Student Handbook
2021 Intake

Master of Social Sciences
in the fields of
Gerontology
Social Service Management
Social Work
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I. Introduction

This student handbook aims to provide important information to facilitate the learning process of a student studying in the Master of Social Sciences degree in the fields of Gerontology, Social Service Management and Social Work.
II. Calendar

First Semester: September 1, 2021 to December 23, 2021

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Aug 16 – Sept 10: Course Enrolment & Add/Drop Period
(starts at 9:00am of Aug 16 and ends at 4:00pm of Sept 10)

Sept 1: First Day of Teaching
Sept 3, 4, 11, 15: Library Workshops

Sept 22: Public Holiday (The day following the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival)

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Oct 1: Public Holiday (National Day)

Oct 11 – 16: Reading Week
Oct 14: Public Holiday (Chung Yeung Festival)
Oct 21, 25: SSCC Meetings

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Nov 30: Last Day of Teaching

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Dec 24: University Holiday

Dec 25: Public Holidays (Christmas)
Dec 27: Public Holidays (The first weekday after Christmas Day)
Dec 31: University Holiday (Afternoon only)
Second Semester: January 17, 2022 to May 28, 2022

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Jan 1: Public Holiday (New Year’s Day)

Jan 17: First Day of Teaching
Jan 17 – 28: Add/Drop Period for Courses (starts at 9:00am of Jan 17 and ends at 4:00pm of Jan 28)

Jan 31: University Holiday (Afternoon only)

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Feb 1 – 7: Class Suspension Period for the Lunar New Year
Feb 1 – 3: Public Holiday (Lunar New Year’s Days)

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Mar 7 – 12: Reading Week
Mar 16: University Holiday (HKU Foundation Day)
Mar 21, 24: SCCC Meetings
Mar 31: Submission of Dissertation Title (PT2, Optional)

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Apr 5: Public Holiday (Ching Ming Festival)
Apr 15: Public Holiday (Good Friday)
Apr 16: Public Holiday (Day Following Good Friday)
Apr 18: Public Holiday (Day Following Easter Monday)
Apr 30: Last Day of Teaching
### Summer Semester: June 27 – August 20, 2022

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- May 2: Public Holiday (Day following Labour Day)
- May 9: Public Holiday (Day following the Birthday of the Buddha)

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- Jun 3: Public Holiday (Tuen Ng Festival)
- Jun 27 – Jul 8: Add/drop period*  
  (starts at 9:00am of Jun 27 and ends at 4:00pm of Jul 8)

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- Jul 1: Public Holiday (HKSAR Establishment Day)

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- Aug 1: Submission of Dissertation (PT2, Optional)
- Aug 15: Submission of Dissertation Proposal (PT1, Optional)

*Subject to change
III. Regulations

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to the University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

The degree of Master of Social Sciences (MSocSc) is a postgraduate degree awarded for the satisfactory completion of a prescribed course of study in one of the following fields: Behavioral Health; Clinical Psychology; Counselling; Criminology; Educational Psychology; Gerontology; Media, Culture and Creative Cities; Mental Health; Nonprofit Management; Psychology; Social Service Management; Social Work; and Sustainability Leadership and Governance. These fields of study will not necessarily be offered every year.

Admission requirements

MSS 1. To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences, candidates
(a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
(b) shall hold
(1) a Bachelor’s degree of this University; or
(2) another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
(c) for a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to higher degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b);
(d) shall satisfy any other admission requirements which may be specified for individual fields of study in the regulations below; and
(e) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

MSS 1.1 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the fields of Behavioral Health, Counselling, Gerontology, Mental Health, Social Service Management and Social Work, candidates shall preferably have had a minimum of two years of post-qualification experience in the relevant fields, in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.2 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Clinical Psychology, candidates
(a) shall hold a Bachelor’s degree with a major in Psychology, or a recognized equivalent qualification;
(b) shall have demonstrated empirical research experience in the form of a dissertation completed in the Bachelor’s degree programme or another equivalent programme in psychology, or first-authorship in published journal article;
(c) shall be eligible for the Graduate Membership of the Hong Kong Psychological Society; and
(d) shall preferably have relevant working experience, in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.
MSS 1.3 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Criminology, candidates
(a) shall hold a Bachelor’s degree preferably with a major in the social sciences or humanities discipline; or
(b) shall preferably have working experience in the criminal justice system, social welfare agencies, or in other work with offenders,
in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.4 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Educational Psychology, candidates
(a) shall hold a Bachelor’s degree with a major in Psychology, or a recognized equivalent qualification;
(b) shall be eligible for the Graduate Membership of the Hong Kong Psychological Society; and
(c) shall preferably have relevant working experience in educational or related settings,
in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.5 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Nonprofit Management, candidates shall preferably have three years of relevant working experience, in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 1.6 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Psychology, candidates
(a) shall preferably have more than one year of work experience; and
(b) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination and interview if shortlisted, in addition to the requirements set out in Regulation MSS 1.

MSS 2. An application for exemption from the above requirements shall be considered on a case by case basis.

Qualifying examination

MSS 3.
(a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidates’ formal academic ability or their ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent and may include a project report.
(b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.

Award of degree

MSS 4. To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Social Sciences, candidates
(a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
(b) shall complete the programme as prescribed in the syllabuses and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.
Period of study

MSS 5. The curriculum shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study; or two
academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two academic years of
full-time study or three academic years of part-time study, unless otherwise specified for individual
fields of study in the regulations below.

MSS 5.1 In the field of Clinical Psychology, the programme shall normally extend over two academic
years of full-time study, with a maximum period of registration of four academic years of full-time
study.

MSS 5.2 In the field of Counselling, the programme shall normally extend over two or three academic
years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of three academic years for the
two-year part-time study or four academic years for the three-year part-time study.

MSS 5.3 In the field of Criminology, the programme shall normally extend over one academic year of
full-time study or two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of registration of two
academic years of full-time study or four academic years of part-time study.

MSS 5.4 In the field of Educational Psychology, the programme shall normally extend over two
academic years of full-time study or three academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period
of registration of four academic years for both full-time and part-time study.

MSS 5.5 In the fields of Media, Culture and Creative Cities, the programme shall normally extend over
one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum
period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or four academic years of part-time study.

MSS 5.6 In the field of Nonprofit Management, the programme shall normally extend over one academic
year (three semesters) of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum
period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or three academic years of part-time study.

MSS 5.7 In the fields of Mental Health, Social Service Management, and Social Work, the programme
shall normally extend over two academic years of part-time study, with a maximum period of
registration of three academic years of part-time study.

MSS 6. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of
registration specified in the above regulations, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of
the Faculty.

Advanced Standing

MSS 7. Advanced Standing may be granted to candidates in recognition of studies completed
successfully before admission to the curriculum. Candidates who are awarded Advanced Standing
will not be granted any further credit transfer for those studies for which Advanced Standing has been
granted. The amount of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing shall be determined by the
Board of the Faculty, in accordance with the following principles:
(a) a candidate may be granted a total of not more than 20% of the total credits normally required
under a curriculum for Advanced Standing unless otherwise approved by the Senate; and
(b) credits granted for Advanced Standing shall not normally be included in the calculation of the GPA
unless permitted by the Board of the Faculty but will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate.

**Exemption**

MSS 8. Candidates may be exempted, with or without special conditions attached, from the requirement prescribed in the regulations and syllabuses governing the curriculum with the approval of the Board of the Faculty, except in the case of a capstone experience. Approval for exemption of a capstone experience may be granted only by the Senate with good reasons. Candidates who are so exempted must replace the number of exempted credits with courses of the same credit value.

**Progression in curriculum**

MSS 9. Candidates may, with the approval of the Board of the Faculty, transfer credits for courses completed at other institutions during their candidature. The number of transferred credits may be recorded in the transcript of the candidate, but the results of courses completed at other institutions shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA. The combined total number of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing and credit transfer shall not exceed half of the total credits normally required under the curricula of the candidates during their candidature at the University.

**Completion of curriculum**

MSS 10. To complete the curriculum, candidates

(a) shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;

(b) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work and field work;

(c) shall complete and present a satisfactory dissertation or capstone project as prescribed in the syllabuses; and

(d) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of examination.

**Dissertation and Capstone project**

MSS 11. Subject to the provisions of Regulation MSS 10(c), the title of the dissertation or capstone project shall be submitted for approval by not later than March 31 of the final academic year in which the teaching programme ends and the dissertation or capstone project shall be presented by a date as prescribed in the syllabuses for each field of study; candidates shall submit a statement that the dissertation or capstone project represents their own work (or in the case of conjoint work, a statement countersigned by their co-worker(s), which show their share of the work) undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree.

**Assessment**

MSS 12. Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of continuous assessment of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only passed courses will earn credits.
MSS 13.
(a) Where so prescribed in the syllabuses, coursework or a dissertation or a capstone project shall constitute part or whole of the examination for one or more courses.
(b) An assessment of the candidates’ coursework during their studies, including completion of written assignments and participation in field work or laboratory work, as the case may be, may be taken into account in determining the candidates’ result in each written examination paper; or, where so prescribed in the syllabuses, may constitute the examination of one or more courses.

MSS 14. Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a passing grade for the purpose of upgrading.

MSS 15. Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners at their first attempt in not more than half of the number of courses to be examined, whether by means of written examination papers or coursework assessment, during any of the academic years of study, may be permitted to make up for the failed course(s) in the following manner:
(a) undergoing re-assessment/re-examination in the failed course; or
(b) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
(c) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
(d) for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.

MSS 16. Subject to the provision of Regulation MSS 10(c), candidates who have failed to present a satisfactory dissertation or capstone project may be permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation or capstone project within a specified period.

MSS 17. Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners in any prescribed field work/practical work/internship may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination in field work/practical work/internship within a specified period.

MSS 18. Candidates who are unable because of their illness to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course to be held before the beginning of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of the candidate’s absence from any examination. Any supplementary examination shall be part of that academic year’s examinations, and the provision made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

MSS 19. There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

MSS 20. Candidates who
(a) are not permitted to present themselves for re-assessment/re-examination in any failed course(s) or to repeat the failed course(s) or take another course in lieu under Regulation MSS 15; or
(b) have failed to satisfy the examiners in any course(s) at a second attempt; or
(c) are not permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation or capstone project under Regulation MSS 16; or
(d) have failed to submit a satisfactory new or revised dissertation or capstone project under Regulation MSS 16; or
(e) have exceeded the maximum period of registration. may be required to discontinue their studies.
MSS 20.1 In the field of Clinical Psychology, candidates who have failed two external placements or the second attempt of either the external placement or internal practicum may be required to discontinue their studies.

Grading systems

MSS 21. Individual courses shall be graded according to the one of the following grading systems:

(a) Letter grades, their standards and the grade points for assessment as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Grade Point</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

or

(b) ‘Pass’ or ‘Fail’.

Courses graded according to (b) above shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA.

Classification of awards

MSS 22. On successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates’ degree diploma.
IV. Programme Syllabus

GERONTOLOGY

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Gerontology. This programme is designed for professionals who are interested in developing a career specialized in working with the elderly and who engage in elderly-related policy research. Applicants from a variety of professional backgrounds may apply for the programme which is designed to meet the diverse training needs of different professional disciplines including social workers, nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and other health related workers who are interested in aged care policies and practices. The programme shall extend over not less than one and not more than two academic years of full-time study; or not less than two and not more than three academic years of part-time study, inclusive of intervening vacations.

EXEMPTION

Candidates may be granted exemption of up to three compulsory courses in recognition of studies completed in related areas. Exemption will only be considered in special circumstances and each application for exemption will be considered on its own merit. Candidates with exemption granted are required to take an additional elective course to replace the exempted compulsory course to meet the degree requirements.

ASSESSMENTS

To complete the programme, candidates shall satisfy the examiners in the assessment of courses as prescribed in the programme. Assessments of the courses may be conducted either by course assignments, by presentations, or by written tests, or a combination of both methods. The grading system follows the standard practice in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

CURRICULUM

Candidates are required to complete 60 credits, including 6 compulsory courses (6 credits each), and 4 elective courses (6 credits each) or 2 elective courses (6 credits each) with a dissertation (12 credits). Candidates can take elective courses from courses in other fields of study under the Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Mental Health, Nonprofit Management, Social Service Management, Social Work) programmes. Special approval from the respective Programme Directors for the courses in the above-mentioned fields of study is needed.

(A) Compulsory courses

Candidates shall complete the following courses.

SOWK6139. Theoretical foundation of human service practices (6 credits)
SOWK6193. Social gerontology (6 credits)
SOWK6207. Social policy and ageing (6 credits)
SOWK6282. Social work intervention with the elderly (6 credits)
SOWK6334. Comprehensive assessment for psychogeriatric care (6 credits)
(B) **Elective courses**

Dissertation option: Candidates shall complete two of the following courses.
Non-dissertation option: Candidates shall complete four of the following courses.

- SOWK6201. Mental health problems in old age (6 credits)
- SOWK6259. Contemporary perspectives on death, dying and bereavement (6 credits)
- SOWK6291. Advanced gerontological seminars (6 credits)
- SOWK6292. Ageing and health (6 credits)
- SOWK6293. Evidence-based programmes in global ageing contexts (6 credits)
- SOWK6318. Advanced gerontological seminars II (6 credits)
- SOWK6319. Advanced gerontological seminars III (6 credits)
- SOWK6320. Advanced gerontological seminars IV (6 credits)
- SOWK6335. A care management approach in support family carers (6 credits)
- SOWK6336. Clinical consultation in psychogeriatric care (6 credits)
- SOWK6337. Evidence-based interventions and care for people with dementia (6 credits)
- SOWK6338. Programme evaluation (6 credits)

and any other courses offered under Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Mental Health, Nonprofit Management, Social Service Management, Social Work) programmes

(Note: not all elective courses will necessarily be offered in a given year.)

**Capstone Experience Courses**

(C) **Compulsory course**

Candidates opt for either dissertation or non-dissertation option shall complete the following course.

- SOWK6265. Research methods in human service (6 credits)

(D) **Dissertation (Elective)**

Candidates opt for dissertation option shall complete the following course.

- SOWK9002. Dissertation (12 credits)

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**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

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**Compulsory Courses**

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**SOWK6139. Theoretical foundation of human service practices (6 credits)**

The knowledge base of human service practices comes from a wide spectrum of social science disciplines including psychology, sociology and political science. This course will provide the philosophical and conceptual basis for analyzing social problems and issues and translating these theoretical constructs into human service practices.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6193. Social gerontology (6 credits)**

This course provides a comprehensive, holistic view of ageing that considers the implications for an
older person’s interactions with their social and physical environments, including the immediate environment of family, friends, and home, as well as the larger social structure of community, organizations, and society. It also aims to impart knowledge to students about the most important social theories on ageing and the time dimension in the ageing process and its relation to the evolution of larger society. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6207. Social policy and ageing (6 credits)

The course is designed to examine the concepts of social policy and ageing, and the various models available for the analysis of social policy. By analyzing local and foreign services and policy regarding the elderly people, students will become familiar with the roles of government and non-government organizations in implementing public policies. This should further the understanding of the development of social services to meet the needs of the elderly in the context of economic and social change. Basic concepts of social planning, problem identification and programme implementation will be examined. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6282. Social work intervention with the elderly (6 credits)

This course focuses on intervention with older people at micro and macro levels. In macro level, it covers both administrative and community intervention strategies to engage older people in their communities, to empower older people and their communities for independent living, to promote choices, quality of care, and quality of life in elderly services. In micro level, it covers intervention strategies for intake, comprehensive assessment, treatment and termination involved in working with older clients and their families. It equips students with skills to reach out, engage reluctant or impaired elders, and work in a multidisciplinary team in elderly settings. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6334. Comprehensive assessment for psychogeriatric care (6 credits)

This course provides students with competence, including values knowledge and skills in conducting comprehensive assessment on frail older people for psychogeriatric care. A government adopted assessment tool interRAI Home Care will be introduced to illustrate four interrelated area of assessment, consisting of functional well-being, cognitive and mental well-being, social well-being, and clinical well-being, together with popularly used clinical assessment in corresponding areas. Students will be introduced to understand rational, contents, assessment procedures, and comprehension of assessment results for clinical intervention. Pre-requisite: SOWK6193. Social gerontology. Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective Courses

SOWK6201. Mental health problems in old age (6 credits)

This course explores the types of mental illnesses among the elderly in Hong Kong. Attention will be
put towards the understanding of the causes and treatments of mental illness in the elderly population. A critical review of medical, psychological and social services for the elderly with mental illness will be conducted.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6259. Contemporary perspectives on death, dying and bereavement (6 credits)**

Death is an inevitable life experience for everyone. Death-related problem is one of the commonest issues that clients brought to counseling, but is also rated as the most uncomfortable scenario by beginning counselors. This course offers a basic orientation to the knowledge and intervention approaches in working with death-related situations, including end of life care and bereavement counseling. Major theories and models related to death, dying and bereavement would be introduced. Corresponding clinical implications and practical work approaches would also be highlighted. Apart from the knowledge and skills, the course also emphasizes on personal exploration and review on one’s attitudes toward life and death issues. It is hoped that students are better equipped with knowledge competence, practice competence as well as self competence in working with death, dying and bereavement.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6291. Advanced gerontological seminars (6 credits)**

Globally, aging population leads to both threats and opportunities for social development. New issues relating to gerontology emerge from time to time. This course will bring students one or two emerging gerontological issues each time. For example, social security, housing, health and social care integration, mental health, community empowerment, death, dying and bereavement. Focuses will be put on cutting edge knowledge on selected issues, perspectives from policy, service delivery, and/or program levels.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6292. Ageing and health (6 credits)**

According to the WHO, health is a “complete state of physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” As people age, they are increasingly facing challenges in their physical and mental health and in their social wellbeing. A better integrated health and social care system will help older people to better adjust to their aging processes and to minimize the negative impacts of aging to their wellbeing. This course is designed to help students from diverse academic backgrounds to understand the core values, conceptual models, intervention strategies, and service delivery systems of the integrated health and social care model. Building on the foundation values and knowledge of their own disciplines, students will learn how to effectively develop and implement a multi-disciplinary team in geriatric care settings.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6293. Evidence-based programmes in global ageing contexts (6 credits)**

This course aims to help students understand the implications of population ageing and increasing life expectancy in both developed and developing countries although countries in the Asia-Pacific region will be our focus. Cross-national evidence-based programs will be selected from North America,
Europe, Africa, Asia, and South America. Specifically, we will illustrate how population ageing varies across the globe and how it affects family support, living arrangements, and intergenerational transfer and relationships. Moreover, the policy and practice implications of population ageing in social, political, and economic dimensions will be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6318. Advanced gerontological seminars II (6 credits)**

Globally, aging population leads to both threats and opportunities for social development. New issues relating to gerontology emerge from time to time. This course will bring students one or two emerging gerontological issues each time. For example, social security, housing, health and social care integration, mental health, community empowerment, death, dying and bereavement. Focuses will be put on cutting edge knowledge on selected issues, perspectives from policy, service delivery, and/or program levels.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6319. Advanced gerontological seminars III (6 credits)**

Globally, aging population leads to both threats and opportunities for social development. New issues relating to gerontology emerge from time to time. This course will bring students one or two emerging gerontological issues each time. For example, social security, housing, health and social care integration, mental health, community empowerment, death, dying and bereavement. Focuses will be put on cutting edge knowledge on selected issues, perspectives from policy, service delivery, and/or program levels.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6320. Advanced gerontological seminars IV (6 credits)**

Globally, aging population leads to both threats and opportunities for social development. New issues relating to gerontology emerge from time to time. This course will bring students one or two emerging gerontological issues each time. For example, social security, housing, health and social care integration, mental health, community empowerment, death, dying and bereavement. Focuses will be put on cutting edge knowledge on selected issues, perspectives from policy, service delivery, and/or program levels.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6335. A care management approach in support family carers (6 credits)**

Family carers provide continuous care support to older adults with acute, transitional, and chronic impairments. However, family carers are twice as likely to suffer ill-health, both physically and mentally, compared to non-carers. Moreover, family carers with ill-health are more likely to be abusive, leading to family tragedy. Better support for family carers is associated with better health outcomes for frail older adults, family functioning, and the well-being of carers. This course examines profile, well-being, and needs of family carers globally and in Hong Kong. A critical evaluation of carer support services will be conducted. A clinical care management approach in supporting family carers will be introduced including assessment, ethics, care planning and intervention, and evaluation.

Pre-requisite: SOWK6193. Social gerontology
SOWK6336. Clinical consultation in psychogeriatric care (6 credits)

The course provides opportunities to students to integrate knowledge gained over the course of the program and apply various psychotherapy models learned in working with clients under psychogeriatric care. Through case presentations by students, clinical feedbacks will be given in terms of case conceptualization, treatment direction, and actual application of psychotherapeutic techniques. The course will be conducted in didactic lectures, case illustrations, role plays exercises and/or demonstrations.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6337. Evidence-based interventions and care for people with dementia (6 credits)

Dementia care and interventions can improve cognition, behavioural and psychological symptoms, and other outcomes in people with dementia and wellbeing of carers. This course equips current and future practitioners with the fundamental understanding and skills in delivering evidence-based non-pharmacological interventions in dementia, covering the entire course of illness from mild to severe, including Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (CST), Tailored Activity Program (TAP), multicomponent carer support programmes, and dementia care management; as well as case identification and evaluation of intervention outcomes.
Pre-requisite: SOWK6201. Mental health problems in old age
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6338. Programme evaluation (6 credits)

This course is designed to equip you with knowledge and skills necessary to systematically develop, implement, and evaluate social policies and programs. Social program funders, providers, consumers, policymakers, and the general public are increasingly focused on assessing the costs, quality, and outcomes of social services. At the same time, social service systems are becoming more complex, serving increasingly diverse populations, and facing multiple and conflicting demands from various stakeholders. Calls for “empirically-based practice” are becoming strong determinants of the types of services that will, or will no longer, be provided as part of the delivery of human services in the world. Thus, evidence-based program development is potentially powerful in helping to legitimize and advance psychosocial practice and program in health and social services. This course will enhance students’ ability to provide leadership in advancing these issues in the practice communities where they may find themselves working. It will be imperative for them to be able to (1) conduct needs assessment, (2) plan and develop evidence-based intervention programs, (3) monitor the implementation of intervention programs, (4) evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of intervention programs, and (5) analyse research results as a basis in advocating for programs delivered by human service practitioners. Assessment: 100% coursework

Capstone Experience Courses
**SOWK6265.  Research methods in human service (6 credits)**

This course covers the whole research process from the development of research questions and hypotheses to the analysis of data as well as presentation of findings. Different data collection methods including qualitative data collection such as case study, interviews and focus groups; and quantitative data collection such as survey and experiment will be discussed. Data analysis on various types of data including secondary data will be examined. Students will be expected to integrate and apply the knowledge and skills they acquired through the programme by attending the integrated seminars organized by the end of the first semester of the final academic year of study.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK9002.  Dissertation (12 credits)**

The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than three months before the formal submission of the dissertation or not later than March 31 of the same academic year of study. The dissertation shall be presented by not later than **August 1** of the same academic year of study. The dissertation shall be a critical study that demonstrates the application of research methodology to the investigation of problems relevant to the field of study, and shall not exceed 20,000 words in length.

Assessment: 100% coursework
SOCIAL SERVICE MANAGEMENT

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Social Service Management. The programme shall extend over not less than two and not more than three academic years of part-time study, inclusive of intervening vacations.

EXEMPTION

Candidates may be granted exemption of up to three compulsory courses in recognition of studies completed in related areas. Exemption will only be considered in special circumstances and each application for exemption will be considered on its own merit. Candidates with exemption granted are required to take an additional elective course to replace the exempted compulsory course to meet the degree requirements.

ASSESSMENTS

To complete the programme, candidates shall satisfy the examiners in the assessment of courses as prescribed in the programme. Assessments of the courses may be conducted either by course assignments, or by presentation, or written tests, or a combination of both methods. The grading system follows the standard practice in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

CURRICULUM

Candidates are required to complete 60 credits, including 6 compulsory courses (6 credits each), and 4 elective courses (6 credits each) or 2 elective courses (6 credits each) with a dissertation (12 credits). Candidates can take elective courses from courses in other fields of study under the Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Gerontology, Mental Health, Nonprofit Management, Social Work) programmes. Special approval from the respective Programme Directors for the courses in the above-mentioned fields of study is needed.

(A) Compulsory courses
Candidates shall complete the following courses.
SOWK6139. Theoretical foundation of human service practices (6 credits)
SOWK6156. Financial planning and management for social service organizations (6 credits)
SOWK6217. Current social welfare policy issues (6 credits)
SOWK6289. Organizational analysis and strategic organizational management (6 credits)
SOWK6339. Human resources management and development in social service organizations (6 credits)

(B) Elective courses
Candidates shall complete four of the following courses.
SOWK6132. Economics for social welfare (6 credits)
SOWK6185. Qualitative research methods (6 credits)
SOWK6256. Civil society organizations and social development (6 credits)
SOWK6263. Quantitative research methods and statistical analysis (6 credits)
SOWK6290. Social innovation and enterprise (6 credits)
SOWK6324. Special topics in social service management I (6 credits)
SOWK6325. Special topics in social service management II (6 credits)
SOWK6340. Marketing strategies and applications for social service organizations (6 credits)
SOWK6341. Fundraising and resources development: Effective strategies and practice (6 credits)
SOWK6342. Corporate governance and leadership for future leaders in social service (6 credits)
SOWK6348. Information and communication technology in human service organizations (6 credits)

and any other courses offered under Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Gerontology, Mental Health, Nonprofit Management, Social Work) programmes

(Note: not all elective courses will necessarily be offered in a given year.)

Capstone Experience Courses

(C) Compulsory course
Candidates opt for either dissertation or non-dissertation option shall complete the following course.
SOWK6265. Research methods in human service (6 credits)

(D) Dissertation (Elective)
Candidates opt for dissertation option shall complete the following course.
SOWK9004. Dissertation (12 credits)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

SOWK6139. Theoretical foundation of human service practices (6 credits)

The knowledge base of human service practice comes from a wide spectrum of social science disciplines including psychology, sociology and political science. This course will provide the philosophical and conceptual basis for analyzing social problems and issues and translating these theoretical constructs into human service practice.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6156. Financial planning and management for human service organizations (6 credits)

The course introduces and examines concepts and practices critical to good financial planning and management. The objective is to enable students to learn skills and strategies for budgeting. Emphasis will be given to the understanding of the financial activities and reports essential to management, as well as analysis and use of financial information in planning, budgeting and measuring results to promote the organization’s mission and goals.
Assessment: 100% coursework
SOWK6217. Current social welfare policy issues (6 credits)

This course provides a framework of analyzing and formulating social policy in the current social, political and economic environment. Current social welfare policy issues including social welfare planning mechanisms, welfare blueprint, strategic framework for social welfare, district planning, and other relevant issues will be examined.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6289. Organizational analysis and strategic organizational management (6 credits)

This course aims at helping managers of human service organizations to be equipped with the knowledge in strategic management to deal with the current challenges arising from the rapidly changing public and social service scene. Topics may include strategic planning, quality management, risk management, change management, business process re-engineering, etc.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6339. Human resources management and development in social service organizations (6 credits)

The course aims to equip students with knowledge and skills in managing and developing human resources in social service organizations, and examining related current issues, and to stimulate applications in local context. Issues related to the human resources management and development including recruitment, selection, performance management, training and development, and succession planning will be covered, and topics on personal efficacy as a leader will also be examined with practical examples. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to master the basic principles of HR management and development and apply them in social service context.
Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective Courses

SOWK6132. Economics for social welfare (6 credits)

This course aims to help students examine the use of concepts and theories from the economics discipline in analyzing social policies. As working knowledge of economic concepts and theories is essential for most professional roles in social administration, this course seeks both to convey the framework and concepts with which economists approach issues and to increase the likelihood that students will incorporate these in their own thinking about policy. Topics discussed will include the relationship between economic growth and social development, the role of the public sector in human service, the financing of social services, and the economic effects of social spending. Current topics such as the economics of ageing will also be examined.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6185. Qualitative research methods (6 credits)

This course is designed for students with an interest in understanding all aspects of social life and social relations especially those who will undertake a dissertation study. Starting with the question
what is reality, the course begins with an introduction to different perspectives on approaching reality, followed by an assessment of the general strengths and weaknesses of qualitative research in comparison with other conventions such as quantitative surveys. The lectures will focus on introducing the general process of ethnographic research and the variety of methods for data collection and analysis including ethnography, grounded theory, observation, interviewing, focus groups and narrative analysis, etc. Various cases will be used to demonstrate how qualitative research helps make meaningful policy and social work practice. Seminars will be organized around practical methodological issues with the objective of helping students proceed with their own research projects. Hands-on experience of a range of research techniques will also be provided.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6256. Civil society organizations and social development (6 credits)

The course examines theories and concepts related to the development of civil society. The important role of civic society organizations (CSOs) in developing civil society in Hong Kong and internationally will be examined. CSOs that work upon relevant public policy areas, including urban development, housing, social welfare, home affairs, sustainable development, etc., would be examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6263. Quantitative research methods and statistical analysis (6 credits)

This course covers various statistical analyses include single variable, bivariate, and multivariate analyses. Appropriate analyses for different types of data will be discussed and various techniques in scale development including reliability and factor analysis will be introduced. Apart from various multivariate linear modeling and path analysis, non-parametric analyses will also be introduced.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6290. Social innovation and enterprise (6 credits)

The Hong Kong society and the world at large have unfolded multifarious new social phenomena that pose new challenges to professional social work practice. The social work professional community has to develop new insights in understanding the nature of such problems and challenges, and to accordingly devise timely and appropriate intervention to address these issues. This course aims at introducing the concept of social entrepreneurship and how it creates social change. We will examine the current global development of social entrepreneurship as well as local development and its development in Greater China and South East Asian countries. We will inspire our students to become an active agent in addressing the pressing social issues and making social change.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6324. Special topics in social service management I (6 credits)

There are emerging new issues and problems as well as challenges in the social service sector that require managers and practitioners to be equipped with updated knowledge and skills in tackling such problems and facing such challenges. This course will bring in the most contemporary issues, problems and challenges, with reference to updated research findings and innovative practices in the field, to enable students to be well prepared for performing their managerial duties in the social service sector.

Assessment: 100% coursework
SOWK6325.  Special topics in social service management II (6 credits)

There are emerging new issues and problems as well as challenges in the social service sector that require managers and practitioners to be equipped with updated knowledge and skills in tackling such problems and facing such challenges. This course will bring in the most contemporary issues, problems and challenges, with reference to updated research findings and innovative practices in the field, to enable students to be well prepared for performing their managerial duties in the social service sector. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6340.  Marketing strategies and applications for social service organizations (6 credits)

Social service organisations operate in an environment with various stakeholders, like service users, service purchasers, volunteers, donors, funders, neighbours, policymakers and press, etc., who have different exchange relationships with them. Marketing is about the effective management of an organisation's exchange relationships with its various markets and publics. This course provides students with the theoretical concepts and skills in marketing that are applicable in the social service sector with an emphasis both on using traditional and digital techniques. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to master the basic and latest principles of marketing and apply them in social service context. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6341.  Fundraising and resources development: Effective strategies and practice (6 credits)

Resource is necessary for an NGO to support its means and services in actualizing the mission. Securing funds have become more and more competitive and NGOs have attempted to diversify sources of funding. Raising funds, writing proposals and developing innovative ways to generate resources have become regular activities of NGOs. This course covers topics such as understanding of giving behaviour and the current trend of philanthropy, cost-effectiveness of various fundraising activities, effective strategies including building a prospective relationship, essential elements in a grant proposal and pitching, presentation of results and impacts, accountability and report, handling of ethical issues and risk management etc. Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6342.  Corporate governance and leadership for future leaders in social service (6 credits)

This course introduces concepts, system and practice of corporate governance for better understanding of social service organization receiving public funding. It emphasizes, under this system, particularly on the leadership of board and senior management/social work professionals for effective service and achievement of mission of the organization. It takes reference to real life cases and issues. It stimulates development of a framework to understand perspectives of different stakeholders and for ongoing application and developing effective intervention. Assessment: 100% coursework
SOWK6348. Information and communication technology in human service organizations
(6 credits)

This course aims to equip students with knowledge and skills in handling and utilizing information and communication technology in managing social service organizations and service delivery. The course content includes: Trends and issues of technological development in society and human services, process of developing and managing IT projects, use of ICT and social media in direct services, Assistive technology and gerontechnology, Security and ethical use of ICT and social media, and Emerging trends and its future use in human services.
Assessment: 100% coursework

Capstone Experience Courses

SOWK6265. Research methods in human service (6 credits)

This course covers the whole research process from the development of research questions and hypotheses to the analysis of data as well as presentation of findings. Different data collection methods including qualitative data collection such as case study, interviews and focus groups; and quantitative data collection such as survey and experiment will be discussed. Data analysis on various types of data including secondary data will be examined. Students will be expected to integrate and apply the knowledge and skills they acquired through the programme by attending the integrated seminars organized by the end of the first semester of the final academic year of study.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK9004. Dissertation (12 credits)

The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than five months before the formal submission of the dissertation or not later than March 31 of the same academic year of study. The dissertation shall be presented by not later than August 1 of the same academic year of study. The dissertation shall be a critical study that demonstrates the application of research methodology to the investigation of problems relevant to the field of study, and shall not exceed 20,000 words in length.
Assessment: 100% coursework
SOCIAL WORK

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration offers a postgraduate programme leading to the degree of Master of Social Sciences in the field of Social Work. The programme shall extend over not less than two and not more than three academic years of part-time study, inclusive of intervening vacations.

EXEMPTION

Candidates may be granted exemption of up to three compulsory/core courses in recognition of studies completed in related areas. Exemption will only be considered in special circumstances and each application for exemption will be considered on its own merit. Candidates with exemption granted are required to take an additional elective course to replace the exempted compulsory/core course to meet the degree requirements.

ASSESSMENTS

To complete the programme, candidates shall satisfy the examiners in the assessment of courses as prescribed in the programme. Assessments of the courses may be conducted either by course assignments, or by presentations, or written tests, or a combination of both methods. The grading system follows the standard practice in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

CURRICULUM

Candidates are required to complete 60 credits, including 2 compulsory courses (6 credits each) and 3-4 core courses, plus 4 elective courses (6 credits each) or 2 elective courses (6 credits each) with a dissertation (12 credits). Candidates can take elective courses from courses in other fields of study under the Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Gerontology, Mental Health, Nonprofit Management, Social Service Management) programmes. Special approval from the respective Programme Directors for the courses in the above-mentioned fields of study is needed.

(A) **Compulsory courses**
Candidates shall complete the following course.
SOWK6139. Theoretical foundation of human service practices (6 credits)

(B) **Core courses**
Candidates shall complete the following courses.
SOWK6164. Counselling in the educational setting (6 credits)
SOWK6214. Children and youth mental health (6 credits)
SOWK6287. Children and youth services and social policies (6 credits)
SOWK6343. Case management and clinical supervision: Child and youth cases (6 credits)

(C) **Elective courses**
Dissertation option:
Candidates shall complete two of the following courses.
Non-dissertation option:
Candidates shall complete four of the following courses.
SOWK6022. Emotion-focused interventions: theory and practice (6 credits)
SOWK6127. Cognitive-behavioral interventions (6 credits)
SOWK6136. Adventure-Based Counselling: theory and practice (6 credits)
SOWK6206. Play therapy (6 credits)
SOWK6261. Social work in school settings (6 credits)
SOWK6274. Theories and practices in positive psychology and strength-based interventions (6 credits)
SOWK6285. Advanced social work practice with children and youth (6 credits)
SOWK6313. Knowledge and intervention for SEN children (6 credits)
SOWK6326. Special topics in children and youth I (6 credits)
SOWK6327. Special topics in children and youth II (6 credits)
SOWK6344. Interdisciplinary cooperation in services for children and youth (6 credits)

and any other courses offered under Master of Social Sciences (Behavioral Health, Gerontology, Mental Health, Nonprofit Management, Social Service Management) programmes

(Note: not all elective courses will necessarily be offered in a given year.)

Capstone Experience Courses

(D) Compulsory courses
Candidates opt for either dissertation or non-dissertation option shall complete the following course.
SOWK6265. Research methods in human service (6 credits)

(E) Dissertation (Elective)
Candidates opt for a dissertation option shall complete one of the following course.
SOWK9001. Dissertation (12 credits)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

SOWK6139. Theoretical foundation of human service practices (6 credits)

The knowledge base of human service practices comes from a wide spectrum of social science disciplines including psychology, sociology and political science. This course will provide the philosophical and conceptual basis for analyzing social problems and issues and translating these theoretical constructs into human service practices.
Assessment: 100% coursework

Core Courses

SOWK6164. Counselling in the educational setting (6 credits)

This course offers an understanding of the developmental characteristics, needs and struggles of students in schools (children and adolescents). To understand the counselling process and acquire necessary skills in offering counselling to students are the main foci, such that students may be helped
to cope better with their school life.
Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6214. Children and youth mental health (6 credits)**

This course focuses on an understanding of the mental health issues found among children and youth in Hong Kong. While developmental perspectives on child and adolescent development will be introduced, the course will also provide an overview of the prevalence and general features of different childhood and adolescent mental health problems. The course will also bear a practice focus and introduce to students the assessment, treatment and skills in engaging children and youth suffering from various mental health problems.
Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6287. Children and youth services and social policies (6 credits)**

This course will begin with a critical review of the current state of theory and cutting edge research on child development, youth development and delinquency. It will then go on to evaluate existing policies and services directed at child, youth and youth at risk. Finally it will explore current issues in the field of youth policy. Special emphasis will be given to the relevance of these issues and programmes within the Hong Kong context.
Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6343. Case management and clinical supervision: Child and youth cases (6 credits)**

The case nature of children and youth cases is more diversified and social workers need to handle cases related to special educational needs, family problems, study motivation and career planning, emotional and behavioral issues. This course aims at providing the most hands-on skills and knowledge for cases.
Students are divided into active participants and observers. Active participants bring their own cases for clinical supervision. The clinical supervisors are experienced clinical social workers, counselors or experts in clinical practice. The supervision areas include the clinical skills related to the particular domains and related case management.
Assessment: 100% coursework

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**Elective Courses**

**SOWK6022. Emotion-focused interventions: theory and practice (6 credits)**

Social work practice recognizes the importance of the role of emotions in therapeutic change. This course will begin with a review of current theories and research on emotion-focused interventions before focusing on the application of these theories in the local setting. This is followed by an examination of the awareness, the arousal, and reorganization of the emotions in counselling and dynamics and personal reflections, students will reexamine the impact of their families on them, to shape and reshape their current and future family life to their greater satisfaction, and to unlock the treasure of this great resource, which has become the first and last emotional refuge in modern living.
Assessment: 100% coursework
SOWK6127. **Cognitive-behavioral interventions (6 credits)**

The course introduces students to the Beck’s cognitive-behaviour therapy model in working with people with depression and anxieties. A case process approach will be adopted to provide a stage-by-stage and step-by-step understanding of the theory and practice of Beck’s CBT. Other CBT models for working with people with psychosis, OCD, pathological gambling, substance abuse and etc. will also be discussed in class.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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SOWK6136. **Adventure-Based Counselling: theory and practice (6 credits)**

Adventure-Based Counselling (ABC) is a popular contemporary approach employed to work with people in order to assist their building and/or promoting of a positive self-concept, improve their interpersonal relationship and enhance their problem-solving abilities. Although it is especially popular among working with young people, it can also be used in working with different age groups, families and couples. This course aims to introduce the basic theories and practices of ABC. Besides introducing the theoretical base of the approach, how to design and run sessions of ABC will also be taught. Some micro skills in conducting ABC sessions will be introduced. Last, but not least, the quality of an ABC facilitator and the ethical considerations in employing ABC to work with people will be discussed in the course. The format of the course includes lectures, seminars and ABC workshops for candidates to participate and experience the process.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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SOWK6206. **Play therapy (6 credits)**

The objective of the module is to introduce the student to the principles and practice of play therapy and its application to the counseling and psychotherapy for children, adolescents and families. At the end of the course, the students will have an introduction of the history and development of play therapy, an understanding of various theoretical models of play therapy, rationale for the use of play in therapy, and phrase of the client’s progress in play therapy. Practice material will be provided including how to development therapeutic rapport, conduct a play based assessment, setting up of a playroom and the selection of therapeutic play materials. Best practice tips on engaging the client, recording keeping and other ethical issues will be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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SOWK6261. **Social work in school settings (6 credits)**

The objective of school counselling is to enhance students’ whole person development through the provision of remedial, preventive and developmental services in school settings. Phenomena such as students’ suicide, physical and sexual abuse, mental health issues, study problems and school violence pose great challenges to a school counsellor. Adopting the ecological perspective, this course will examine: the service provision of school guidance and counselling service in Hong Kong, the multiple roles of a school counsellor, the establishment of collaborative relationship with school personnel, the application of practice theories and intervention strategies to individual and school-based family counselling, and the implementation of comprehensive school guidance and counselling programmes.
By participating in this course, social work students will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to be a competent school counsellor.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

**SOWK6274. Theories and practices in positive psychology and strength-based interventions (6 credits)**

Positive Psychology emphasizes the discovery and cultivation of human strengths and potential for a flourished life, and strength-based interventions include counseling and therapy models that foster psychological well-being and reduce distress and symptoms in clients. This course critically reviews the theory and practice of positive psychology, including the study of happiness, character strengths, optimism, resilience, compassion, meaning, goals, flow, creativity and hope and their relevance to psychological health and psychotherapy, as well as strength-oriented interventions which include mindfulness-based, compassion-based and valued-based models. The cultural relevance of Positive Psychology and strength-based interventions will also be examined.
Assessment: 100% coursework

**SOWK6285. Advanced social work practice with children and youth (6 credits)**

This course will focus on the various approaches in working with young people experiencing different issues in their development. To facilitate the skill development, emphasis will be placed on experiential learning through the use of simulated services, games and role-play. Advanced social work practice includes motivational interviewing, debriefing, youth development intervention protocol design, and multi-disciplinary cooperation for various youth problems.
Assessment: 100% coursework

**SOWK6313. Knowledge and intervention for SEN children (6 credits)**

In light of increasing number of special educational needs (SEN) children in school settings, this course provides basic knowledge and intervention strategies for social workers working in family services, schools and integrated youth services settings. Attention is drawn to the assessments and the needs of these children, the needs of families, and the roles of different professionals with related multi-disciplinary collaboration. Students are expected to understand the social workers’ roles in working with SEN children. More importantly, various types of interventions, such as applied behavioral analysis, social story and learning strategies are discussed.
Assessment: 100% coursework

**SOWK6326. Special topics in children and youth I (6 credits)**

Globally, there are many issues related to youth development. New issues relating to youth development emerge from time to time. This course bring students one or two emerging issues each time. For example, internet addiction, career planning, peer relationships, mental health. Focuses will be put on cutting edge knowledge of selected issues, perspectives from service delivery and programme levels.
Assessment: 100% coursework
SOWK6327. Special topics in children and youth II (6 credits)

Globally, there are many intervention strategies related to youth and social systems such as families/schools and peers. New intervention strategies relating to youth development emerge from time to time. This course brings students one or two emerging intervention strategies each time. For example, motivation interviewing, harm reduction model, multiple family group intervention, peer mediation and post-traumatic debriefing. Focuses will be put on cutting edge knowledge of selected intervention strategies.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK6344. Interdisciplinary cooperation in services for children and youth (6 credits)

Children and youth cases are getting more complicated nowadays. Social workers working with children and youth have to work with multiple professionals, namely educational psychologists, clinical psychologists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, nurses, teachers, audiologists, psychiatrists, and police. This course aims at facilitating students to understand the underlying working paradigms of various professionals, the skills and related knowledge in working with these professionals. Social workers at the best position to mediate the various professionals for the sake of the welfare of the child, youth and their families.
Assessment: 100% coursework

Capstone Experience Courses

SOWK6265. Research methods in human service (6 credits)

This course covers the whole research process from the development of research questions and hypotheses to the analysis of data as well as presentation of findings. Different data collection methods including qualitative data collection such as case study, interviews and focus groups; and quantitative data collection such as survey and experiment will be discussed. Data analysis on various types of data including secondary data will be examined. Students will be expected to integrate and apply the knowledge and skills they acquired through the programme by attending the integrated seminars organized by the end of the first semester of the final academic year of study.
Assessment: 100% coursework

SOWK9001. Dissertation (12 credits)

The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than five months before the formal submission of the dissertation or not later than March 31 of the same academic year of study. The dissertation shall be presented by not later than August 1 of the same academic year of study. The dissertation shall be a critical study that demonstrates the application of research methodology to the investigation of problems relevant to the field of study, and shall not exceed 20,000 words in length.
Assessment: 100% coursework
Students are required to complete a total of 10 courses: six core courses, two elective courses and a dissertation or two additional elective courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gerontology</th>
<th>Social Service Management</th>
<th>Social Work - Youth</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. SOWK6139 Theoretical foundation of human service practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. SOWK6265 Research methods in human service</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. SOWK6193 Social gerontology</td>
<td>3. SOWK6156 Financial planning and management for social service organizations</td>
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<td>4. SOWK6207 Social policy and ageing</td>
<td>4. SOWK6217 Current social welfare policy issues</td>
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<td>5. SOWK6282 Social Work intervention with the elderly</td>
<td>5. SOWK6289 Organizational analysis and strategic organizational management</td>
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<td>6. SOWK6334 Comprehensive assessment for psychogeriatric care</td>
<td>6. SOWK6339 Human resources management and development in social service organizations</td>
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<td>7. SOWK6201 Mental health problems in old age</td>
<td>7. SOWK6313 Social work in school settings</td>
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<td>8. SOWK6259 Contemporary perspectives on death, dying and bereavement</td>
<td>8. SOWK6342 Social work in school settings</td>
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<td>9. SOWK6291 Advanced gerontological seminars</td>
<td>9. SOWK6343 Case management and clinical supervision: Child and youth cases</td>
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<td>10. SOWK6292 Ageing and health</td>
<td>10. SOWK6344 Interdisciplinary cooperation in services for children and youth</td>
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<td>11. SOWK6293 Evidence-based programmes in global ageing contexts</td>
<td>11. SOWK6345 Special topics in children and youth II</td>
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<td>12. SOWK6318 Advanced gerontological seminars II</td>
<td>12. SOWK6346 Special topics in children and youth II</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. SOWK6319 Advanced gerontological seminars III</td>
<td>13. SOWK6347 Special topics in children and youth II</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14. SOWK6320 Advanced gerontological seminars VI</td>
<td>14. SOWK6348 Information and communication technology in human service organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>15. SOWK6335 A care management approach in support family carers</td>
<td>15. SOWK6349 Information and communication technology in human service organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>16. SOWK6336 Clinical consultation in psychogeriatric care</td>
<td>16. SOWK6350 Information and communication technology in human service organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>17. SOWK6337 Evidence-based interventions and care for people with dementia</td>
<td>17. SOWK6351 Information and communication technology in human service organizations</td>
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<td>18. SOWK6338 Programme evaluation</td>
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</table>

Select 4 elective courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elective Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19. SOWK9002 Dissertation</td>
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<td>18. SOWK9004 Dissertation</td>
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<tr>
<td>18. SOWK9001 Dissertation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## VI. Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MSocSc[Ger]</th>
<th>MSocSc[SSM]</th>
<th>MSocSc[SWY]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.</strong> Critical intellectual enquiry and acquiring up-to-date knowledge and research skills in social gerontology</td>
<td><strong>1.</strong> Critical intellectual enquiry and acquiring up-to-date knowledge and research skills in management of social service organizations</td>
<td><strong>1.</strong> Critical intellectual enquiry and acquiring up-to-date knowledge and research skills in youth social work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.</strong> Application of knowledge in social gerontology and research skills to practice or theoretical exploration, demonstrating originality and creativity</td>
<td><strong>2.</strong> Application of social service management knowledge and research skills to practice or theoretical exploration, demonstrating originality and creativity</td>
<td><strong>2.</strong> Application of knowledge in youth social work and research skills to practice or theoretical exploration, demonstrating originality and creativity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.</strong> Tackling novel situations and ill-defined problems related to aged population</td>
<td><strong>3.</strong> Tackling novel situations and ill-defined problems in management of social service organizations</td>
<td><strong>3.</strong> Tackling novel situations and ill-defined problems in youth social work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4.</strong> Collaboration and communication of knowledge in social gerontology to multi-disciplinary health care professionals and the general public</td>
<td><strong>4.</strong> Collaboration and communication of social service management knowledge to specialists in social services and the general public</td>
<td><strong>4.</strong> Collaboration and communication of management knowledge in youth social work to specialists in and the general public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5.</strong> Awareness of and adherence to personal and professional ethics in social gerontology</td>
<td><strong>5.</strong> Awareness of and adherence to personal and social service professional ethics</td>
<td><strong>5.</strong> Awareness of and adherence to personal and professional ethics in youth social work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6.</strong> Enhancement of leadership skills in social gerontology, especially in program evaluation and policy advocacy</td>
<td><strong>6.</strong> Enhancement of leadership and advocacy skills in social services and social policy</td>
<td><strong>6.</strong> Enhancement of leadership and advocacy skills in youth policies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VII. Dissertation & Writing Guidelines

Timeline on writing dissertation (for reference only)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By 15 May 2022</td>
<td>Submitting a brief proposal of dissertation to the Programme Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By 31 August 2022</td>
<td>Arranging supervisors for individual students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By 31 January 2023</td>
<td>Having completed the conceptual framework of the study for the dissertation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Between 1 January and 31 March 2023 | Submitting the application for ethical approval and the dissertation title  
                                 | Having completed the pilot test and data collection for the dissertation |
| Between 1 April and 31 July 2023 | Analysing the data and writing up the dissertation                   |
| By 1 August 2023              | Submitting the dissertation to supervisor                           |
Guidelines on writing dissertation

A. Outline for dissertation proposal

1. Identification of a topic or an area of interest within your specialization that you will write your dissertation on.

2. Give reasons for your choice of this topic or area of interest, and indicate what experience you have had in relation to it.

3. A precise statement of objective(s) and/or hypothesis(es) of your dissertation.

4. A concise summary of pertinent research and literature and it’s bearing on the study, and a clear outline of the theoretical base which you will use to set parameters and direction for the dissertation.

5. A discussion of the approach to be used including the methodology and the design of the study, how data is to be collected and analyzed. (If you propose to base your dissertation on data from the fieldwork you anticipate to conduct, you should give a description of the proposed fieldwork, and state how the fieldwork relates to your dissertation and how you propose to monitor its progress).

6. A brief (and preliminary) outline of the proposed content of your dissertation, including the scope, limitations and implications.

7. A list of relevant reading already undertaken, and a list of books, articles, etc. identified as relevant but not yet consulted.

Students may consult members/ any departmental staff member to give advice and guidance while preparing a dissertation proposal. Your choice should be guided by the knowledge and experience of the staff member of the topic or subject area selected for your dissertation.

Length of outline - normally between 1,000 and 1,500 words on Size A4 double-spaced typed pages.

B. An acceptable dissertation should conform to the following requirements:

1. Length – shall not exceed 20,000 words on Size A4 double-spaced typed pages.

2. Students should submit the soft copy of the final version to the Department when no further revision is required.

C. Writing the Dissertation

1. Style
Write simply and directly. Avoid unnecessary repetition.
Be consistent in your use of tenses: use the past tense referring to the study itself.
Use an impersonal style without it becoming mechanical or stilted. Avoid colloquialism or the excessive use of professional terminology.
Writing filled with numbers may be very confusing unless the writer adheres strictly to the rules regarding their use:

(a) Numbers less than one hundred, and round numbers are usually spelled out. Numbers larger than one hundred, except round numbers, are usually given in figures. A fraction is always spelled out for example, one twelfth, unless it is part of a large number.
(b) No sentence should begin with figures.
(c) Number with four or more digits, except dates and page numbers, must have commas inserted to point off thousands from millions.
(d) Numbers indicating percentages are usually given in figures although these may be smaller than one hundred.
(e) In general no abbreviations should be used in the text though they are frequently called for in footnotes. Exceptions are titles such as Mr., Mrs., Dr.

In case of repeated reference mention the full name first and indicate the nature of abbreviations.

2. Format

The following sequence of items is required:
(a) Title-page.
(b) An abstract of the Dissertation: An abstract of one single-spaced typed page must be included in the dissertation to provide a brief description of the research objectives, the methodology and the major research findings.
(c) Acknowledgements (if desired).
(d) Table of contents.
(e) List of Tables (if any).
(f) List of Figures (if any). This may be subdivided into charts, groups, maps, illustrations, etc.

Chapter One

The first chapter should contain:
(1) A statement of the problem and its importance.
(2) Purpose of study.
(3) Perspective/theory used.
(4) Definitions of terms used.
(5) Organization of dissertation.

Chapter Two

Review of previous related studies, and investigations.
Chapter Three

Methods of procedure, data collection and analysis.

Other Chapters

Each of the subsequent chapters should have an introductory paragraph and summary conclusions at the end.

(1) One or more chapters of research findings.
(2) The last chapter should be a summary chapter of findings, discussions, or conclusions and recommendations:
   This should not be a restatement, but should be a synthesis of the materials already presented.
(3) Bibliography.
(4) Appendix or Appendices (if any).

Chapterization represents an important division of the subject investigated. The chapters are numbered with large Roman numerals for example, CHAPTER I, CHAPTER II, etc.

Each chapter must have a title, or heading, and this must tell very clearly what material is contained therein. Furthermore, these chapter headings must indicate definite and logical divisions of the problem. Each chapter must begin on a new page.

References

It follows the body of the text and is preceded by a division sheet containing the single word, REFERENCES. It must include all references which have been cited in the text.

Appendix or Appendices (if any)

If any appendix is needed it follows the bibliography and is preceded by a division sheet marked APPENDIX. Frequently an appendix offers a check upon the reliability of the data of the report, and may include also materials that cannot be reproduced in the text proper, e.g., schedules or questionnaires used.

If your dissertation has more than one appendix, number the appendices with larger Roman numerals for example, APPENDIX I, APPENDIX II, etc.

D. Reference to Sources

The standards of scholarly production require all source material to be acknowledged by the writer, not merely as a matter of common honesty but also as a validation of his own work. Never try to have references just for the sake of having them.
It is important to remember that, unless the contrary is clearly expressed, the quotation of another’s opinion or conclusion usually signifies the writer’s acceptance of the quoted opinion as also his own.

The following should be treated as general directions for various types of acknowledgements:

1. Quotations

   The excerpt can be paraphrased or quoted exactly. Both must be referenced.

   Omission may be made freely provided care is taken to preserve the exact meaning of the original passage and to indicate such omission. Three dots alternating with space (...) are employed to show the omission of any amount of matter – a word, phrase, or a clause. “Use double quotation marks to enclose quotations in text. Use single quotation marks within double quotation marks to set off material that in the original source was enclosed in double quotation marks” (APA, 2010, p. 92). For example:

   He stated that, “The ‘Placebo effect,’ … disappeared when behaviours were studied in this manner” (Smith, 1982, p.276), but he did not clarify which behaviours were studied.

   If a quotation is more than three typewritten lines in length or of 40 or more words, it should be set off from the text in a separate paragraph or paragraphs, indented four spaces, and single-spaced. For example:

   Smith (1982) found the following:

   The “placebo effect,” which had been verified in previous studies, disappeared when behaviours were studied in this manner. Furthermore, the behaviours were never exhibited again, even when real drug were administered. Earlier studies (e.g., Abdullah, 1984; Fox, 1979) were clearly premature in attributing the results to a placebo effect. (p. 276)

2. Reference Citations in Text

   Citation of an author’s work in text documents your work, briefly identifies the source for readers, and enables readers to locate the source of information in the alphabetical reference list at the end of the dissertation.

   One work by a single author
   e.g.,
   Smith (1983) compared reaction times......
   In a recent study of reaction times (Smith, 1983).......

36
One work by two or more authors  
e.g.,  
Williams, Jones, Smith, Bradner, and Torrington (1983) found [first citation]

Williams et al. (1983) found [subsequent citations]  
One work by six or more authors  
Cite only the first author followed by et al.  
e.g.,  
Takac et al. (1982).....

3. Endnotes and their use  

Endnotes have four chief purposes:  
(a) To establish the validity of evidence  
(b) To acknowledge your source material  
(c) To amplify the discussion beyond the point permissible in the text.  
(d) To provide cross-reference to various parts of the dissertation.

Each endnote must in practice be required to justify its existence.

Endnotes should be listed at the end of the chapter in which they occur. Each endnote should be numbered, and it should be single-spaced. When two or more endnotes appear at the end of any chapter, a double space should be allowed between them.

Furthermore, the number series should be consecutive throughout each chapter. For example, the following footnote refers to a statement made earlier in the chapter:

For a detailed study on the community system, see Leung (1990), Leung and Deng (1990); Ministry of Civil Affairs (1987); Yang (1988); Feng (1988).

The statements must be identified by numbered superscripts such as:

The lowest government administrative unit in the city is the street office and in the city is the street office and in the rural area, the Xiang/town government I.

Every source cited in a footnote must appear in the bibliography.

4. Reference List  

Bibliographical entries must comply with the following formatting instructions:

(a) Book: Author, Initials. (Year). Title. Place of Publication: Publisher.  
e.g.,  
e.g.,  

(c) Chapter: Author, Initials. (Year). Title of chapter. In Initials. Author (Ed.), Title of book (pp. xxx-xxx). Place of Publication: Publisher.  
e.g.,  

E. Illustrations of data

Since a table or a figure is used to aid in conveying ideas to the reader, due care should be exercised in the selection of materials to be contained therein. Unnecessary repetition in presentation of facts is to be deprecated.

A dissertation is a report of a scholarly nature, and it is to be read by people who will understand with ease those things that are simple. When a simple statement will suffice, illustrative materials need not be used.

1. Table

Any data collected for the dissertation must be presented as evidence upon which conclusions are based. If these data are of statistical nature, they must be presented for the reader’s examination in the form of tabulations. Long strings of figures placed in the body of the dissertation will inevitably defeat any effort to produce smooth writing and the reader may lose the deeper meanings to be drawn from the results reported.

The reader is interested in conclusions and most frequently is not particularly concerned with very minute details regarding findings. Thus, although complete data should be provided at some place in the dissertation for the benefit of those readers who want explicit details, the text should contain the findings or conclusions, stated in comprehensive terms, and it should not be clogged with masses of statistical minutia.

2. Figures

A figure may be a chart, diagram, drawing, graph, photograph, photostat, map, histogram, blueprint or any type of illustration. Most frequently, the total number of all these various kinds of illustration is small. In this case all of them are grouped together as one series and are called Figures. When, however, there is a large number of any one kind, it is proper to call the group by its specifics name and to call the other Figures.
3. Placement of table or illustration

Since a table is supposed to contain material that will be discussed in the text, or that is essential to a clear understanding of interpretation of what has been written, the table should be placed as near as possible to the discussion in the manuscript that relates to it.

4. Numbering

The tables should be numbered consecutively throughout the dissertation, from first to last, although some of these may appear in the appendix. The practice is to use Roman numerals in numbering tables. The number is placed one double space above the title, which is typed in capital letters.

In numbering Figures, Arabic numerals are used, even if there is more than one series. The number should be centered below the illustration, and the title should be centered one double space below the number.

5. Captions

Each table and figure in a dissertation must have a title which will tell in a direct and concise manner just what material is contained therein. This caption should be placed above a table but below any other kind of illustration.

6. Omitted Items

When an item must be omitted from its normal place in a table, the omission should be indicated by dashes or dots. A zero should not be placed in such a place unless the value that is supposed to appear at that point is actually zero. If the author wishes to show why the item is missing, he may insert a parenthesized superscript, and in a footnote at the bottom of the table give the necessary explanation.

F. Typing

Pages of the dissertation should be numbered, and double-spacing should be retained throughout except in quotations which are centered in the page, or in the footnotes.

New paragraphs begin with a line indented seven spaces from the left-hand margin. For long, single-spaced quotations, a new margin with a four space indentation is established between the regular left-hand margin of the text and the line of indentation.

Note: For further information, please check

- http://apastyle.apa.org/
VIII. Policies on Learning

A. Attendance and Absence
Students should explain to the course teachers and programme secretary concerned in advance and in writing, regarding absences from lectures/ tutorials/seminars/workshops. If possible, prior notice should be given for reasonable absences. In case of illness, a medical certificate is required. Absences which are unexplained or unsatisfactorily explained will result in a deduction of marks. **A minimum of 75% attendance rate at seminars is also required.** A student who cannot meet these requirements without acceptable reasons may be deemed to have performed unsatisfactorily in which case **G11 of the Postgraduate Degree Regulations may apply:**

**G11. A student whose performance at examinations or in coursework or in such class tests as may be held from time to time is unsatisfactory, or in the case of a higher degree student whose progress is unsatisfactory, may be required by the Senate (a) to discontinue his studies, or (b) to repeat any part of his course before being admitted to examinations or before being allowed to present his thesis or dissertation, or (c) to represent himself for examination without repeating any part of his course.**

B. Grading Systems
Students will receive the following grades instead of marks for their assignment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Grade Point</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 1: Grade Descriptors for Group Presentation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A+/A/A-</strong></td>
<td><strong>B+/B/B-</strong></td>
<td><strong>C+/C/C-</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear &amp; logical structure &amp; rich content showing good exploration of the topic</td>
<td>Clear structure &amp; content showing good understanding of the topic</td>
<td>Clear structure &amp; relevant content showing basic understanding of the topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative in exploration method</td>
<td>A number of exploration methods adopted</td>
<td>Exploration achieved but methods could be enriched</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good facilitation of student participation</td>
<td>Clear facilitation of student participation</td>
<td>Some participation invited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good time management to allow adequate presentation &amp; student participation</td>
<td>Reasonable time management in presenting own ideas with possible areas for improvement</td>
<td>Use of time need some improvement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2: Grade Descriptors for Individual Paper and Essay</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A+/A/A-</strong></td>
<td><strong>B+/B/B-</strong></td>
<td><strong>C+/C/C-</strong></td>
<td><strong>D+/D</strong></td>
<td><strong>F</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rich and relevant knowledge coverage, showing good mastery of the topic</td>
<td>Adequate knowledge coverage showing good understanding</td>
<td>Limited knowledge coverage showing basic understanding</td>
<td>Very limited coverage of relevant literature showing some understanding</td>
<td>No mention of any relevant literature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logical and rich analysis of different viewpoints</td>
<td>Clear &amp; valid analysis of viewpoints</td>
<td>Limited but valid analysis of viewpoints</td>
<td>Descriptive listing of ideas, not analytical</td>
<td>Ungrounded comments &amp; analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systematic presentation of ideas allowing easy reading</td>
<td>Generally clear organization of ideas in the paper</td>
<td>A little jumpy in the certain part of the paper</td>
<td>Loose organization of arguments</td>
<td>Poor organization of arguments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proper referencing and fluent English</td>
<td>Proper referencing &amp; slight errors in English</td>
<td>Showing minor problems in referencing and language use</td>
<td>Showing some problems in referencing and language use</td>
<td>Lack referencing and poor language use</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 3: Grade Descriptors for Quizzes</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A+/A/A-</strong></td>
<td><strong>B+/B/B-</strong></td>
<td><strong>C+/C/C-</strong></td>
<td><strong>D+/D</strong></td>
<td><strong>F</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Able to apply and integrate theories and own insight to fully address the question in a logical manner.</td>
<td>Able to integrate theories to fully address the question.</td>
<td>Able to apply just sufficient learned materials to address the questions.</td>
<td>Able to apply little learned materials to address the questions.</td>
<td>Unable to show learning in answering the questions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 4: Grade Descriptors for In-class Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>A+ / A / A-</th>
<th>B+ / B / B-</th>
<th>C+ / C / C-</th>
<th>D+ / D</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extremely active in participation in class exercises, well prepared for discussion and attended at least 90% of classes</td>
<td>Quite active in participation in class exercises, partially prepared for discussion and attended at least 80% of classes</td>
<td>Limited active in participation in class exercises, not well prepared for discussion and attended at least 70% of classes</td>
<td>Poor participation in class exercises, poorly prepared for discussion and attended at least 50% of classes</td>
<td>No participation in class exercises, never prepared for discussion and attended at least 40% of classes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5: Grade Descriptors for Dissertation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>A+ / A / A-</th>
<th>B+ / B / B-</th>
<th>C+ / C / C-</th>
<th>D+ / D</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identification of research area and formulation of research question</td>
<td>Introduction identifies an important research area and formulates a well-defined research question</td>
<td>Introduction identifies a research area and formulates a well-defined research question</td>
<td>Introduction either identifies a research area or formulates a research question, but limited contextualisation</td>
<td>Weak introduction that fails to justify the research area or identify a clearly-defined question</td>
<td>Very weak introduction, which fails to justify the research area or identify a research question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy for addressing question</td>
<td>Develops well-defined research strategy</td>
<td>Identifies clear strategy for addressing question</td>
<td>Identifies research strategy</td>
<td>Research strategy is poorly-identified</td>
<td>Little evidence of a coherent research strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research methodology</td>
<td>Provides clear statement of methods used to obtain data, and shows a good understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of chosen methodology</td>
<td>Identifies methods used to obtain data, and makes some attempt to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses</td>
<td>Identifies methods used to obtain data, but may apply these uncritically</td>
<td>Little attempt to explain methods used to obtain data, with little discussion of their strengths or weaknesses</td>
<td>Little or no attempt to explain methods used to obtain data, and little or no attempt to evaluate them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge and understanding of relevant literature</td>
<td>Shows good knowledge and understanding of relevant recent literature</td>
<td>Shows knowledge and understanding of relevant literature</td>
<td>Demonstrates some knowledge and understanding of relevant literature</td>
<td>Limited knowledge or understanding of relevant literature</td>
<td>Very limited knowledge or understanding of relevant literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of data</td>
<td>Demonstrates ability to obtain relevant data from appropriate sources; shows competence in way data are used, and awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of the data</td>
<td>Obtains relevant data from appropriate sources, shows some competence in using the data and makes some attempt to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses</td>
<td>Derives some data from sources, but the data obtained may be limited; comparatively little attempt is made to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the data</td>
<td>Only derives a limited amount of data, with little attempt to justify the sources or to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses</td>
<td>Derives very little relevant data; little or no attempt to justify sources or evaluate their quality</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 5: Grade Descriptors for Dissertation (Continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>A+ / A / A-</th>
<th>B+ / B / B-</th>
<th>C+ / C / C-</th>
<th>D+ / D</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interpretation of results</td>
<td>Clear and competent interpretation of the evidence presented, with an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the methods used to obtain and analyse data</td>
<td>Makes a reasonable attempt to analyse and interpret the results of analysis, shows some awareness of the limitations of the methodology</td>
<td>Makes some attempt to analyse the results, but with some lack of awareness of the limitations of the methodology</td>
<td>Limited analysis of the results and of the weaknesses of the methodology</td>
<td>Very limited analysis of such results as have been obtained with no awareness of the limitations of the analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of material</td>
<td>Presents material in a clear and logical manner; with a full reference list; all sources are properly referenced</td>
<td>Material is generally well-organised and clearly-presented. Includes a full bibliography with appropriate referencing</td>
<td>Material is not always clearly-presented or well-organised. Some items may be lacking from the bibliography, and references may not always be cited appropriately</td>
<td>Material may be poorly-presented and badly-organised. The bibliography may be limited or incomplete and references not cited appropriately</td>
<td>Material is poorly-presented and badly-organised. The bibliography is limited or incomplete, and references not cited appropriately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of findings</td>
<td>Clear and accessible presentation of findings</td>
<td>Findings are generally clear and accessible</td>
<td>Findings may not always be presented in a clear or accessible manner</td>
<td>Findings may be poorly-presented and difficult to understand</td>
<td>Findings are poorly-presented and difficult to understand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of argument and clarity of conclusions</td>
<td>Clear and logical argument, leading to appropriate and relevant conclusions. A first-class dissertation may also show an awareness of ways in which the topic or investigation may be extended further</td>
<td>Clear and logical argument, leading to appropriate and relevant conclusions</td>
<td>Argument may not always be clearly and logically presented; conclusions may not always be supported by evidence on which they are supposed to be based</td>
<td>Argument may be difficult to identify or follow</td>
<td>Failure to develop a clear argument</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Distinction list
Distinctions are proposed to be awarded to students who achieved a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.6 or above without any failed courses, and attained the grade of A- at least in the capstone experience course(s) (e.g., fieldwork practicum, dissertation). The Chief Examiner has the final decision on recommendation for conferment of the degree with a mark of distinction.

D. Submission of Assignments
For most of the courses (subject to the course teachers), students are expected to submit their assignments via Turnitin @ Moodle learning management system (LCS). Moodle learning management system (LCS) is to deliver online teaching and learning activities.
support for University users. Moodle courses will be automatically created for all academic courses that have been defined in the Student Information System (SIS). Teachers’ and students’ enrolments for the corresponding Moodle courses will also be automatically handled. Students are required to make regular access on the Moodle to receive course materials and class announcement sent by course teachers. Turnitin will detect any plagiarized materials. More information and training can be obtained in the Turnitin website: http://lib.hku.hk/turnitin.

For some courses, teacher may require students to submit the hard copies of their assignments. Please follow the instructions according to the respective course outlines.

E. Penalty of Late Submission
Regarding the **submissions after the original deadline, 10% of mark per working day will be deducted, for up to seven working days.** No marks will be given for assignments that are handed in one week after the original deadline, but the teachers will provide feedback on the paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Late for</th>
<th>% of marks to be deducted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 days</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 days</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 days</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 days</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 7 days</td>
<td>No marks will be given</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

F. Penalty on Late Submission of Re-assessment of Failed Paper
If a student fails a particular paper, and if re-assessment is allowed by means of a resubmission of assignment, the student must submit the assignment for re-assessment on or before the due date. No mark will be given to late paper unless prior approval is sought from the teacher of the course.

G. Academic Conducts
The University Regulations on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced! Please check the University Statement on plagiarism on the web: http://www.hku.hk/plagiarism/.
Academic dishonesty is behavior in which a deliberately fraudulent mis-representation is employed in an attempt to gain undeserved intellectual credit, either for oneself or for another. It includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following types of cases:

1. Plagiarism
   (a) According to the HKU policy http://www.hku.hk/plagiarism/, “Plagiarism is defined as the unacknowledged use, as one's own, of work of another person, whether or not such work has been published."

   (b) The representation of someone else's ideas as if they are one's own. Where the arguments, data, designs, etc., of someone else are being used in a paper, report,
oral presentation, or similar academic project, this fact must be made explicitly clear by citing the appropriate references. The references must fully indicate the extent to which any parts of the project are not one’s own work. Paraphrasing of someone else’s ideas is still using someone else’s ideas and must be acknowledged.

(c) The following also constitute plagiarism: (i) copying past papers of seniors or classmates without proper referencing, (ii) submission of assignments with similar content by the same student to different courses can also be considered as self-plagiarism.

(d) Plagiarism is a serious offence in the academic world. This University takes plagiarism seriously. Academically, it is almost certain that the plagiarized work will receive a fail grade (and most likely a zero mark). There may also be disciplinary action against the student who commits the offence of plagiarism. A warning letter will be issued in case of minor plagiarism. In the more serious cases, the students concerned will be referred to the Vice-Chancellor for referral to the University Disciplinary Committee for disciplinary action (extracted from HKU website http://www.hku.hk/plagiarism/).

2. Unauthorized Collaboration on Out-of-Class Projects
The representation of work as solely one's own when in fact it is the result of a joint effort. Where a candidate for a degree or other award uses the work of another person or persons without due acknowledgement.

(a) Dishonesty in collaborative work
Where a candidate for a degree or other award represents his/her work as solely one's own when in fact it is the result of a joint effort of a group of persons constitutes dishonesty and will thus be penalised.

(b) Completing assignments for others
The department does treasure mutual support among students. Yet, it does not mean a student can complete assignment for another classmate. Even the act is of good intention, both students will be penalised for such act.

3. Penalty
(a) The relevant Board of Examiners may impose a penalty in relation to the seriousness of the offence.

(b) The relevant Board of Examiners may report the candidate to the Senate, where there is prima facie evidence of an intention to deceive and where sanctions beyond those in (a) might be invoked.

H. Important note to students sitting tests/quizzes
Students are reminded that “unless the tests/quizzes are allowed to open book or to use electronic materials or to conduct via online, all electronic devices MUST be switched off and put under the chair/on your desk throughout the tests/quizzes in a position visible to the invigilators. Make sure that you do not have any printed/written matter, mobile
phone, or any other electronic/communication/sound-making devices in your pocket or on your body throughout the tests/quizzes. Unless you have obtained the prior permission of an examiner or invigilator, you are not allowed to access the content of your bag at any time during the examination/quizzes. Students do not comply with the above-mentioned instructions may be disqualified.

I. **All mobile phones or any mobile devices must be switched off or turn on silent mode** during lectures, tutorials, seminars, or workshops.
IX. Tips for Studying at the Postgraduate Level

A. Time management: Using time efficiently and effectively in the engagement of different academic and social activities is a big challenge for part-time students like yourself. Try to stick to a planned schedule for studying and completing assignments. Do not procrastinate.

B. Find a quiet and stable environment to study: Assign certain timeslots in the week for studying. The place has to be quiet and provide an environment for you to study. The Library is such a place.

C. Writing academic papers: Students must conform to a consistent style in writing academic papers. An academic paper requires the integration of concepts and theories, and most preferably with an independent and critical view expressed on the topic under examination. Students must also conform to a particular referencing style such as that of the APA format.
X. **Student-Staff Consultation**

Communication, formal and informal, between students and teachers is important for facilitating mutual understanding and nourishing mutual trust. In order to promote frank exchange and open communication between students and teachers, a student-staff consultative meeting is arranged at least once every semester, as an open forum for sharing between students and teachers on various issues relating to students’ learning. Students are encouraged to bring up their concerns in the meetings, while teachers can also share their views on related issues. These meetings are formally arranged. Informal exchanges between students and teachers are also much encouraged.
XI. Typhoon and Black Rainstorm Warnings

When Tropical Storm Warning Signal No. 8 (or above) or the Black Rainstorm Warning Signal is hoisted, the following arrangements will apply:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For Classes and Examinations NOT Yet Started</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If either of the warnings is hoisted or in force <em>at or after 6:00am</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If either of the warnings is hoisted or in force <em>at or after 11:00am</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If either of the warnings is hoisted or in force <em>at or after 3:00pm</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For Classes and Examinations Already Started</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When Tropical Storm Warning Signal No. 8 or above is hoisted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When Black Rainstorm Warning Signal is hoisted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Examinations Unit will re-schedule postponed examinations *to a later date* and inform the candidates of the details as soon as possible.

When Tropical Storm Warning Signal No. 3 or Red Rainstorm Warning Signal is in force, it should be assumed that all classes and examinations will be held as scheduled unless an announcement to the contrary has been made by the University.
XII. Useful Resources

Department of Social Work and Social Administration
http://socialwork.hku.hk/

Faculty of Social Sciences
http://www.socsc.hku.hk/

JULAC Card: Borrow books from other UGC-funded libraries
https://lib.hku.hk/cdd/ils-jla.html

Access to past examination papers
http://sunzi1.lib.hku.hk/exambase/index.jsp

Teaching and learning
http://tl.hku.hk/

Moodle user guide for student
http://moodle-support.hku.hk/student/moodle_user_guides

HKU E-learning Resource Hub
https://elearning-resource.hku.hk/

Copyright in teaching & learning @ HKU
http://lib.hku.hk/copyright/

Parking facilities
https://www.estates.hku.hk/our-services/facility-management/parking

Campus map
http://www.maps.hku.hk
A. **Academic Resources**

1. **Libraries**

   Students are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the library facilities as early as possible in their course of study, as the appropriate use of library facilities is essential for learning. A library orientation programme will be organized for new students during the orientation period of each academic year.

   Website: http://lib.hku.hk/
   Tel: 3917 2203

2. **Computer Centre**

   As a student of this university, you will have access to the Computer Centre. You can open a university e-mail account and have your home computer linked up with the university system. Thus, you can access the university library from home.

   Website: http://www.its.hku.hk/
   Tel: 3917 0123
   Email: ithelp@hku.hk

   The Computer Centre is located in the Chi Wah Learning Commons, Knowles Building and K.K. Leung Building. It operates a wide variety of computers and provides a wide range of information technology (IT) support services, including the central computers, personal computers and Internet/Intranet services.

   Website: [http://www.les.hku.hk/teaching-learning/learning-space](http://www.les.hku.hk/teaching-learning/learning-space)
   Tel: 3917 8888 (Service Counter 1, 1/F, Chi Wah Learning Commons)
   Tel: 3917 5122 (Room 204, K. K. Leung Building)
   Email: askles@hku.hk

B. **University Student Services**

1. **Counselling & Personal Enrichment**

   CEDARS – Counselling & Personal Enrichment Unit is located on the third floor of Meng Wah Complex and first & third floor of Main Building. It seeks to facilitate students in their personal development and help them to overcome psychological and learning difficulties. Activities, services, consultation and guidance are provided on matters including

   ✷ Campus Life (Tel: 2859 2305)
   ✷ Careers & Placement (Tel: 2859 2317)
2. **Institute of Human Performance**

The Institute is responsible for promoting health and physical fitness among students. There are three sports centres managed by the Institute, namely, Flora Ho Sports Centre, Lindsay Ride Sports Centre and Stanley Ho Sports Centre. These centres are equipped with different facilities such as out-door swimming pools, sports halls, multi-purpose rooms and specific areas for sports, fitness and weight training rooms, athletics stadium with a synthetic running track, floodlit artificial turf pitch, golf driving bays, softball diamond, and tennis courts, etc. Regular physical education, sport and wellness programmes are provided to students.

Website: [http://www.hku.hk/ihp/](http://www.hku.hk/ihp/)

- Flora Ho Sports Centre (FHSC)
  Tel: 2817 4046

- Stanley Ho Sports Centre (SHSC)
  Tel: 2819 5450

- HKU B-Active
  Tel: 3910 2612

- Active Health Clinic (AHC)
  Tel: 3910 2612

- CSE Active
  Tel: 3917 7852

3. **University Health Service**

The University Health Service (UHS) located on the 2nd & 4th Floors of Meng Wah Complex provides primary medical and dental care for students. As a student of this university, you are entitled to the medical services on campus.

Website: [http://www.hku.hk/uhs/](http://www.hku.hk/uhs/)

Tel: 2549 4686 (Medical appointment)
    2859 2511/ 2859 2512 (Dental appointment)
4. **Protection against Sexual Harassment**

As an equal opportunity employer and institution, the University has zero tolerance towards sexual discrimination and sexual harassment. In order to protect students from being sexually harassed, each department has an officer responsible to handle related issues. Dr Paul Wong and Dr Petula Ho are the Equal Opportunity Advisors in our department responsible for managing sexual harassment and related issues. Students are encouraged to approach them for any issues related to sexual harassment.

Email: paulw@hku.hk (Dr Paul Wong)
Tel: 3917 5029
Email: shuanglu@hku.hk (Dr Bella Lu)
Tel: 3917 2080

5. **Catering outlets**

Restaurants, café and kiosks are located throughout the Main Campus and Centennial Campus. Further details of locations and operating hours could be found with the hyperlink as below:


6. **Study Room inside Chi Wah Learning Commons**

There are 25 Study Rooms at the Learning Commons, with 11 rooms on Level 1 (CPD-1) and 14 rooms on Level 2 (CPD-2) of Centennial Campus for self-study or group project discussion. Display panels are available in some of the Study Rooms for notebook projection.

All current HKU students (for group of 3 persons or more) are eligible to book these study rooms. The maximum session one student can reserve per day is 4 sessions (30 minutes per session). Students are able to reserve the study room via the link with HKU portal as below.

Website: http://booking.its.hku.hk/lebook/book/Web/schedule.php
XIV. Information and Enquiries

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