

The **UNBC School of Social Work** (SoSW) is committed to a program of studies that is informed by a central concern for human rights, personal empowerment, community change, and social justice. The SoSW has as its foundation an analysis of power in relation to class, race, ethnicity, gender, identity, age, and abilities. Incorporating structural, feminist, and anti-racist analyses, the school focuses on social work in northern and remote areas, social work with indigenous people, community-based research and practice, critical and creative thinking, and connection through relationship.

The Master of Social Work (MSW) program is available on a full or part-time basis and may be completed through a thesis or a practicum route. The MSW builds on the BSW by offering students an integrated research, policy, practice concentration in one of the key thematic areas: social work in northern and remote areas, Indigenous Peoples, women and the human services, and community practice and research.

**Accreditation:** The MSW program at UNBC is fully accredited and was granted the maximum eight-year re-accreditation by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE), in June 2018.

**There are two entry routes into the MSW:**

- 1. Entry from a CASWE-accredited BSW leads into the **Advanced Year** of the MSW Program.
- 2. Entry from a Bachelor degree in a related area and two years (24 months full-time) human service experience leads into the **Foundation Year** of the MSW Program.

**MSW Foundation Year**

The Foundation Year requires the successful completion of 33 credit hours of course work and a practicum.

**Required Courses for Foundation Year:**

- SOCW 630-3 Communication Skills
- SOCW 631-3 Critical Social Work Practice
- SOCW 632-9\* MSW Practicum I
- SOCW 633-3 Critical Social Policy
- SOCW 634-3 Social Work Research/Policy/Practice
- SOCW 635-3 Social Work Philosophy and Ethics
- SOCW 637-3\* Advanced Practice Methods
- Two 600 level Social Work electives
- \*Co-requisites*

**After completing the Foundation Year, students move on to the Advanced Year.**

**MSW Advanced Year**

The Advanced Year requires the successful completion of 33 credit hours of course work and a practicum or thesis.

**Required Courses for Thesis route:**

- HHSC 703-3 Qualitative Research Approaches in Health and Human Sciences
- SOCW 601-3 Issues in Northern and Remote Social Work
- SOCW 602-3 Indigenous Peoples: Advanced Social Work Practice
- SOCW 609-3 Advanced Quantitative Research
- SOCW 704-3 MSW Integrative Seminar
- SOCW 700-12 MSW Thesis

**Required Courses for Practicum route:**

- HHSC 703-3 Qualitative Research Approaches in Health and Human Sciences
- SOCW 601-3 Issues in Northern and Remote Social Work
- SOCW 602-3 Indigenous Peoples: Advanced Social Work Practice
- SOCW 609-3 Quantitative Research Methods
- SOCW 704-3 MSW Integrative Seminar
- SOCW 732-9 MSW Practicum II

**Elective Courses**

- *Thesis students must take two electives. These electives may be taken from the lists below and/or from other UNBC graduate programs and/or from other accredited Canadian universities.*
- *Practicum students must take three electives. These electives may be taken from the lists below and/or from other UNBC graduate programs and/or from other accredited Canadian universities.*

- SOCW 603-3 Women: Policy/Practice Issues
- SOCW 604-3 Directed Readings
- SOCW 605-3 Community Work/Politics of Change
- SOCW 610-3 Holistic Trauma-Informed Expressive Arts Therapies
- SOCW 613-3 Clinical Social Work Practice
- SOCW 623-3 Human Growth and Development
- SOCW 640-3 Social Work Supervision and Leadership
- SOCW 643-3 Social Work and Health Care
- SOCW 644-3 Critical Issues in Aging
- SOCW 653-3 Social Work Practice and Spirituality
- SOCW 670-3 Indigenous Peoples in Canada: Past/Present/Future
- SOCW 671-3 Reflections on Practice: Indigenous Children/Youth Mental Health
- SOCW 672-3 Social Work/ Counselling Skills with Indigenous Children/Youth
- SOCW 673-3 Mental Health and Addictions among Indigenous Children/Youth
- SOCW 674-3 Crisis Work with Indigenous Children/Youth: Restoring Balance
- SOCW 675-3 Community-Based Prevention with Indigenous People: Creating Balance
- SOCW 698-3 Special Topics
- SOCW 701-3 Research Practicum

**Summary of the MSW Foundation Year and MSW Advanced Year requirements:**

<b><i>MSW Foundation Year</i></b>		
Courses	Fall Term	Winter Term
Required	SOCW 630-3 SOCW 631-3 SOCW 633-3	SOCW 634-3 SOCW 635-3
	SOCW 637-3 SOCW 632-9	
Electives		<b>2 MSW Electives</b>
<b>Foundation Year</b>	<b>33 Credit Hours</b>	
<b><i>MSW Advanced Year</i></b>		
Courses	Thesis Option	Practicum Option
Required	SOCW 601-3 SOCW 602-3 SOCW 609-3 SOCW 704-3 HHSC 703-3 SOCW 700-12	SOCW 601-3 SOCW 602-3 SOCW 609-3 SOCW 704-3 HHSC 703-3 SOCW 732-9
Electives	<b>2 Electives</b>	<b>3 Electives</b>
<b>Advanced Year</b> Course Work Practicum Thesis	21 0 12	24 9 0
<b>Total required for Advanced Year</b>	<b>33 Credit Hours (Thesis or Practicum)</b>	
<b>Total Required for Foundation Year and Advanced Year</b>	<b>66 Credit Hours</b>	

Faculty, including research interests:

**Dr. Tammy Pearson, RSW, Assistant Professor, BSW Coordinator, Chair**  
BA (University College of Cape Breton) BSW (UVIC) MSW (UBC) PhD (UNBC)  
*Child Welfare Practice and Policy, Mental Health, Family Violence, Social Work and Spirituality, and Disability Issues.*

**Dr. Susan Burke, RSW, Associate Professor, MSW Coordinator**  
BA (TWU) MSW (UNBC) PhD (UNBC)  
*Indigenous Social Work Practice, Child Welfare Practice, Kinship Care, Social Work Education.*

**Dr. Emmanuel Chilanga, RSW, Assistant Professor**  
BEd (University of Malawi) MSc (Western), MSW (McGill) PhD (McGill)  
*Community Practice, Field Education, Social Determinants of Health, Food Security and Nutrition, HIV and Addiction Support, Participatory Research, Agroecology, Mitigation of the Impacts of COVID-19, Rural and Urban Communities, Southern Africa, Canada.*

**Dr. Lisa Kyle, RCSW, Assistant Professor**  
BA (SFU) MSW (UNBC) PhD (UNBC)  
*Mental Health (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), Field Education, Social Work and Clinical Practice.*

**Dr. Indrani Margolin, RSW, Professor**  
BA (Guelph) MSW (Wilfrid Laurier) PhD (University of Toronto)  
*Spirituality in Practice, Arts/Movement Therapy, Girls' and Women's Embodiment, Arts-based Inquiry.*

**Dr. Si Transken, RSW, Associate Professor**  
BA Hons BSW (Laurentian) MA PhD (Toronto)  
*Cultural Studies, Creative Writing, Criminal Harassment, Incest, Sexual Assault, Violence Against Women, Expressive Arts Therapy, Feminist Social Work, Anti-Racism, Mediation, Sexual Expression and Identities.*

**Melanie Lansall, Field Education Director**  
BSW (UNBC) MSW (UNBC)  
*Indigenous mental health, therapeutic art in mental health and building resiliency, crisis response and trauma, land-based healing in social work, Indigenous social work; self-care.*

**Dr. Bruce Bidgood, Associate Professor (on leave)**  
BA (Brock) MSW PhD (Wilfrid Laurier)  
*Family Violence, Child Welfare, Social Policy, Social Administration, Social Planning, Applied Social Welfare Research.*

**Christa Sato, Lecturer, Northwest Region**  
BA (UCalgary), BSW (UCalgary), MSW(UCalgary), PhD (U of T) (c)  
*Intergenerational trauma, resistance, healing; Diasporic experiences of Filipina/o/x in Canada; Community mental health and wellness; Community based research and interventions; Social work praxis with immigrant and racialized populations; Qualitative and mixed-methods research; Child and youth-in care; IPV*

**Dr. Tareq Hardan, Assistant Professor, Peace River-Liard Region**  
BS (Palestine) MSW (McGill) PhD (McGill)  
*Co-Creative Intersectoral Partnerships, Decolonial and Community-Engaged Practice, Northern Social Work, Trauma-Informed, Spirituality, Peace-building, Healing-Centred Approaches, Child and Youth Mental Health and Well-being, Participatory, Arts-Based, and Creative Research Methodologies, Displacement and refugees, Sumud (Resilience) and Social Justice in Settler-Colonial Contexts, Social Work Education, Graduate Student Mentorship.*

**Dawn Hemingway, RSW, Professor Emerita**  
*Adulthood/Aging (Caregiving, Psycho-geriatrics, Empowerment/Self-Advocacy), Disability Issues, Community Development/ Community-Based Research, Women & Health, Northern/Remote Community Health*

**Dr. Glen Schmidt, RCSW, Professor Emeritus**  
*Social Work Education Outcomes, Mental Health Services, Services to Indigenous Peoples, Remote and Northern Practice Issues, Child Welfare Practice and Policy*

**For further information about the Master of Social Work Program at UNBC, please contact:**

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**Associate Professor / MSW Coordinator**  
School of Social Work  
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**For information on Graduate Admissions at UNBC, please contact:**

**Graduate Admissions and Retention Officer**  
Office of Graduate Administration  
Telephone: 250-960-5125  
Email: [futuregradstudents@unbc.ca](mailto:futuregradstudents@unbc.ca)

**Regulations of the Office of Graduate Administration and the Graduate Academic Calendar take precedence over this document. Please refer to their webpages:**

<https://www2.unbc.ca/graduate-administration>  
<https://www2.unbc.ca/calendar/graduate>



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School of Social Work

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