



## Distance Education Program

The Distance Education Program leads to the Master of Social Work with a concentration in clinical social work practice upon completion of 60 credit hours. Students apply specifically to the Distance Education Program, attend part time and complete all program requirements in four years.

The part-time program model permits students to complete the beginning foundation year of the program in two years and the second concentration year in two years, including summers. The Distance Education Program is a hybrid model requiring some mandatory in-person classes, described below.

All Distance Education Program students must complete field internships in assigned community agencies in both the foundation and concentration years of the program. Field internships are offered only in Virginia or the metropolitan area of Washington, D.C.

Identical to the Richmond campus full- and part-time programs, the Distance Education Program curriculum is guided by the principle of providing social and economic justice and human rights in a diverse and multicultural society. The curriculum emphasizes critical thinking about theory and social practice applications, evidence-based decision-making, diversity, self-reflection and self-awareness, and ethical integrity.

## Curriculum and course sequence

Courses are structured so that students are able to graduate within four years without difficulty if the course schedule is followed. All courses are offered as a combination of online and classroom-based instruction. Students must attend two mandatory in-person classes per semester at VCU; these classes take place on a Saturday. The only other mandatory in-person requirement is the orientation in August of the first year.

### Students must complete all of the following foundation and concentration courses:

#### Foundation courses: Completed in two years (including summers)

SLWK 601	Human Behavior in the Social Environment I
SLWK 602	Policy, Community and Organizational Practice I
SLWK 603	Social Work and Social Justice
SLWK 604	Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups I
SLWK 605	Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups II
SLWK 606	Policy, Community and Organizational Practice II
SLWK 609	Foundations of Research in Social Work Practice

SLWK 610	Human Behavior in the Social Environment II
SLWK 693	Foundation Field Instruction I
SLWK 694	Foundation Field Instruction II
SLWK 695	Block Foundation Field Instruction (student chooses either SLWK 693-694 or 695)

**Concentration courses: Completed in two years (including summers)**

SLWK 703	Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Disorders
SLWK 704	Clinical Social Work Practice I
SLWK 705	Clinical Social Work Practice II
SLWK 706	Research for Clinical Social Work Practice I
SLWK 707	Research for Clinical Social Work Practice II
SLWK 710	Concentration Social Policy
SLWK 793	Concentration Field Instruction
SLWK 794	Concentration Field Instruction

Elective course No. 1 (from offerings or as approved by M.S.W. Program director)

Elective course No. 2 (from offerings or as approved by M.S.W. Program director)

SLWK 795 Concentration Block Field Instruction (either SLWK 793-794 or SLWK 795)

**Foundation and concentration courses are taken in the following sequence:**

**First year**

Fall	601, 602
Spring	610, 606
Summer	603

**Second year**

Fall	604, 693
Spring	605, 694
Summer	609 and 695 (instead of 693-694 above)

**Third year**

Fall	706, 703
Spring	707, 710
Summer	Elective(s)

**Fourth year**

Fall	704, 793
Spring	705, 794
Summer	Elective(s); and 795 (instead of 793-794 above)

First year			Second year			Third year			Fourth year		
Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
601	610	603	604	605	609	706	707	Elective	704	705	Elective
602	606		693	694		703	710	Elective	793	794	Elective

Students may take the courses that are highlighted above in the summer semesters of their choice. For example, students must complete two concentration-year electives, but these can be taken together in the same summer semester or one at a time in subsequent summer semesters.

Also, instead of completing foundation field instruction (693-694) for 14 hours each week in the fall and spring semesters, students can complete the foundation block field course (695) in the summer for 35 hours a week over a 12-week period. The same is true for concentration field instruction (793-794). Instead of completing 21 hours each week in the fall and spring semesters of the program, students can complete the concentration block field course (795) in the summer for 40 hours a week over a 15-week period.

All students will have assigned student services advisers to assist with program curriculum planning.