



# Master of Social Work in School Social Work

The Master of Social Work in School Social Work is specifically designed to prepare practitioners to provide specialised social services within the educational context. The programme focuses on equipping social workers to enhance the social functioning of all stakeholders within the school system, ensuring that every learner receives the support they need to flourish.

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## Programme Philosophy and Impact

By utilising a multi-method approach—encompassing casework, group work, and community work—graduates ensure that the fundamental right to education is fully realised for every child. The curriculum is grounded in an ecological systems perspective, which empowers social workers to address social, emotional, and behavioural barriers by viewing the learner within the context of their broader environment.

Beyond direct learner support, this programme trains practitioners to offer essential assistance to parents and educators, thereby fostering a holistic environment conducive to psychosocial well-being and academic success.

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## Curriculum Structure

The degree is completed over **two years**, progressing from theoretical and methodological foundations to clinical application and independent research.

### Year 1: Foundations of Speciality and Research

The first year establishes the core competencies required for school-based practice and scientific inquiry.

- **School Social Work (SWSC7900):** This module introduces the specialised role of the social worker within the school setting. It focuses on identifying barriers to learning and implementing interventions that support the school ecosystem.
- **Research Methodology (SWPR7900):** This module provides the essential framework for advanced inquiry. Students learn to design and implement studies that contribute to the evidence-based practice of social work.

## Year 2: Advanced Practice and Independent Inquiry

The second year is dedicated to clinical immersion and to completing the research cycle.

- **Field Instruction (SWPP7900):** A practical placement where students apply their skills in a real-world school setting, providing direct interventions for learners, families, and staff.
  - **Research Project (SWPI7900):** The culmination of the degree, wherein students conduct an independent study on a pertinent topic within the field of school social work.
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## Why Choose This Specialisation?

Graduates of this programme emerge as specialist practitioners capable of navigating the complexities of the South African educational landscape. You will be prepared to manage psychosocial challenges, support educators, and advocate for the rights and well-being of every learner.

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## Admission Requirements

- A Bachelor of Social Work degree at **NQF Level 8**.
  - Current registration as a social worker with the **South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP)**.
  - A minimum average of **60%** for the undergraduate degree.
  - A minimum of **65%** achieved in the undergraduate research module.
  - Current employment as a social worker within a school setting (full-time or part-time).
  - The ability to travel to Bloemfontein to attend compulsory face-to-face contact sessions presented in blocks.
  - Previous experience working in a school environment is considered beneficial.
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**For further information, please contact:**

**Prof Roelf Reyneke**

Email: [reynrp@ufs.ac.za](mailto:reynrp@ufs.ac.za)

