

The UNBC School of Social Work is committed to a program of studies that is informed by a central concern for human rights, personal empowerment, community change, and social justice. It has as its foundation an analysis of power in relation to class, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, age, and abilities. Incorporating critical social thinking, including structural, feminist and anti-racist analyses, the School focuses on social work in northern and remote areas; social work with Indigenous peoples and women; human service; and community practice and research. It continues to develop in collaboration with regional, national and global communities.

The Master of Social Work (MSW) Program is available on a full-time or part-time basis and may be completed by a thesis or practicum. It is an in-person Program, although virtual accommodations can be made for students living in Northern British Columbia. The aim of the MSW is to provide students with advanced social work research, policy, and practice skills. It is designed to enable students to pursue independent studies that will help them undertake a variety of responsibilities including advanced social work practice, management, policy formulation, program consultation, planning, clinical practice, and research.

Accreditation: The MSW Program at UNBC is fully accredited and was granted the maximum 8-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:

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

Required Courses for Practicum route:

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

All students must take at least one of the following courses:

- SOCW 601-3 Issues in Northern/Remote Social Work
 SOCW 603-3 Women: Policy/Practice Issues
 SOCW 605-3 Community Work/Politics of Change

Elective Courses

- **Thesis students must take two electives. They are normally social work courses but may also be from other UNBC graduate programs and/or other accredited Canadian universities.**
- **Practicum students must take three electives. At least one must come from the lists below or above. Two may come from other UNBC graduate programs and/or from other accredited Canadian universities.**

- SOCW 604-3 Directed Readings
 SOCW 610-3 Wellness: Alternate Approaches
 SOCW 613-3 Clinical Social Work Practice
 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:

MSW Foundation Year		
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		2 MSW Electives
Foundation Year	33 Credit Hours	
MSW Advanced Year		
Courses	Thesis Option	Practicum Option
Required	SOCW 602-3 SOCW 609-3 SOCW 704-3 HHSC 703-3 SOCW 700-12	SOCW 602-3 SOCW 609-3 SOCW 704-3 HHSC 703-3 SOCW 732-9
	Take at least 1 of: SOCW 601-3 SOCW 603-3 SOCW 605-3	
Electives	2 Electives	3 Electives
Advanced Year Course Work	21	24
Practicum	0	9
Thesis	12	0
Total required for Advanced Year	33 Credit Hours (Thesis or Practicum)	
Total Required for Foundation Year and Advanced Year	66 Credit Hours	

Faculty, including research interests:

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.

Dr. Susan Burke, RSW, Associate Professor, MSW Coordinator (July 2024 – Dec. 2024)

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.

Melanie Lansall, RSW, Field Education Director

BSW, MSW (UNBC)
Indigenous mental health, therapeutic art in mental health & building resiliency, crisis response & trauma, land-based healing in social work, Indigenous social work, self care

Dr. Indrani Margolin, RSW, Professor MSW Coordinator (Jan. – June 2025)

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

Dr. Tammy Pearson, RSW, Associate Professor, Chair, BSW Coordinator

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. Gretchen Perry, Associate Professor

BA Hons (University of Guelph), MSW (University of Flinders), PhD (University of Missouri)
Cooperation in the Family, Conflict in the Family, Non-parental Caregiving, Fosterage and Adoption, Spousal and Family Homicide, Grandparenting and the "Matrilateral Bias", Immigration and Family Functioning, Extractive Industries and Associated Impacts on Family and Child Development.

Dr. Christa Sato, RSW, Lecturer

BA, BSW, MSW, Phd (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; Children and youth-in care; IPV.

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.

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

Sandra Rathjen
Administrative Assistant
School of Social Work
Telephone: 250-960-6629
Email: msw@unbc.ca

Susan Burke
Associate Professor/MSW Coordinator
(July 2024 – Dec. 2024)
Email: susan.burke@unbc.ca

Indrani Margolin
Professor/MSW Coordinator
(Jan. – June 2025)
Email: Indrani.Margolin@unbc.ca

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

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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