of Social Work degree
- Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology
- Education Specialist degree in School Psychology

Dedicated to quality learning, ASPSW comprises 13 full-time faculty members and approximately 18 adjunct faculty members delivering our programs across North Dakota:

- Bismarck (Addiction Studies, Psychology, Social Work)
- Fargo (Social Work)
- Dickinson (Social Work)

In cooperation with MSU’s Center for Extended Learning, several ASPSW courses are available around the world with online delivery. We also are expanding the reach of our Social Work program to Norway.

Our faculty and students are heavily engaged in service to the community and are active in research. Service and research foster an understanding for our students regarding how our departmental disciplines are applied in the community and add to our scientific knowledge. Student-led activities are facilitated by the Student Social Work Organization (SSWO) and the Psychology and Addiction Studies Club (PASC).

Our programs are fully accredited by the National Addiction Studies Accreditation Commission (NASAC), the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP).

MHA Courses

MHA 297. Addiction Studies Practicum. 2 Hours.
Participation in individual, group, and family counseling in an agency or hospital involved in addiction counseling. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

MHA 338. Professional Relations & Ethics. 3 Hours.
Study of Federal Confidentiality Laws and ND Commitment Law and process in order to protect the rights of the client. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

MHA 344. Dynamics of Addiction. 3 Hours.
Emphasizes the history of drug abuse, theories, and controversies regarding chemical dependency, and multidisciplinary approaches to treatment. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

MHA 349. Psychopharmacology. 3 Hours.
An introduction to behavioral pharmacology, including the basics of pharmacology, psychology, and neuroscience needed to understand drugs of abuse. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

MHA 423. Introduction to Counseling. 3 Hours.
Study of the theories of counseling and application of these principles for dealing with behavioral problems in agencies, schools, or hospitals. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

MHA 424. Advanced Counseling. 3 Hours.
Further study of counseling theory with students being required to develop a workable methodology of their own. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

MHA 476. Group Dynamics. 3 Hours.
Actual group experience in a lecture/lab format. Readings and written assignments focus on organizing groups and skills required of group facilitators. A problem solving/personal growth group meets each week. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

MHA 485. Addiction Studies Practicum. 15 Hours.
Participation in the North Dakota consortia to provide experience in the addiction field. This is a 4.5 month, full time experience, where the student actively participates as an addiction counselor in training. Course restricted to psychology or addiction studies majors.
MHA 486. Addiction Studies Practicum. 15 Hours.
Participation in one of the North Dakota consortia to provide experience in the addiction field. This is the second part of the nine month practicum experience required for licensure as an addiction counselor. The course involves a 4.5 month, full time experience, where the student actively participates as an addition counselor in training. Course restricted to psychology or addiction studies majors.

PSY Courses

PSY 111. Introduction to Psychology. 3 Hours.
A survey of the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Topics studied include development of normal and abnormal behavior, learning, biopsychology, development, memory, personality, cognition, therapy, and social psychology. This course is a prerequisite to most other psychology courses.

PSY 112. Foundations of Psychology. 3 Hours.
Designed for psychology and addiction studies majors, this course will emphasize the tools necessary to advance in these fields. Prerequisites: Students must complete PSY 111 before enrolling in this class, and declare a major in Psychology or Addiction Studies.

PSY 241. Introduction to Statistics. 4 Hours.
This course examines basic concepts in measurement, scaling, descriptive statistics, binomial and normal distribution, applied probability, and z-scores. In addition, this course introduces inferential statistics and hypothesis testing, including t-test, analysis of variance, correlation and linear regression, and the chi-square test statistic. Basic software applications will also be examined. Prerequisites: ASC 093 with a C or better, or qualifying math placement test score, or ACT math sub-test score of 21 or higher. Required co-requisite PSY 241L if ACT math sub-test score is 18-20 or qualifying pre-algebra math placement test is 60-78.

PSY 241L. Introduction to Statistics Lab. 1 Hour.
Introduction to Statistics level lab provides students in PSY 241 with an extended experience in a lab setting working on statistical skills. Lab meets 2 hours per week. This class is S/U. Required co-requisite to PSY 241 if ACT math sub-test score is 18-20. Withdrawing from this class will also withdraw you from PSY 241.

PSY 242. Research Methods in Psychology. 4 Hours.
A study of the scientific methods as it is used in the investigation of problems in psychology. A variety of types of research methodologies, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of their use. Ethical implications of the use of various methodologies will also be discussed. Prerequisites: PSY 241, Math 210, or departmental approval.

PSY 252. Child Psychology. 3 Hours.
Overview of theories of human development form conception through childhood including physical, cognitive, language, social, and self-help skills in family, school, and community settings. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

PSY 255. Child & Adolescent Psychology. 3 Hours.
Overview of theories of human development from conception through adolescence including the physical, cognitive, language, social, and educational aspects of the individual development. Special emphasis will be given to the individuals learning capabilities. This course cannot be applies towards the Psychology or Addiction Studies majors, minors, or concentrations. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

PSY 261. Psychology of Adjustment. 3 Hours.
This course will present psychological research about improving adjustment and overall quality of life. Factors affecting adjustment include gender, personality, self-esteem, ability to communicate effectively, health, experience of stress, changes with aging, and coping processes. Factors also include things like social influence and pressure, relationships with others, career preparation, work, and stages of life. The desired outcome is for students to use this knowledge to actively take charge of their own lives, effectively adjusting to an ever-changing world. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

PSY 270. Abnormal Psychology. 3 Hours.
A survey of the classification, symptoms, and etiology of psychological disorders. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

PSY 299. Special Topics In Psychology. 1-8 Hour.

PSY 313. Industrial Organizational Psychology. 3 Hours.
This course will examine human behavior in industrial and organizational settings. Psychological principles are applied to selection, placement, adn training. The effectiveness of individuals and groups within organizations, including leadership and control, conflict and cooperation, motivation, and organizational structure and design, is examined. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

PSY 352. Adolescent Psychology. 3 Hours.
Study of physical, cognitive, emotional, social, and behavioral parameters of adolescence from preteen to young adulthood. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

PSY 365. Evolutionary Psychology. 3 Hours.
Examines the important aspects of human behavior as it is explained as a result of natural selection. The course will focus on a number of topics including sex differences, mate selection, selfishness and altruism, homicide and violence. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

PSY 375. History & Systems of Psychology. 3 Hours.
Examines the historical development of the science of psychology. Special emphasis is placed upon cultural context and its influences on the developing systems of psychology. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

PSY 376. Social Psychology. 3 Hours.
An interdisciplinary approach to the study of behavior of individuals in relation to social stimulus situation. Prerequisite: PSY 111.
PSY 379. Psychology of Adult & Aging. 3 Hours.
Overview of theories of human development from young adulthood through old age focusing on demands of personal adjustment, family, work, retirement, and community life. Prerequisites: PSY 111; recommended: PSY 252 or 352.

PSY 394. Independent Study General Psych. 1-4 Hour.
Election of a topic and a course of study. Must be approved by a psychology staff member and the psychology chair. Student must be a psychology major and have 12 semester credits.

PSY 410. Cognitive Psychology. 3 Hours.
Examines the research dealing with the processing of sensory information, attention, short term and long term memory, decision making and problem solving, as well as related topics. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

PSY 411. Introduction to Personality Theories. 3 Hours.
Examines the basic concepts of personality development as viewed by the psychoanalytic, learning, humanistic and trait-type theorists. Special emphasis is placed on the comparison of various perspectives. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

PSY 413. Theories & Practice of Psychotherapy. 3 Hours.
Aimed at the development of a balanced view of the major concepts of various therapies and an awareness of practical applications and implementation of techniques used by the various therapists. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

PSY 435. Theories of Learning. 3 Hours.
Examines the basic concepts of learning theory as viewed by the more prominent theorists in the area. Emphasis is placed on the comparison of the various perspectives within historical contexts. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

PSY 460. Sensation and Perception. 3 Hours.
Focus on the principles of our sensory systems and the laws which govern the sensory processes. The course includes research and theories on the visual system, auditory system, chemical senses, and the skin senses. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

PSY 465. Introduction to Behavioral Neuroscience. 3 Hours.
An introduction to the neuroanatomical and neurophysiological bases of behavior, including learning, reinforcement, eating and drinking, sleep, sexual behavior, and mental disorders. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

PSY 473. Behavior Modification. 3 Hours.
Description of behavioral principles and procedures for assessment and treatment that can be used helping professionals to enhance behavioral development. Class projects are required. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

PSY 491. Senior Seminar in Psychology. 3 Hours.
Overview of psychology as a discipline and a synthesis of biological and psychological factors in human behavior. Prerequisites: PSY 111, 241, senior status and psychology major.

PSY 494. Directed Behavioral Research. 1-4 Hour.
This course provides students with the practical applications of research designs. Although a resulting publication is not required for the course, it is desired outcome. Students will need to work with a faculty Sponsor on a specific research project.

PSY 495. Service Learning. 3 Hours.
This course provides students with the ability to work in meaningful community service coupled with instruction about the service and reflection on their service. Prerequisite: Students must be psychology majors in their junior or senior year before enrolling in this course.

PSY 496. Senior Research Thesis. 3 Hours.
Students will formulate an original research topic and write a paper in that topic. Restricted to psychology majors and senior status.

PSY 497. Psychology Practicum. 3 Hours.
Placement in an applied setting for practical experience. Prerequisite: Students must be a psychology major in their junior or senior year before enrolling in this class.

PSY 499. Special Topics in Psychology. 1-8 Hour.

SWK Courses

SWK 250. Interpersonal Skills. 3 Hours.
This course is designed to develop verbal and nonverbal interpersonal skills related to common, everyday interactions as well as those interactions germane to the Generalist Practice Planned Change Process. The course requires 25 hours of concurrent interpersonal skill building human service experience.

SWK 256. Development of Social Welfare. 3 Hours.
The course reviews and evaluates the history, philosophical assumptions, values and development of social welfare programs and services throughout the United States. The course examines the socio-political-economic conditions which not only form, but influence social welfare systems. In addition, the course discusses intersections between privilege and oppression. The course reviews multiple marginalized, oppressed, and underserved populations with which social work intersects and ways that social work can positively impact social, economic, environmental justice, and human rights.
SWK 285. Child Welfare in Rural Comm. 3 Hours.
This course will examine the basic core of child welfare services: Services to protect children from neglect and abuse, family preservation services, foster care, adoption, and child advocacy. Additionally, it will examine the legal framework that governs the affairs of children.

SWK 299. Special Topics In Social Work. 1-4 Hour.

SWK 330. Human Behavior and the Social Environment. 3 Hours.
This course reviews the biopsychosocial-cultural aspects of human development across the life span within the context of Generalist Practice. Students will apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks to provide social work across the life span. Prerequisite: Student must complete SWK 250, SOC 110, and PSY 111 before enrolling in this class.

SWK 331. Family Dynamics. 3 Hours.
This course applies a variety of theoretical perspectives, including systems theory and person-in-environment in order to use skills to engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate social work practice with families.

SWK 335. Social Work Methods I. 3 Hours.
This course applies knowledge, values, and skills for entry level Generalist Practice Social Work with individuals and families using evidence-based skills and interventions. Students will develop skills to engage, assess, plan, intervene, and evaluate social work practice with individuals and families. Prerequisites: Admission to the Social Work Program.

SWK 340. Social Welfare Policy. 3 Hours.
A generalist practice framework is used for the analysis of social welfare policies and current policy structures, and policy practice, advocacy, and evaluation used in agency, community, and legislative settings.

SWK 350. Rural Social Work Practice. 3 Hours.
Study and evaluation of rural, regional social services and delivery systems, characteristics of rural populations and community analysis, function and roles of social worker in a nonmetropolitan environment. Prerequisite: SWK 250, 255 and 256.

SWK 379. Aging Practices and Policies. 3 Hours.
Study of social welfare policies which sanction and direct services and welfare for the elderly.

SWK 394. Independent Study General Sw. 1-4 Hour.

SWK 401. Contemporary Issues with Native American Families. 3 Hours.
This course will survey contemporary issues that Native American families face in today's society and how these influence effect the context of family life and the helping process.

SWK 402. N.A. Children & Adolescents. 3 Hours.
This course will survey contemporary issues that Native American children and adolescents experience in today's society and how these issues affect their family life and issues relatd to delivery of services.

SWK 426. Social Work Methods II. 3 Hours.
This course applies knowledge, values, and skills for generalist social work practice with groups using evidence-based skills and interventions. Students will develop and utilize skills to engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate social work practice with groups. Prerequisites: SWK 340 and admission to the Social Work Program.

SWK 427. Social Work Methods III. 3 Hours.
This course applies knowledge, values, and skills for generalist social work practice with organizations and communities using evidence-based skills and interventions. Students will develop and utilize skills to engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate social work practice with organizations and communities. Pre-requisites: SWK 330, 331, and Admission to the Social Work Program.

SWK 428. Crisis Intervention. 3 Hours.
This course introduces students to the theory and practice of crisis intervention with an emphasis on the use of short-term intervention and problem-solving techniques. This course emphasizes crisis theory and crisis intervention models applied to various crisis problems and populations at-risk. Prerequisite: Junior or Senior status.

SWK 429. Interprofessional Health Care Practice. 3 Hours.
Today's fast-paced, high acuity health care system demands health care professionals who can collaborate effectively using an interprofessional team approach in order to provide patient-centered care. Students will explore discipline specific roles and scope of practice as well as issues common to all health care professions such as communication, team dynamics, ethics, patient safety, and quality improvement. Pre-requisites: SWK 250, 256, 330, 331, 335, and 340.

SWK 430. Diversity, Oppression, and Social Change. 3 Hours.
This course focuses on enhancing knowledge and insight into the impact of oppressed individuals to include, but not limited to age, color disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender national origin, race, and sexual orientation. To promote self-awareness, a key component in cross-cultural social work practice, students will be challenged to thoughtfully and critically analyze their own identity development by examining personal beliefs and life-experiences with privilege and oppression. The person-in-environment assessment strategy will be applied as practical intervention strategy for future practice with diverse individuals.
SWK 442. Research Methods in Social Work. 3 Hours.
This course introduces students to the concepts and principles of social work research methodology. This course includes conceptualizing a social work problem, designing research strategy, making use of relevant literature, and organizing and evaluating relevant data. Prerequisite(s): MATH 210 or PSY 241.

SWK 489. Field Experience. 3-9 Hour.
Field experience is a course that provides structured and educationally directed learning experiences in public and private human service agencies, but is geared for those students who may want an additional field experience prior to Field Education. Pre-requisite: Admission to the Social Work program and consent of instructor.

SWK 490. Field Education. 12 Hours.
This course is a structurally and educationally directed learning experience in public and private human service agencies that utilizes social work knowledge, values, and skills. Pre-requisite: Admission to the Social Work program. Co-requisite: SWK 491.

SWK 491. Senior Seminar. 3 Hours.
The Senior Seminar course taken concurrently with Field Education promotes the integration of knowledge, values, and skills and field learning with a focus on professional and ethical issues. Co-requisites: SWK 490 and senior status.

SWK 494. Independent Study Honors Sw. 1-8 Hour.

SWK 499. Special Topics. 1-8 Hour.