Michigan State University School of Social Work offers a rigorous professional development competency series for master’s-level social work practitioners interested in advancing their knowledge in social work intervention in educational settings, assessment, and integration of psychological and educational testing and intervention with children with special needs in educational settings.

The School Social Work Competency Series in the School of Social Work at Michigan State University is an ONLINE PROGRAM designed to meet specific educational requirements set forth by the State of Michigan Department of Education. To learn about school social work eligibility requirements to become a school social worker in Michigan, please visit www.socialwork.msu.edu/ceu. If you live outside of Michigan, we encourage you to contact the Department of Education in the state you wish to practice to learn about the competencies and requirements set forth by that state.

Unless otherwise stated, School Social Work Competency Courses are worth 36 ONLINE Social Work Continuing Education Hours and are $500; this price does not include course texts also required for the course. To see full descriptions and objectives, visit: https://www.socialwork.msu.edu/ceu/competency_series.php

Social Work in Educational Settings

SW 873 ● 3 semester credits; 36 CECHs
[Register by August 27, 2012]

Description: The course considers social work practice in the “host” setting of schools. It examines the challenges and opportunities of social work practice in educational settings by addressing the roles and functions of social workers within a complex ecological system of home/school/community. Topics are addressed from a multi-system, multi-modal approach to practice. Implications for social work practice involving prevention and intervention with a variety of client systems are examined.

Learning Objectives: As a result of this course you will be prepared to:

- Describe the evolution of social work service in educational settings and identify contextual variables influencing school social work roles and functions (e.g., political, legal, ethical, and value-based issues that confront schools and school social workers in this host setting).
- Analyze school systems using an ecological, multi-systems theoretical perspective including formal and informal dynamics, structures, procedures, and policies.
- Identify the impact social problems have on student performance in educational settings as well as illustrate how various social work methods are applied to alleviate these problems (macro and micro methods).
- Illustrate ways in which school social work enhances the educational opportunities and school performance of vulnerable and potentially oppressed populations.
- Describe current legislation, court decisions, and laws relevant to advocating for the rights of students, parents, and educators.
- Integrate professional school social work knowledge in order to develop evidence-based, measurable social work goals, programs, and services in educational settings.
- Review and evaluate school social work services and programs, and identify areas of continued need for intervention and research.
- Practice utilizing computer-based technologies such as the Internet to research, collaborate professionally, and advocate for effective programs and services in schools.

CE faculty: Stephene Diepstra, PhD, LMSW, received her master’s degree in social work from University of Michigan and her PhD in social work from Michigan State University. Stephene is a practicing school social worker and has experience teaching college-level social work courses.
School Social Work Continuing Professional Development Seminar (Refresher Course)

15 CECHs • Course fee: $165

This is a self-paced online course. Register and take the course at any time.

Description: This course keeps participants abreast of current knowledge in the field of school social work. The course provides a review and update of specific topics having to do with school policy and law issues, homeschool-community assessment and intervention strategies, and differential diagnosis and treatment of selected child and family based special needs.

Learning Objectives: As a result of this course you will be prepared to:
- Identify the recent evolution of educational policy and legal developments pertaining to social work practice in school settings.
- Explain how assessment and intervention in schools may be linked to form comprehensive problem-solving processes using a tiered approach spanning school-wide, group, and individual methodologies.
- Evaluate recent research findings for specific school social work interventions addressing social, emotional, and behavioral difficulties exhibited by various youth in schools.

CE Faculty: Kimberly Battjes, LMSW, has been a social worker for over 20 years mainly working with children and families. She has been a school social worker for 13 years. She currently serves as the MSU school social work consultant and interuniversity representative for the MSU School of Social Work non-credit School Social Work Competency Series.

Registration information for School Social Work Competency Series ONLY

Since these courses may also be offered for University credit (at the current rate of tuition), the registration process differs from in-person and other ONLINE programs. Follow these steps:

To register by phone for this course only, contact the MSU Libraries, Computing, and Technology Training Program: Toll free: 1-800-500-1554 (North America and Hawaii); local: (517) 355-2345.

To register online:
2. Click Create account in the upper righthand corner.
3. Using Option 1, enter your e-mail address.
4. Enter your information on the next two screens.
5. You will see a box saying that a MSU Community ID has been created for you and an e-mail has been sent to the e-mail address that you entered in Option 1. You may use the information to register for future classes. You are now logged in and may register by clicking Home in the lefthand corner.
6. Click on Children, Youth & Families under the header Catalog name.
7. Once you are looking at your shopping cart, click Check out on the bottom left.
8. Select the desired course from list and click Add to shopping cart on the bottom left hand corner.
9. The next screen will confirm your order and take you to a check out screen where you will be asked to enter your credit card information for payment.

Upon registration, the instructor will contact you via e-mail with directions for the course on or before the course start date.

For additional info on how to register, contact:
MSU Virtual University (517) 355-2345.

More of what you need to know...

- To take this course, you must meet technology requirements at http://www.vu.msu.edu/site/equip_req.php.
- To obtain social work continuing education credit, participants must do the following:
  1. Complete and pass all tests administered throughout the course, following the instructions provided.
  2. Submit an Attendance Record form and evaluation provided at the end of the course.
- Students who take the course for continuing education or for school social work approval and pass will receive a letter verifying their successful completion of each course. To receive credit on a University transcript, students MUST take this for University credit at a different rate; contact Joan Reid at reidj@msu.edu or (517) 355–7519.
- The title “School Social Worker” is a regulated title in at least 32 states, with varying requirements. Some states have accepted completion of one or more of the courses offered in the Competency Series in School Social Work at Michigan State University to meet some of these requirements. Many states regulate this title through their state Department of Education.
- In the State of Michigan, the Social Work Licensure law allows for a maximum of 10 hours of online continuing education per renewal period.
- Fees for this course do not include textbooks or additional materials you may have to purchase.
- Information regarding the application for temporary approval for school social work can be found at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/TASocialWorker_65837_7.pdf or by calling the Michigan Department of Education at (517) 373-0923.