

ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY

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Department of Social Work and Sociology



# **Doctor of Social Work (D.S.W.) in Clinical Social Work Program Handbook 2024-2025**

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIOLOGY

# Doctor of Social Work (D.S.W.) in Clinical Social Work Program Handbook

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## Introduction

**T**he *Doctor of Social Work (D.S.W.) in Clinical Social Work Program Handbook* (noted as the *Handbook* henceforth) is produced by the Department of Social Work and Sociology for the D.S.W. degree program and is updated yearly. The *Handbook* is compiled by the D.S.W. Director in consultation with the social work faculty, representatives from the Community Advisory Group, and representatives from the Student Social Work Association at Angelo State University (ASU). The *Handbook* serves to inform current and prospective D.S.W. students about the nature of the policies, regulations, procedures, and fees. Policies, regulations, procedures, and fees in the *Handbook* are subject to change without prior notice, if necessary, to keep the program in compliance with:

- The current *Angelo State University Graduate Catalog*;
- The rules and regulations of the Texas Tech University System Board of Regents;
- Applicable laws of the state of Texas; and
- The educational objectives of Angelo State University, the Archer College of Health and Human Services, the Department of Social Work and Sociology, and the D.S.W. program.

The program reserves the right to change curricula, rules, fees, admission prerequisites, and other requirements without notice. The provisions of this *Handbook* do not constitute a contract, express or implied, between any applicant, student, faculty member, or any other person, and Angelo State University.

## Student Responsibility

Each student is responsible for knowing program-specific guidelines contained within the *Handbook* and the academic regulations in the *Graduate Catalog*. Lack of familiarity with these regulations does not and will not constitute a valid reason for failure of their fulfillment. Such responsibilities include, but are not limited to academic honesty, professional integrity, and student eligibility for course registration. All questions about program-specific guidelines, academic regulations,

or student responsibilities while enrolled in the D.S.W. program should be directed to the D.S.W. Program Director.

## **Statement on Equal Educational Opportunity**

Angelo State University is open to all persons eligible for admission as students regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, mental or physical disability, or Vietnam Era or Special Disabled Veteran status. All students admitted to the university are treated without discrimination in regard to their participation in university educational programs or activities. The university is an equal opportunity employer and no applicant or employee will be discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, mental or physical disability, or Vietnam Era or Special Disabled Veteran status in regard to employment in the institution. The university does not discriminate on the basis of sex or disability in its educational programs. Any student with inquiries should contact the Office of Student Affairs (located on campus in the Harte Houston University Center, room 112, and accessible by phone at (325) 942-2047 or email at [studentaffairs@angelo.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@angelo.edu)).

## **Notice of Nondiscrimination**

Angelo State University does not tolerate discrimination or harassment based on or related to sex, national origin, religion, age, disability, protected veteran status, genetic information, or other protected characteristics. For ASU's full statement, visit [angelo.edu/non-discrimination](http://angelo.edu/non-discrimination).

## **Statement of Accreditation and Membership**

Angelo State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate, baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral degrees. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges may be contacted\* at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or by calling (404) 679-4500.

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\* The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges should be contacted only if there is evidence that appears to support the university's significant non-compliance with a requirement or standard. Normal inquiries about Angelo State University, such as accreditation status, admission requirements, financial aid, educational programs, etc., should be addressed directly to the Department of Social Work and Sociology or Angelo State University, respectively.

The D.S.W. in Clinical Social Work program is a member of the Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work (GADE). GADE may be contacted at 712 H Street NE, Suite 2115, Washington, DC 20002 or by email at [info@gadesocialwork.org](mailto:info@gadesocialwork.org).



## The University and the Department

**S**an Angelo is the community center for approximately 100,000 people located in West Texas between the Permian Basin to the northwest, Chihuahuan Desert to the southwest, Osage Plains to the northeast, and the Hill Country of Central Texas to the southeast. San Angelo has a rich history, a vibrant arts community, and many opportunities for outdoor entertainment.

Major highways connecting to San Angelo include U.S. Highways 67, 87, and 277. San Angelo is located between U.S. Interstate Highways 10 and 20. Interstate 10 is 64 miles south of San Angelo and approximately 80 miles to Interstate 20. For additional information about San Angelo and the community, please visit the San Angelo Visitor Center website: <https://www.discoverсанangelo.com/business/san-angelo-visitor-center->.



*San Angelo Visitor Center located at 418 West Avenue B in downtown San Angelo*



## The University

Angelo State University has been ranked by The Princeton Review as one of the nation's "Best Colleges" every year since 2010 and offers over 100 majors and concentrations through its six colleges: Archer College of Health and Human Services, College of Arts and Humanities, College of Education, College of Graduate Studies and Research, College of Science and Engineering, and Norris-Vincent College of Business.



The following are some "fast facts" about the university as of 2022:

**Founded:** 1928

**President:** Lt. Gen (ret.) Ronnie D. Hawkins, Jr., U.S. Air Force

**Affiliation:** Texas Tech University System

**School Colors:** Blue and Gold

**Mascot:** Dominic, the Rambouillet Ram

**Motto:** "Fiat Lux," which is Latin for "Let there be light"

**Location:** San Angelo, a community of approximately 100,000

**Students:** 11,250

**Programs:** Over 100 undergraduate majors and concentrations and over 30 graduate programs at the master's and doctoral levels

**Faculty:** 441

**Student-to-Faculty Ratio:** 21:1

**Financial Aid:** Nine out of ten students receive financial aid through grants, loans, work study positions and over 400 available scholarships

**Student Organizations:** More than 100

**Athletics:** Lone Star Conference member; 15 NCAA Division II athletic teams

## **The Department of Social Work and Sociology**

The Department of Social Work and Sociology offers undergraduate and graduate courses and degrees in social work and sociology taught by highly-qualified, experienced faculty. The undergraduate and graduate degree programs prepare students for a broad spectrum of careers in the public and private sectors that benefit from an understanding of people, culture, and society. Social work is a profession which assists clients in improving social, psychosocial, or biopsychosocial functioning and is classified as a health care profession. Sociology is a social science that focuses on the study of social behavior and society.

Courses emphasize contemporary theories, research, and the useful application of knowledge to current problems experienced by people individually and collectively. The curriculum is delivered in a variety of formats, including on-campus or online classes.

Students have opportunities to participate in honor societies, field education, and cutting-edge research on interesting and challenging topics. The learning environment is friendly, supportive, and individualized to facilitate each student's progress toward fulfilling personal aspirations and goals. Specialized training is available to meet student interests.

## **The Department Mission Statement**

The mission of the Department of Social Work and Sociology is to provide professional social work and social science education to a diverse student body for a global society.

## **Degrees Offered**

The Department offers the following degrees and minors:

Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.)

Bachelor of Science in Sociology (B.S.)

Medical Sociology

Criminology, Delinquency, and Deviant Behavior

Master of Social Work (M.S.W.)

Advanced Generalist Practice

Clinical Social Work

Doctor of Social Work (D.S.W.)

Clinical Social Work

Undergraduate minors are offered in social work and sociology.

## The D.S.W. Program in Clinical Social Work

**T**he Doctor of Social Work (D.S.W.) in Clinical Social Work degree program at ASU prepares graduates for advanced clinical practice; as well as for work in higher education and for leadership opportunities in health and human services. The Program employs the practitioner-scholar model designed to train D.S.W. graduates for advanced clinical practice. D.S.W. graduates will be able to apply scholarly knowledge in clinical practice across a variety of practice settings and with diverse populations. Further, graduates are prepared to teach social work in higher education (e.g., in B.S.W. and M.S.W. programs), and to take administrative/leadership positions in health and human services. The student learning outcomes of the D.S.W. in Clinical Social Work program at Angelo State University are:

1. Engage in systematic inquiry that reflects doctoral level scholarship;
2. Use and critically evaluate research and knowledge;
3. Develop and disseminate practice-relevant, research-informed, knowledge through a variety of channels, such as administration, consultation, scholarly activity, supervision, and teaching;
4. Demonstrate leadership in social work practice and/or education; and
5. Develop and maintain substantive expertise in clinical social work.

### Clinical Social Work Defined

Clinical social work is defined, in Texas, as a specialty within the practice of social work that requires applying social work theory, knowledge, methods, ethics, and the professional use of self to restore or enhance social, psychosocial, or biopsychosocial functioning of individuals, couples, families, groups, and/or persons who are adversely affected by social or psychosocial stress or health impairment. Clinical social work practice involves using specialized clinical knowledge and advanced clinical skills to assess, diagnose, and treat mental, emotional, and

behavioral disorders, conditions and addictions, including severe mental illness and serious emotional disturbances in adults, adolescents and children. Treatment methods may include, but are not limited to, providing individual, marital, couple, family, and group psychotherapy. Clinical social workers are qualified and authorized to use the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes, and other diagnostic classification systems in assessment, diagnosis, and other practice activities (Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council and Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners, November 20, 2023, p. 81).

Texas state statute indicates, the practice of clinical social work may include the provision of individual, conjoint, family, and group psychotherapy using the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, the International Classification of Diseases, and other diagnostic classification systems in assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and other activities by a person licensed under this chapter (added by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 892, Sec. 3, eff. Sept. 1, 2003.; Social Work Practice Act, Texas Occupations Code, Title 3. Health Professions, Subtitle I. Regulation of Psychology and Counseling, Chapter 505: Social Workers).

Assessment is defined as an ongoing process of gathering information about and reaching an understanding of the client or client group's characteristics, perceived concerns and real problems, strengths and weaknesses, and opportunities and constraints; assessment may involve administering, scoring and interpreting instruments designed to measure factors about the client or client group (Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council and Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners, November 20, 2023, p. 80).

Clinical counseling is defined as the use of clinical social work to assist individuals, couples, families or groups in learning to solve problems and make decisions about personal, health, social, educational, vocational, financial, and other interpersonal concerns (Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council and Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners, November 20, 2023, p. 82).

Consultation is defined as providing advice, opinions and conferring with other professionals regarding social work practice (Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council and Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners, November 20, 2023, p. 82).

Psychotherapy is defined as treatment in which a qualified social worker uses a specialized, formal interaction with an individual, couple, family, or group by establishing and maintaining a therapeutic relationship to understand and intervene in intrapersonal, interpersonal and psychosocial dynamics; and to

diagnose and treat mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders and addictions (Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council and Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners, November 20, 2023, p. 85).

## **The Nature of Doctoral Education**

The D.S.W. Program at ASU is designed to support the mission, vision, and values of ASU, and reflect the nature of the social work profession as a whole. The specific values of the D.S.W. Program at ASU are Competence, Community, Excellence, Integrity, and Scientific Inquiry.

Doctoral level education in social work at ASU is built upon an earned M.S.W., practice experience, and assumes that doctoral students are prepared for the rigor of the Program. Doctoral level education has a much higher level of expectation, well beyond what is required in a M.S.W. degree. Commitment and perseverance are required for student success. Consequently, doctoral students need to be prepared to meet the rigor of the Clinical Program and the academic challenges that it offers. Beyond the successful completion of academic course work, students are required to successfully complete a practicum in higher education; an internship in clinical practice, administration and leadership, or in higher education; successfully pass written and oral qualifying examinations on campus; and successfully complete a capstone project. A dissertation is not required. The Program requires 2.4 years of full-time study or 4.4 years of part-time study; the D.S.W. may be completed fully face-to-face at ASU, or fully online if the student lives out of the local area (except the written qualifying examination and final capstone defense which must be completed on campus).

## **Admission Requirements**

The D.S.W. in Clinical Social Work program will admit students once a year, for the fall semester; however, prospective students may apply year around. The application deadline for applicants is February 15 for the following academic year starting in the fall semester. Applicants after that deadline may still be admitted for the following academic year if there are available openings in the Program; the Program will accept approximately 10 full-time students per year. While full-time and part-time students are eligible to apply to the Program, priority is given to full-time applicants. The admission requirements for the D.S.W. program at ASU are as follows:

- Completed application to *ApplyTexas* (<https://goapplytexas.org/>);
  - Admission to ASU College of Graduate Studies and Research;<sup>1</sup> and
  - Completed application to the D.S.W. program (via *Salesforce*, the department's student management portal).
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- M.S.W. from a CSWE accredited program (or one in candidacy status with the CSWE);
  - A 3.0 or higher-grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 Scale in their M.S.W. program;
  - An Admission Essay (i.e., statement of purpose) at least four pages in length NOT including title page and any references, written in the most current edition of APA format, covering their rationale for choosing ASU's D.S.W. program in Clinical Social Work, their goals for their D.S.W. degree and their career plans after graduation with their D.S.W. degree, and who they wish to be their major professor/faculty advisor in the D.S.W. program (a first, second, and third choice) with rationale; this will also serve as a writing sample; and
  - Appropriate post M.S.W. Practice Experience.
- 
- A social work license in any state at the master's level is preferred (e.g., LMSW, LCSW, LCSW-S, LICSW, etc.), but not strictly required.
  - Note. GRE/GMAT scores are not required, and no provisional, conditional, or probational admissions will be considered.

## Admission Procedures and Decisions

Students will apply to the D.S.W. program in Clinical Social Work at ASU using the *ApplyTexas* website (<https://goapplytexas.org/>). Once students are accepted to ASU and the ASU College of Graduate Studies and Research, they will complete the department's application located in *Salesforce* (the Department's student management software). Once the Department's application is fully completed, the D.S.W. admission committee will review applications. Initial decisions will be made during the first week of March preceding the start of the following academic year in August. All students who are admitted will be required to attend a fall orientation meeting, face-to-face or online. Students who are denied admission into the

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<sup>1</sup>Admission requirements for the College of Graduate Studies and Research may be found on the ASU website (<https://www.angelo.edu/admissions-and-aid/apply/graduate-students/>) or in the current graduate catalog (<https://www.angelo.edu/academics/catalog/>).



Program may appeal the decision by written letter to the D.S.W. Director; the Director's decision is final.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all application materials are submitted timely, including uploading all required documents. Applicants may monitor their application process from the *Salesforce* portal. Incomplete applications will be marked as rejected. Students may amend their applications during the review process.

## **Admission Statuses**

The D.S.W. program only admits the most qualified students. At present, the program is able to admit 10-15 full-time students per year; in addition, part-time students may be admitted, but full-time applications are given priority. There is no provisional or conditional admission status for the D.S.W. program.

## **Confirmation of Admission Acceptance**

After review of the completed application, applicants will be emailed a Confirmation of Acceptance, placed upon the waitlist (if the program has reached capacity), or denied admission. Those admitted to the D.S.W. program will be emailed a Confirmation of Acceptance, which must be completed immediately to demonstrate intent to attend the program. Failure to complete this step may result in placement on the waitlist.

Should admitted applicants choose not to enroll in the academic year for which admission was granted, they will need to reapply through *ApplyTexas* for the academic year in which they choose to enroll. This includes the additional incursion of any fees associated with the application process.

## **Waitlist Policies and Procedures**

Once the program admits full-time and part-time students and confirms enough students to reach capacity, all subsequent qualified applicants will be placed on the waitlist for the academic year in which they applied. If seats become available, individuals on the waiting list are accepted into the program on a most qualified basis. The Department of Social Work and Sociology will notify persons on the waitlist as/if positions become available via the applicant's ASU email address.

Individuals on the waiting list who are not admitted for the upcoming academic year must reapply the following year, if they choose.

## **Communication Upon Admission**

In addition to possible Confirmation of Acceptance and Waitlist notifications, newly admitted students will be sent additional email messages about the enrollment processes, degree plans, and upcoming orientations. All email correspondence from the D.S.W. program will be directed to the applicant's ASU email address. Applicants and newly accepted students are required to regularly check incoming email for university communication, especially from the Office of Financial Aid, the Department of Social Work and Sociology, and the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

## **Initial Degree Plans**

Approximately one (1) week after submission of the Confirmation of Acceptance, an initial degree plan will be emailed to each incoming student. Degree plans provide a scheduled sequence of courses a student should take each semester throughout the duration of the program. A copy of each student's electronically signed degree plan is uploaded into the *Salesforce* portal and sent to the College of Graduate Studies and Research, per University Policy.

Degree plans are due within one week after being sent to the student. If degree plans are not received within one week's time, a reminder will be sent via ASU email requesting immediate submission of the degree plan. If no correspondence or degree plan is received, the Department of Social Work and Sociology will assume the applicant's plans have changed and the applicant will be placed on the waitlist. Notification of this change in application status will be sent to the applicant via ASU email.

Any changes made to the degree plan throughout the D.S.W. program may change the projected date of graduation. Adding, dropping, or failing a course may delay the projected graduation date. Therefore, social work faculty cannot guarantee a specific date of graduation.

## **Program Options: On-campus and Online**

The D.S.W. program offers both an on-campus, in-person option and an online program option. There is no hybrid option – students select their mode of

instruction at the beginning of their program and remain in that program option throughout the duration of the program. Of course, if major life events require a switch from one program option to another, students may apply to change their program option.

All D.S.W. courses are offered on-campus, in-person, and synchronously online, in real time, with the online students interacting with their on-campus counterparts using a cohort model. For each class, both on-campus, in-person students and online students share the same classroom space using technology; class attendance is expected and required for both on-campus, in-person and online students in real time.

On-campus, in-person students attend all program activities on campus at Angelo State University. Online students attend all their program activities online (except the written qualifying examination and final capstone project defense which must be completed on-campus, in-person).

## **Student Statuses: Full-time and Part-time**

Students may attend courses in either a full-time or a part-time sequence. Like the program option, student status is selected when entering the program. However, should the need arise, students may make a switch from full-time to part-time or vice versa. However, due to the sequencing of courses and the semesters in which courses are offered, changing to and from part-time status may lengthen the amount of time it takes to complete the D.S.W. program.

Full-time students typically complete the D.S.W. program in 2.3 years and part-time students typically complete the D.S.W. program in 4.3 years. The faculty make every effort to assist students complete the program in as timely a manner as possible.

## **The D.S.W. in Clinical Social Work Curriculum**

There are 60 semester credit hours (SCHs) required for the D.S.W. degree in Clinical Social Work at Angelo State University. These 60 SCHs include 46 SCHs of coursework, a 4 SCH practicum in higher education, a 4 SCH internship, and a minimum of 6 SCHs for the Doctoral Capstone project.

The course sequence for full-time students (2.4 years) is as follows:

**Fall**

SWK 7410	History and Philosophy of Clinical Social Work
SWK 7320	Theoretical Frameworks for Clinical Social Work
SWK 7330	Clinical Social Work Assessment I

**Spring**

SWK 7322	Administration and Leadership in Clinical Social Work
SWK 7331	Clinical Social Work Assessment II
SWK 7342	Data Analysis for Clinical Social Work

**Summer**

SWK 7326	Policy for Clinical Social Work Practice
SWK 7332	Psychopathology: Etiology and Differential Diagnosis
SWK 7340	Research Methods for Clinical Social Work

**Fall**

SWK 7424	Social Work in Higher Education
SWK 7334	Planning and Intervention in Clinical Social Work
SWK 7383	Research in Clinical Social Work

**Spring**

SWK 7370	Advanced Treatment of Mental Disorders
SWK 7372	Advanced Treatment of Couples and Families
SWK 7338	Psychopharmacology

**Summer**

SWK 7336	Supervision in Clinical Social Work
SWK 7390	Doctorial Capstone I

**Fall**

SWK 7480	Doctoral Internship
SWK 7392	Doctorial Capstone II

An example course sequence for part-time students (4.4 years) is as follows:

**Fall**

SWK 7410	History and Philosophy of Clinical Social Work
SWK 7320	Theoretical Frameworks for Clinical Social Work

**Spring**

SWK 7322	Administration and Leadership in Clinical Social Work
SWK 7342	Data Analysis for Clinical Social Work

**Summer**

SWK 7326	Policy for Clinical Social Work Practice
SWK 7340	Research Methods for Clinical Social Work

**Fall**

SWK 7330	Clinical Social Work Assessment I
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**Spring**

SWK 7331	Clinical Social Work Assessment II
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**Summer**

SWK 7332	Psychopathology: Etiology and Differential Diagnosis
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**Fall**

SWK 7424	Social Work in Higher Education
SWK 7383	Research in Clinical Social Work

**Spring**

SWK 7370	Advanced Treatment of Mental Disorders
SWK 7338	Psychopharmacology

**Summer**

SWK 7336	Supervision in Clinical Social Work
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### Fall

SWK 7334	Planning and Intervention in Clinical Social Work
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### Spring

SWK 7372	Advanced Treatment of Couples and Families
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### Summer

SWK 7390	Doctorial Capstone I
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### Fall

SWK 7480	Doctoral Internship
SWK 7392	Doctorial Capstone II

## Transfer Credit

Students must adhere to the transfer credit policies of the graduate program to which they are admitted. Official transcripts showing the successful completion of the courses petitioned to be transferred must be on file in the College of Graduate Studies and Research. The D.S.W. program only accepts up to 30 SCHs of doctoral level coursework for transfer credit. No graduate work for which the student received a grade lower than “B” will be accepted for transfer credit. All transferred coursework must have been completed no more than six years prior. Internship, practicum, and capstone courses may not be transferred into the D.S.W. program.

It is the student’s responsibility to:

- Make the request for transfer credit to the D.S.W. Program Director;
- Obtain and supply the official transcripts for requested courses; and
- Submit a copy of each course syllabus, or university catalog entry from the original school to the D.S.W. Director for the courses whose credits are to be transferred.

## Credit for Experience, Correspondence and Extension Courses, Other Non-Academic Training, and Residency

Angelo State University does not allow the transfer or use of graduate credit earned by experience or by correspondence or extension courses. Further, the D.S.W. program does not accept non-academic training for transfer credit



toward the doctoral degree (e.g., work experience, field education experience, continuing education credits, and life experience). The D.S.W. Program follows the residency and transfer credit policy as written in the University Graduate Catalog.

## **Academic and Professional Advising**

All D.S.W. students will be advised by their D.S.W. major professor/advisor (which is assigned during the admission process) prior to the start of each semester. Advising includes discussions of academics, professional development, and career development. If a student takes issue with a decision or comments made by a social work faculty member during the academic and professional advising process, the student is directed to first discuss the issue or circumstance with the particular faculty member. If a resolution to the issue cannot be reached, the student is directed to address their appeal, in writing, to the D.S.W. Program Director. After the written appeal is received, a conference between the student and the D.S.W. Program Director will be scheduled as soon as possible to address the issue. If a resolution still cannot be reached, the student may appeal the decision, in writing, to the Department Chair. In most cases, the decision of the Department Chair is final unless told otherwise by the Department Chair. In cases where the Department Chair's decision is not final, students follow university policy concerning the appeal process for grievances.

## **Candidacy and the Capstone Project**

The D.S.W. degree program in Clinical Social Work does not require a dissertation; however, it does require a capstone project. All students enter the D.S.W. degree program with a Master of Social Work degree; therefore, no master's degree is awarded through the D.S.W. degree program. Once the student completes the following courses with a "B" or better:

History and Philosophy of Clinical Social Work  
Theoretical Frameworks for Clinical Social Work  
Administration and Leadership in Clinical Social Work  
Policy for Clinical Social Work Practice  
Clinical Social Work Assessment I  
Clinical Social Work Assessment II  
Psychopathology: Etiology and Differential Diagnosis  
Planning and Intervention in Clinical Social Work  
Supervision in Clinical Social Work  
Psychopharmacology  
Research Methods for Clinical Social Work

Data Analysis for Clinical Social Work  
Social Work in Higher Education  
Research in Clinical Social Work  
Advanced Treatment of Mental Disorders  
Advanced Treatment of Couples and Families

The student will enroll in Doctoral Capstone I. The first task of this course is to take a written qualifying examination on campus and defend the examination orally with their doctoral advisory committee lead by their major professor/advisor. Once the student has passed this portion of the Doctoral Capstone I course, the student will engage in their formal capstone project. The formal capstone project includes, but may not be limited to, the following:

- A systematic approach to a comprehensive literature review (e.g., a scoping review or a systematic literature search and synthesis) and
- A comprehensive portfolio assessment, or
- A more traditional and formal original research project.

Students will submit a formal proposal for their capstone project with support from their major professor/advisor and defend that proposal orally with their faculty advisory committee. Once this stage is successfully completed, students will work to complete their capstone project through the remainder of the Doctoral Capstone I course and into the Doctoral Capstone II course the following semester. The Doctoral Internship is taken concurrently with the Doctoral Capstone II course. Only the Doctoral Capstone II course may be repeated for credit if needed. Once the capstone project is completed, students will orally defend the project with their faculty advisory committee. Once this stage is successfully completed, and all other degree requirements are met, successful candidates may apply for graduation.

## **Requirements for Graduation**

All requirements must be met for the D.S.W. degree pursuant to the University Graduate Catalog. This includes, but may not be limited to, completion of all course work with a “B” or better; successful completion of the D.S.W. qualifying examination and its defense; the publication of an article, book review, or instrument review in a peer-reviewed journal; to prepare and deliver a peer-reviewed presentation or workshop at a professional conference; and the successful completion of the capstone project and its defense. Applications for graduation must be filed in the Dean’s Office during the appropriate time; consult the University Graduate Catalog and ask the Departmental Office Coordinator for detailed instructions.

## D.S.W. Course Descriptions

All D.S.W. courses are offered on-campus, in-person, and synchronously online, in real time, with the online students interacting with their on-campus counterparts using a cohort model. For each class, both on-campus, in-person students and online students share the same classroom space using technology.

**SWK 7410 History and Philosophy of Clinical Social Work (4-0-0).** Provides a broad overview of the history and philosophy of the social work profession with a focus on clinical social work. Serves as a professional seminar in clinical social work including the history of the social work profession, contemporary clinical practice philosophy, licensure and certification, the practitioner-scholar model, social work education and accreditation, ethics, professional organizations, and professional writing. Prerequisites: Admission into the Doctor of Social Work (D.S.W.) Program in Clinical Social Work. Co-Requisites: None

**SWK 7320 Theoretical Frameworks for Clinical Social Work (3-0-0).** An examination of the theoretical foundations for contemporary clinical social work practice. Includes psychoanalytic, psychodynamic, interpersonal, behavioral, cognitive, cognitive-behavioral, person-centered, experiential, humanistic, brief solution-focused, and integrative psychotherapy approaches as applied to individuals, couples, families, and groups. Prerequisites: Admission into the Doctor of Social Work (D.S.W.) Program in Clinical Social Work. Co-Requisites: None

**SWK 7330 Clinical Social Work Assessment I (3-0-0).** Biopsychosocial assessment and evaluation procedures used in clinical social work across the lifespan. Focuses on clinical interviewing skill development; taking a biopsychosocial history; psychometrics relating to standardized measures; ethical, legal, and professional issues in assessment and evaluation; and measures of cognitive ability and processes, including but not limited to intelligence, achievement, and executive functioning. Prerequisites: Admission into the Doctor of Social Work (D.S.W.) Program in Clinical Social Work. Co-Requisites: None

**SWK 7331 Clinical Social Work Assessment II (3-0-0).** Biopsychosocial assessment and evaluation procedures used in clinical social work across the lifespan. Focuses on clinical interviewing skill development; taking a biopsychosocial history; psychometrics relating to standardized measures; ethical, legal, and professional issues in assessment and evaluation; and measures of psychopathology and personality. Prerequisites: SWK 7330 or Instructor permission.

**SWK 7322 Administration and Leadership in Clinical Social Work (3-0-0).** An in-depth examination of administration and leadership in clinical social work. Topics include, but are not limited to leadership and management theory, best practices in administration and leadership, problem solving and decision making, motivation, management strategy, accountability, human resource functions, staff supervision, management information systems, financial management, strategic planning, program design, and resource development. Prerequisites: SWK 7310, SWK 7320, and SWK 7330, or Instructor Permission. Co-Requisites: None

**SWK 7332 Psychopathology: Etiology and Differential Diagnosis (3-0-0).** In-depth examination of mental disorders found in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual or Mental Disorders (DSM) and the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) across the lifespan. Special attention is given to etiology of mental disorders and the process of differential diagnosis. Prerequisites: SWK 7310, SWK 7320, and SWK 7330, or Instructor Permission. Co-Requisites: None

**SWK 7340 Research Methods for Clinical Social Work (3-0-0).** An examination of types of clinical research, designs, sampling strategies, instruments used, and data collection procedures. Ethical and diversity issues are explored as considerations in clinical social work research. Of paramount importance is the use of research in evidence-based practice. Prerequisites: SWK 7310, SWK 7320, and SWK 7330, or Instructor Permission. Co-Requisites: None

**SWK 7326 Policy for Clinical Social Work Practice (3-0-0).** Mental health policy, policy making, and the political context of mental health policy are examined. Policies are reviewed and evaluated through value ideals such as service, social and economic justice, the dignity and worth of the person, the importance of human relationships, and human rights. Integrated care as a contemporary practice context is of particular concern. Prerequisites: SWK 7310 and SWK 7322, or Instructor Permission. Co-Requisites: None

**SWK 7334 Planning and Intervention in Clinical Social Work (3-0-0).** Treatment planning and psychiatric rehabilitation strategies used in clinical social work. Prerequisites: SWK 7332 or Instructor Permission. Co-Requisites: None

**SWK 7338 Psychopharmacology (3-0-0).** An overview of the fundamental principles of psychopharmacology. Focuses on the use of prescription and nonprescription medications in clinical mental health, classes of medication used in clinical mental health, how medications work, potential adverse reactions of medications, contraindications for medication use.

**SWK 7342 Data Analysis for Clinical Social Work (3-0-0).** Data collection, analysis, and interpretation in clinical social work practice. Clinical quality and organizational performance improvement measures and data are covered with a focus on data analysis and interpretation. Prerequisites: SWK 7342 or Instructor Permission. Co-Requisites: None

**SWK 7336 Supervision in Clinical Social Work (3-0-0).** An overview and analysis of social work supervision in clinical practice. Educational, administrative, supportive supervision, and clinical supervision are covered. This course is designed to cover the Course Content Guidelines to Prepare LCSWs to Supervise LMSWs Working Toward Their Licensed Clinical Social Worker License by the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council. Prerequisites: SWK 7334 or Instructor Permission. Co-Requisites: None

**SWK 7383 Research in Clinical Social Work (3-0-0).** A review of contemporary research in clinical social work. Focuses on empirically supported treatments, best practices, and the process of evidence-based practice in clinical social work.

**SWK 7370 Advanced Treatment of Mental Disorders (3-0-0).** A critical examination of assessment and treatment methods for mental disorders across the lifespan commonly seen in clinical social work practice. Empirically supported assessment and treatment methods as well as evidence-based practice is covered. Prerequisites: Admission to the Doctor of Social Work (D.S.W.) Program in Clinical Social Work or Instructor Permission. Co-Requisites: None

**SWK 7372 Advanced Treatment of Couples and Families (3-0-0).** A critical examination of assessment and treatment methods for couples and families. Empirically supported assessment and treatment methods as well as evidence-based practice is covered. Prerequisites: Admission to the Doctor of Social Work (D.S.W.) Program in Clinical Social Work or Instructor Permission. Co-Requisites: None

**SWK 7390 Doctoral Capstone I (3-0-0).** The first course in a two-course sequence representing the final project for the Doctor of Social work (D.S.W.) program in Clinical Social Work. Includes the D.S.W. qualifying examination. Prerequisites: Completion of all classroom course work in the Doctor of Social Work (D.S.W.) Program in Clinical Social Work or D.S.W. Director Permission. Co-Requisites: None

**SWK 7392 Doctoral Capstone II (3-0-0).** The second course in a two-course sequence representing the final project for the Doctor of Social work (D.S.W.) program in Clinical Social Work. Requires continuous enrollment if the capstone project is not finished by the end of the semester; may be repeated for credit. Prerequisites: SWK 7390. Co-Requisites: None

**SWK 7424 Social Work in Higher Education (4-0-0).** An examination of social work teaching and student learning in higher education including the role and function of social work faculty and field educators. Assessing student learning, teaching, and field education; social work program accreditation; as well as ethics in teaching are emphasized. Students are required to serve as a teaching assistant, under the supervision of the course instructor of record, during the duration of the semester. Prerequisites: SWK 7310, SWK 7320, and SWK 7330, or Instructor Permission. Co-Requisites: None

**SWK 7480 Doctoral Internship (4-0-0).** Doctoral internship in clinical social work. Students are expected to demonstrate knowledge, skills, and abilities as an advanced clinical practitioner, social work educator, or administrator of a clinical program or organization providing clinical services. Documentation of 220 clock hours are required. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisites: D.S.W. Director Permission. Co-Requisites: None



## Doctoral Faculty and Staff

**T**he faculty who teach in the D.S.W. all have a M.S.W. degrees, a doctoral degree in social work or a related field, and are tenured or tenure-track faculty. Only tenured or tenure-track social work faculty in the department may serve as a major professor/advisor for D.S.W. students. Faculty eligible to serve on a D.S.W. student's advisor committee must have a doctoral degree, but do not have to be tenured or tenure-track faculty members.

### Staff

**Sandy Seidel, Department of Social Work and Sociology Office Coordinator**

### Faculty

**Taten Albright, D.S.W., LCSW, Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track)**

Clinical Child and Adolescent Social Work  
Correctional Counseling and Rehabilitation  
Drug Courts  
Substance Use Disorders

**Jason Aleman, Ph.D., LMSW, Assistant Clinical Professor**

Administration and Leadership  
Latino Issues  
Program Evaluation and Research  
Social Policy

**Joel L. Carr, Ph.D., LCSW-S, LPC-S, LCDC; Associate Professor (Tenured)**

Assessment, Tests, and Measures  
Correctional Mental Health  
Counseling and Psychotherapy  
Differential Diagnosis and Psychopathology  
Personality Assessment, Development, and Disorders  
Psychoeducational and Career Assessment  
Self, Identity, and Interpersonal Functioning

**Kirby A Davis, D.S.W., LCSW, LCDC; Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track)**

Addictions Disorders, Treatment, and Recovery (Substance Use)  
Clinical Social Work Practice  
Correctional Settings and Criminal Justice Rehabilitation  
Counseling the Culturally Diverse  
Domestic Violence and Intimate Partner Relationships  
Program Policy and the Use of Ethics

**Marie C. Salimbeni, Ph.D., LCSW, Assistant Clinical Professor**

Cultural Diversity  
Domestic Violence  
Military Social Work  
Police Social Work  
Substance Abuse

**Anne M. Scaggs, Ed.D., LCSW, Associate Clinical Professor**

Adult Learning in Social Work Education  
Child and Family Social Work  
School Social Work

**Christopher M. Shar, Ph.D., M.S.W., Associate Professor (Tenured)**

Adolescent Substance Abuse  
Compassion Fatigue  
Social Work Ethics  
Social Work Research  
Social Work Theory  
Spiritually Based Treatment and Interventions

**Thomas W. Starkey, Ph.D., LCSW, Professor (Tenured)**

Adult Clinical Assessment and Intervention  
Leadership and Administration  
Mental Health Policy  
Social Work and Technology

## The Policies of the D.S.W. Program

### Policies Specific to the D.S.W. Program

**Substance Use.** Angelo State University does not condone the possession, use, or distribution of marijuana, LSD, other hallucinogenic drugs, or narcotics by anyone in any campus facility or during practicum or at an internship site. Additionally, ASU has established a drug free campus policy where the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of any drug, narcotic, or controlled substance is prohibited on campus or practicum or internship site by university policy and by the Texas Tech University System Board of Regents as well as by state and federal statute. Any individual found in violation of this policy is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to policy.

**Requirement to Follow the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council and Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners Rules and Regulations.** Students who have been admitted into the D.S.W. program are required to follow the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council and Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners Rules and Regulations found in the Consolidated Rule Book for Social Work at <https://www.bhec.texas.gov/statutes-and-rules/index.html>. Violations of these rules and regulations will result in dismissal from the D.S.W. program.

**Prohibition on Recording.** D.S.W. students and candidates are prohibited from recording any portion of the D.S.W. program, including but limited to classes, examinations, defenses of examinations, individual consultations with professors, and capstone defenses. This prohibition extends to any form of recording device, including but not limited to screen capture software, audio recording devices of any kind, or video recording devices of any kind. Professionalism in all aspects of the D.S.W. program is expected.

**Internship Placements in the D.S.W. Program.** The D.S.W. internship experience is a 220-clock hour, supervised practice experience, administered by the D.S.W. Program Director. Placements may be located in various clinical settings; only a select number of placements are available in higher education.

Internship students are supervised by their major professor/advisor in collaboration with local placement staff. Students may be (i.e., likely) subject to criminal background checks, drug screens, and licensure checks as a part of securing an internship placement at the students' expense. Students must obtain and maintain malpractice insurance, pursuant to their level of licensure, at their expense, prior to beginning their practicum and internship, and proof of malpractice must be filed with the D.S.W. Program Director's office. Proof of malpractice constitutes a copy of the "Certificate of Insurance" that accompanies the policy.

**Practice as a Student and the Use of Titles.** D.S.W. students may practice social work if they are licensed to do so at their usual place of employment or in their private practice. A license to practice social work of any kind is required. Additionally, D.S.W. students may refer to themselves as a social worker if they are licensed to do so. Otherwise, students may refer to themselves as a "Clinical Social Work Doctoral Student," "Clinical D.S.W. Student," or a "Clinical Social Work Doctoral Candidate" once admitted into candidacy after passing their written qualifying examination and its oral defense.

## **Failure to Satisfactorily Complete Coursework**

The standards for academic standing set by the College of Graduate Studies and Research are intended to define the academic requirements for continuation of graduate study and are listed in the university's Operating Policy and Procedure 42.04 (accessible via <https://angelo.policystat.com/>). The College of Graduate Studies and Research recognizes three academic statuses: good standing, probation, and dismissal.

**Good Standing.** A graduate student with regular status is academically in good standing if his or her grade point average for all graduate work completed at Angelo State University is at least 3.00;

**Probation.** When a regular graduate student's grade point average drops below a 3.00, the student is placed on academic probation.

**Dismissal.** A regular status student whose grade point average is 2.00 or lower may be dismissed from the College of Graduate Studies and Research. A student on probation, as defined above, may be dismissed from the College of Graduate Studies and Research if the student's grade point average is below a 3.00 during the probationary period or drops below a 3.00 in any subsequent semester. A graduate student whose performance is unsatisfactory on the first and second administration

of the qualifying examination may be dismissed from that graduate program if recommended by the appropriate department committee.

In addition to the standards of the College of Graduate Studies and Research noted above, the D.S.W. program has set forth its own additional criteria related to academic standing, probation, and dismissal.

Students are required to make a “B” or better in all courses, practicums, internships, or capstone courses. Courses with an earned grade of a “C” or less must be retaken; only one course is allowed to be retaken during the program. Any grade less than a “C” will result in dismissal from the D.S.W. program. All D.S.W. students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0. If a student falls below this minimum GPA levels, they are placed on academic probation in the program and given one semester to raise their GPA to or above the minimum requirements. Failure to accomplish this will result in the student being dismissed from the program.

## **Academic Policies Relating to All University Programs**

**Academic Honesty.** The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach. Students will be expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their experiences in the classroom. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject to disciplinary action. Procedures for discipline due to academic dishonesty have been adopted by the Texas Tech University Board of Regents and are published under the Section on Student Services and Activities in the University’s Student Handbook. In summary, the D.S.W. Program’s policy concerning academic honesty is consistent with Angelo State University’s policy concerning academic honesty found in the University Graduate Catalog.

**Plagiarism.** Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking previously produced work, ideas, etc., and presenting it as new. This includes one’s own work. The act of plagiarism is considered to be literary theft. It is unacceptable to copy a piece of work verbatim without the use of quotation marks and the appropriate reference citation.

It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of what plagiarism is (including self-plagiarism) as well as how to properly cite material using the most recent publication guidelines established by the American Psychological Association (currently 7<sup>th</sup> edition). It is expected that students will summarize and paraphrase ideas, giving appropriate credit to the source in both the body and the references sections of submitted work. Papers are subject to be evaluation for originality via



Turnitin, SafeAssign, or other such software. Please consult the ASU Writing Center resources for more information. Students found in violation of plagiarism (whether intentionally or unintentionally) during the D.S.W. program may be subject to a variety of consequences including (but not limited to) a zero grade for the submission and/or dismissal from the D.S.W. program.

**Technology Requirements.** Course syllabi, video lectures, and supplementary learning materials are all posted via Blackboard, ASU's learning management system. Online students are required to abide all technology requirements as their ability to access and participate course material depends on online access.

On-campus students are highly encouraged to possess the technology requirements listed below to ensure the ability to meaningfully participate in all supplemental coursework throughout the D.S.W. program. While on-campus students do have the ability to access computer technology supplied via student computer labs across campus, graduate students often find they engage in their studies at all times of day throughout the week. It is the student's responsibility possess or have access to the listed technology requirements to access online learning resources.

- Computer capable of running Windows 7 or later or Mac OSX 10.8 or later
- Latest version of Firefox, Safari, or Chrome (or other Chromium-based) Internet web browser
- High-speed Internet access (required for online video conferencing, such as WebEx, as well as Internet-based testing)
- Ethernet adapter cable (required for Internet-based testing; wireless connections may intermittently drop, resulting in incomplete test submission)
- Webcam (required for online video conferencing and Internet-based testing)
- Microsoft Office (or compatible Office suite software)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (or other PDF viewing software)

**Student Rights.** Students have a right to study and work in a non-discriminatory environment, free from harassment. The ASU D.S.W. Program respects diversity and difference among students, faculty, field instructors, staff, and others involved in the Program. Further, students have a right to appeal certain decisions and file grievances, including but not limited to admission decisions, academic and professional advising comments and recommendations, and so forth. If a student takes issue with a decision made by a social work faculty member, the student is directed to first discuss the issue or circumstance with the particular faculty member. If a resolution to the issue cannot be reached, the student is directed to address their appeal, in writing, to the D.S.W. Program Director. After the written appeal is received, a conference between the student and D.S.W. Program Director

will be scheduled as soon as possible to address the issue. If a resolution still cannot be reached, the student may appeal the decision in accordance with University policy through the proper channels (see the *University Graduate Catalog*). In most cases, the decision of the D.S.W. Program Director is final; however, students are advised to follow ASU's appeal and grievance policy found in the *University Graduate Catalog*.

**Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days.** A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing (email is acceptable) to the instructor prior to the absence. Please see Operating Policy 10.19 – Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day (accessible via <https://angelo.policystat.com/>) for more information.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities.** Angelo State University is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied benefits of the services, programs, or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs in the Houston Hart University Center, room 112 or by contacting the department via email at [ADA@angelo.edu](mailto:ADA@angelo.edu) For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Office of Student Disabilities Services' web pages (<https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/disability-services/>).

The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dr. Dallas Swafford  
Director of Student Disability Services  
Office of Student Affairs  
Houston Hart University Center, Room 112  
(325) 942-2047  
[dallas.swafford@angelo.edu](mailto:dallas.swafford@angelo.edu)

**Title IX at Angelo State University.** Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VIII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of sexual misconduct. Sexual misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

Students are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center at (325) 942-2371.

Any incidents involving sexual misconduct should be reported to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Jessica Gooch, You may submit reports in the following ways:

Online: <https://www.angelo.edu/incident-form>

Face-to-face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 205

Phone: (325) 486-6357

Email: [jessica.gooch@angelo.edu](mailto:jessica.gooch@angelo.edu)

All faculty members at ASU are mandatory reporters and must report incidents sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325) 942-2371, the 24-hour Crisis Helpline (325) 486-6345, or the University Health Clinic (325) 942-2171. For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State University's policy, go to the Office of Title IX Compliance at <https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/title-ix/>.

**Artificial Intelligence and Its Use.** Generative AI tools such as ChatGPT, Gemini, and others, are now being widely used in business and industry to assist with the development of written content within seconds. Some faculty members may choose to provide expert guidance to their students on how to use such tools in an ethical and responsible manner when completing their course assignments. However, unless the instructor explicitly states in the course syllabus that students may use generative AI tools to develop content that is submitted as part of an assignment for a course, their use in that course is prohibited. For more information, please see OP 10.26 Use of Generative AI Tools by Students.

## Program, Student, and Professional Organizations

**T**here are many organizations a student could belong, and all possibilities are likely not possible to mention. Students are encouraged to pursue membership in professional organizations of their choice.

### The Social Work Community Advisory Committee

The Community Advisory Committee consists of representatives of the San Angelo area community and the Angelo State University campus and serves a number of important functions for the Department of Social Work and Sociology. The functions include:

- Enlist the input, feedback, and support of knowledgeable professional social workers to enhance the direction and quality of the ASU social work program;
- Review components of the social work program and make practice-based recommendations;
- Provide feedback and suggestions about the D.S.W. Program based on their understanding of the program, the needs of the local and surrounding communities, and experience with current students and graduates of the program.

Current voting members of the Community Advisory Committee are:

Mike Childress  
West Texas Boys Ranch  
[wtbrmike@wtbr.org](mailto:wtbrmike@wtbr.org)

Jennifer Dube  
Children's Advocacy Center of Greater West Texas  
[jdube@cacgreaterwtx.org](mailto:jdube@cacgreaterwtx.org)

Roxann Sloan  
Crisis Intervention Unit  
[roxann.sloan@co.tom-green.tx.us](mailto:roxann.sloan@co.tom-green.tx.us)

Permanent non-voting members of the Community Advisory Committee include:

- Concho Valley branch chairperson, National Association of Social Workers, Texas
- Region 9 director, National Association of Social Workers, Texas
- Members of the social work faculty
- President of the Student Social Work Association

## Student and Professional Organizations

**The Angelo State University Student Social Work Organization.** The Student Social Work Association (SSWA) is an official ASU student-led organization which welcomes all students university-wide to join on a voluntary basis. A social work faculty member serves as the faculty advisor and department liaison with organization's elected president. Regular meetings are held for students to discuss community activities as well as generate recommendations for the social work programs. SSWA is the primary mechanism for social work students to organize and have a voice in the department. All student members of the SSWA and department faculty are welcome to attend all meetings and sponsored events.



**Phi Alpha Honor Society.** Phi Alpha is internationally recognized as social work's largest honor society. The purpose of Phi Alpha is to facilitate engagement and relationships among social work students while fostering humanitarian goals and ideals. The organization endorses high academic standards for social work students and invites as members those students who have demonstrated academic excellence in their professional education. Admission includes lifetime membership and benefits extend well past graduation. Both on-campus and online students are

welcome to apply for membership. Admission criteria for the local Sigma Upsilon chapter include:

- G.P.A. in the D.S.W. program of 3.25 or higher;
- Good academic standing in the program; and
- Completion of 9 semester hours of D.S.W. program coursework.

**Professional Social Work Organizations.** The following are some of the major social work and social work-related organizations in the United States to which social work students and professionals commonly belong as members.

- Academy of Correctional Health Professionals
- American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy
- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- American Board of Clinical Social Work
- American Council for School Social Work
- American Counseling Association
- American Mental Health Counselors Association
- American Psychological Association
- American Public Health Association
- American Society of Criminology
- American Sociological Association
- Association for Behavior Analysis International
- Association for Oncology Social Work
- Association for Psychological Science
- Association for Research in Personality
- Association for Veterans Affairs Social Workers
- Association of Clinicians for the Underserved
- Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers
- Association of Social Work Boards
- Clinical Social Work Association
- Council on Social Work Education
- International Association for Correctional and Forensic Psychology
- International Society for Self and Identity
- International Society for the Study of Personality Disorders
- National Association for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors
- National Association for Rural Mental Health
- National Association of Social Workers
- National Council on Family Relations
- National Organization of Forensic Social Work

- North American Society for the Study of Personality Disorders
- Psychologists, Social Workers and Counselors Section of the Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals
- School Social Work Association
- Society for Interpersonal Theory and Research
- Society for Personality Assessment
- Society for Research in Child Development
- Society for Social Work and Research
- Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care
- The Gerontological Society of America

The *Handbook's* content was written by Dr. Joel L. Carr.  
The *Handbook's* graphic design and formatting was constructed by Dr. Christopher M. Shar.

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## Doctor of Social Work (D.S.W.) in Clinical Social Work Program Handbook