CHILD WELFARE EDUCATION PROGRAM
MSW PUBLIC CHILD WELFARE SPECIALIZATION
PLAN OF STUDY

Students in the Child Welfare Education Program must follow the Public Child Welfare Specialization Curriculum. This includes taking only Child Welfare approved courses and electives and being placed in one of our Child Welfare Education Units for one field practicum. Please refer to the information below for specific information on the child welfare curricula.

MSW Standard Program
Standard Program Child Welfare Education Program students may be in either of the following two concentrations/specializations: 1) Advanced Direct Practice Concentration/Public Child Welfare Specialization (ADP/PCW) or 2) Planning, Administration, and Community Practice Concentration/Public Child Welfare Specialization (PAC/PCW).

ADP/PCW Plan of Study
Students in the ADP concentration will follow the ADP/PCW Plan of Study. They will choose their electives from among the Child Welfare approved electives.

Students in this concentration will have two field practicum placements. One of these placements has to be at a private (non-governmental) child welfare approved agency or a school. The second placement must be at a Child Welfare Education Unit (CWEU).

PAC/PCW Plan of Study
Students in the PAC concentration will follow the PAC/PCW Plan of Study. Within the PAC concentration, students can take three electives. Child Welfare Specialization students in this concentration will take the Advanced Direct Practice courses required in the ADP/PCW concentration as two of these electives, namely SWG 608: Ecological Approaches to Practice with Children, Youth, and Families and SWG 609: Advanced Social Work Practice with Child Welfare Families. Their third elective will be SWG 633: Child Welfare Services.

Students in this concentration will have two field practicum placements. The first year placement MUST be at a Child Welfare Education Unit, as these placements are not PAC placements. Their second year placement should be a PAC placement at an agency that serves or works on behalf of vulnerable children and families.

Advanced Standing Program

ADP/PCW Plan of Study
Students in the ADP concentration will follow the ADP/PCW Plan of Study. They will choose their electives from among the Child Welfare approved electives.

Students in the Advanced Standing Program will have one field practicum placement. This placement must be at a Child Welfare Education Unit (CWEU). Because these units are not PAC placements, Advanced Standing Child Welfare students should be in the ADP concentration. There are two exceptions to this policy: 1) they completed their BSW field
placement in one of the CWEUs, or 2) they have recent (within the past 5 years) Arizona Department of Child Safety case management experience (i.e., worked as a DCS Specialist I, II, or III in an Investigations, On-Going, In-Home, Adoptions, ICWA, or YAP Unit). The requests for Advanced Standing Child Welfare students who want to be in the PAC Concentration who meet one of these two exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**CHILD WELFARE PLAN OF STUDY GUIDE**

**Foundation Year (1st Year)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>501 Hmn Bv Soc Env I</td>
<td>502 Hmn Bv Soc Env II</td>
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<tr>
<td>510 Foundation Practice I</td>
<td>511 Foundation Practice II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>531 Social Policy/Services</td>
<td>519 Research Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>533 Diversity &amp; Oppression SW Context</td>
<td>585 Comm &amp; Organizational Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>541 Field Practicum I</td>
<td>542 Field Practicum II</td>
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<td>ADP - CWEU or Private CW Agency</td>
<td>ADP - CWEU or Private CW Agency</td>
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<td>PAC - CWEU</td>
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**Concentration Year (2nd Year/ Advanced Standing)**

**Advanced Direct Practice Concentration/Public Child Welfare Specialization (ADP/PCW)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>606 Assessment of Mental Disorders</td>
<td>609 Adv. Soc Wk Prac w/Child Welf Fmls</td>
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<tr>
<td>608 Eco App to Prac w/ Chln, Yth, and Fmls</td>
<td>621 Integrative Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>619 Practice Oriented Research</td>
<td>6xx CW approved ADP elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>633 Child Welfare Services</td>
<td>6xx CW approved elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>641 Adv. Practicum/DP I</td>
<td>642 Advanced Practicum/DP II</td>
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<td>Adv Stnd - CWEU</td>
<td>Adv Stnd - CWEU</td>
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<td>Stnd Prog - CWEU or Private CW Agency</td>
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**Planning, Administration, and Community Practice Concentration (PAC/PCW)**

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<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>608 Eco App to Prac w/ Chln, Yth, and Fmls</td>
<td>609 Adv. Soc Wk Prac w/Child Welf Fmls</td>
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<tr>
<td>623 Program Evaluation</td>
<td>632 Policy Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>633 Child Welfare Services</td>
<td>681 Soc. Wk. Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>685 Program Png Soc. Serv.</td>
<td>682 Com. Participation Strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private CW Agency - NOT CWEU</td>
<td>Private CW Agency - NOT CWEU</td>
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Child Welfare Approved Electives

Concentration Year Electives
Students in the Advanced Direct Practice Concentration/Public Child Welfare Specialization must take SWG 633: Child Welfare Services as their elective in the Fall of their concentration year. Students in this specialization will then choose two electives in the Spring of their concentration year from among the approved list. At least one of these two electives must be an ADP approved elective (*these are starred in the list below).

Child Welfare Specialization students in the PAC concentration must take SWG 633: Child Welfare Services and SWG 608: Ecological Approach to Practice with Children, Youth, and Families as their two electives in the Fall of their concentration year. They must take SWG 609: Advanced Social Work Practice with Child Welfare Families as an elective in the Spring of their second year. If PAC child welfare students have room in their schedules for additional courses and these electives are to count toward their graduation requirements, they must be from among the approved Child Welfare electives listed below.

Foundation Year Electives
Standard Program students who are exempt or “test out” of core classes for their first year who plan to take electives in place of those classes must choose electives from the list of Child Welfare approved electives. Students in the first year summer block stipend program who have room for an elective may also take a 500 level elective in their foundation year from the approved list. If students have prior public child welfare work experience, they may request permission from the Child Welfare Education Program (CWEP) Director to take SWG 633 Child Welfare Services during the first year.

Concentration Year students may take a 500-level elective only if they have a prevailing rationale as to how the 500-level course will better prepare them for child welfare case management than the available 600 level electives. This rationale must be approved by the CWEP Director.

Tucson Students
Please note that there may be a limited number of Child Welfare approved electives in Tucson. This may require that you build your schedule around the approved electives rather than trying to fit an elective into an existing schedule. Otherwise, you can satisfy your electives requirements by 1) commuting to the Phoenix downtown campus to take electives at that campus, or 2) obtaining approval to take an independent study course that focuses on child welfare issues.

Concentration Year Approved Electives
ADP students will take two electives. AT LEAST ONE of these must be from among the ADP approved electives (these are noted by an asterisk*). Please note that not all electives will be offered every semester.

SWG 611 Social Work with Families*
SWG 612 Social Work with Groups*
SWG 613 Advanced Social Work Practice in Behavioral Health*
SWG 617  Advanced Social Work Practice with Children/Adolescents*
SWG 618  Domestic Violence*
(Note: SWG 609 includes a unit on assessing and treating domestic violence)
SWG 630  Brief Social Work Intervention*
SWG 655  Quality of Life*
SWG 654  Introduction to Sexual Abuse
SWG 656  Treating the Whole Person*
SWG 661  Cognitive Behavior Therapy*
SWG 662  Social Work Practice with Adolescents*
SWG 663  Clinical Trauma Treatment* (students who take this course must identify themselves to the professor as a Child Welfare student AND are required to do course assignments, including the group project, on abused/neglected children)
SWG 664  Treatment of Substance Use Disorders*  
(Note: SWG 609 includes a unit on assessing and treating substance abuse disorders)
SWG 690  Readings and Conference (Independent Study) - topic must be related to Child Welfare and approved by the CWEP Director
SWG 599  Thesis (Topic must be related to Child Welfare and approved by the CWEP Director)

**Foundation Year Electives**

These courses may be taken as electives by Foundation Year students who tested out of core courses. Concentration Year students may take a 500-level elective only if they have a prevailing rationale as to how the 500-level course will better prepare them for child welfare case management than the available 600-level electives. This rationale must be approved by the CWEP Director.

SWG 554  Overview of Addictions
SWG 558  Introduction to Behavioral Health Services
SWG 560  Legal Issues in Social Work
SWG 561  LGBTQ Issues
SWG 579  Critical Incident Stress Management
SWG 591  Working with American Indians
SWG 591  Domestic Violence/AmeriCorps

**Receiving Approval for an Elective**

If you would like to register for the thesis course or an independent study you must get approval for the elective PRIOR to the course beginning.

**Thesis**

If you are planning on writing a Thesis please submit a written synopsis of the thesis topic to the CWEP Director. Within the synopsis, please address how the results of your research could impact public child welfare practice.

**Independent Study (Readings and Conference)**

If you would like to do an independent study, you will need to 1) select a professor to be your advisor/instructor for the course; 2) complete the Independent Study request form outlining the purpose and rationale of the independent study and describing your outline for your learning
activities and submit this form with your advisor/instructor’s signature to the school for approval; and 3) submit a copy of the independent study request form along with a synopsis of how the information you will study will relate to your work as a public child welfare practitioner to the CWEP Director for approval.

Field Placement in Child Welfare Education Units

The Child Welfare Education Program operates six Child Welfare Education Units. Two units are in the Maricopa West Region, two are in the Maricopa East Region, one is located in East Mesa in the North East Region and serves Pinal County, and one is in the Pinal Region. If you are accepted into the CWEP, you agree to the following with respect to your field placement at a Child Welfare Education Unit.

• You may do an academic year field placement or summer block field placement. All Advanced Standing students are in academic year field placements. Most all Standard Program students are in summer block field placements.
• The days and hours of field for academic year placements are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The days and hours of field for summer block placements are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
• You must plan for and be able to participate in field during the established field days and hours. Students are not allowed to routinely alter their field schedule or to negotiate to routinely attend field on different days.
• There is no guarantee that the unit you are placed in will be in close proximity to or a short commute from your home. You should be prepared for about a one-hour, one-way commute.
• Your field placement at DCS will entail DCS job functions that require travel and the transportation of children. You must have or will have access to safe and reliable personal transportation when you are at your field placement.