

UNIVERSITY SENATE  
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Introduced by: Graduate Academic Council

Date: March 2004

**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A JOINTLY REGISTERED DUAL DEGREE  
PROGRAM  
M.S.W. – UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY / M.S. BIOETHICS – ALBANY MEDICAL  
COLLEGE AND GRADUATE COLLEGE OF UNION UNIVERSITY**

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

1. That the University Senate approve the attached Proposal for “Dual Jointly-Registered Degree, Master of Social Work (Direct Practice) at the University at Albany School of Social Welfare and Master of Science in Bioethics at Albany Medical College and Graduate College of Union University ” as approved by the Graduate Academic Council.
2. That this proposal be forwarded to the President for approval.

Proposed Dual Jointly-Registered Degree  
Master of Social Work (Direct Practice) at the University at Albany School of Social  
Welfare and  
Master of Science in Bioethics at Albany Medical College and Graduate College of  
Union University  
11/7/03

**PROPOSED PROGRAM TITLE:** Dual Jointly Registered Degree Program in Social Work and Bioethics.

TITLES and Program Code Numbers of Currently Registered Programs which are to be combined: M.S.W. in Social Work (Albany) 03048. Master of Science in Bioethics (Albany Medical College and Graduate College of Union University) 24465 and 24642(distance learning registration code).

**PROPOSED DEGREES:** M.S.W./M.S.B.

**HEGIS Classification and Number:** Public Affairs and Service, 2104 (M.S.W.); Masters in Bioethics, 0499.

**Academic Units That Will Offer the Program:** School of Social Welfare, University at Albany, State University of New York and Albany Medical College and Graduate College of Union University (degree awarded by Graduate College of Union University).

**Proposed Beginning Date:** September 1, 2004.

**Summary of Program:** The School of Social Welfare, University at Albany, State University of New York, offers approved B.S., M.S.W., and Ph.D. programs in Social Work. The approved Master of Science in Bioethics is offered jointly by the Center for Medical Ethics at Albany Medical College and the Center for Bioethics and Clinical Leadership of the Graduate College of Union University. This proposal is to offer a combined masters-level program in Social Work (Direct Practice Concentration) and Bioethics. The proposed dual jointly registered degree program is 88 credits: 51 credits (of 60) in the Master of Social Work and 37 credits (of 40) in the Master of Science in Bioethics. Students will take 16 of the 19 courses required toward the Social Work degree (48 credits) and 11 of the 12 required Bioethics courses (40 credits). The students will attend the Albany campus for the social work courses. Most Bioethics courses will be online (with some on-site options) and three intensive sessions in person on the Albany Medical College campus. We anticipate admitting one or two students a year. This program will be a Council on Social Work Education accredited M.S.W. program under the School of Social Welfare's current accreditation.

The curriculum for the proposed dual jointly registered degree program is displayed in Tables 1 and 2.

**Rationale for the program:** The M.S.W. degree with a concentration in Direct Practice prepares graduates for beginning-level professional social work with individuals, families, and small groups. The program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Hence, its degree is nationally-recognized as a professional social work degree. Because an M.S.W. degree-holder may be licensed by the state of New York, in New York the M.S.W. is among the most flexible and marketable of degrees in the human services. Many social workers are employed in settings where they deal daily with bioethical issues, including hospital and other health care settings (17% of recent Albany M.S.W. graduates in 2001), services to older persons (9%), substance abuse (6%) and developmental disabilities (5%).

The M.S.B. degree is an interdisciplinary degree offering intensive education in bioethics for persons from many disciplines, including medicine, healthcare administration, law, nursing, pharmacy, and social work. The program is offered through on-line courses and short-term intensive sessions designed for working healthcare professionals. It covers a range of bioethical issues including healthcare policy, law, biomedical issues, research ethics, and reproductive ethics. It includes a strong emphasis on practical application in health settings.

The proposed dual jointly-registered program would offer students the opportunity to combine the M.S.W. with a strong specialization in biomedical issues. The M.S.W. coursework includes generalist and advanced social work practice that prepares students to work in healthcare and health-related settings. In the advanced curriculum, students may select courses in social work and health, aging, end-of-life issues, disabilities, and other related practice arenas. The M.S.B. coursework includes core courses in health care policy, biomedical ethics, legal issues, practicum at Albany Medical College, a masters project which may be a thesis, and two intensive, face-to-face seminars at the beginning and end of the program. Both degrees will count courses in the other program as meeting elective courses. The program will be a fully accredited M.S.W. program under the School of Social Welfare's current accreditation.

Social workers provide many services in health care settings, including mental health, health-care compliance, and family and grief counseling. They frequently encounter bioethical issues, and in many hospitals they are leaders in raising consideration of such ethical issues. The combined program will give social workers the in-depth education they need to make informed decisions and the credential to become leaders in bioethics in health care. The social work combination will give bioethics a strong clinical application, an interest of the M.S.B. program.

**Potential Demand:** We expect up to five students a year. The combination of degrees is unique in the United States. There are no other bioethics programs in New York State. We anticipate that the graduates of the program will become leaders in social work and health care. The need for persons trained in bioethics will increase dramatically due to increasing complexity of medical interventions and increases in the need for medical care among an aging population in New York.

Enrollment in the M.S.W. program has been steady between 350 and 375 and applications for the entering class have been between 200 and 400.

The M.S.B. program enrolls about 15 students a year. All are working professionals in health care fields who appreciate the part-time distance learning program.

**General requirements for program completion of each separate program:**

The University at Albany School of Social Welfare currently offers a 60-credit degree, Master of Social Work (M.S.W.). The M.S.W. degree includes 31 credits of required coursework and 29 credits of coursework in an advanced concentration. Because this proposal concerns only one advanced concentration, the Direct Practice concentration, the model full-time curriculum for Direct Practice students only is presented in Table 3. In the Direct Practice concentration (second-year), three courses (11 credits) are required of all students; 4 courses (12 credits) are selected from courses designated by the faculty as meeting requirements for Advanced Behavior (1 course, 3 credits), Advanced Policy (1 course, 3 credits), and Advanced Practice (2 courses, 6 credits). Courses which have been approved in each area are listed in Table 4. Typically, four to eight of each course type are offered each semester. Two additional courses (6 credits) are taken per advisement.

The Masters in Bioethics includes 12 courses. Ten are required (including three intensive clinical sessions, two courses for the masters project, and 5 semester-length on-line courses). Two courses are electives selected from a choice of three courses. The courses are listed in Table 5.

#### **4. Specific requirements for the jointly registered dual Master's program:**

##### **4a. Listing of all required courses.**

The required courses for the proposed Dual-Jointly Registered Master's Program in Social Work and Bioethics are listed in Table 1. The 88 credit degree includes 13 required social work courses (courses listed as RSSW with a number), 3 social work courses that meet distributional requirements (listed as RSSW 7xx), 10 required Bioethics courses (courses listed as MED) and one of the three MED electives (MED 206).

##### **4b. Supporting courses and electives.**

The courses that meet distributional requirements in social work will be selected from those listed in Table 3 (Social Work). They will be the same selection of courses offered to students in the MSW program at the same time. The elective in Bioethics will be the one elective that meets student time commitments (MED 206, Scientific Integrity).

##### **4c. Courses and credits that will be used to satisfy requirements for both degrees.**

Table 2 indicates how credit will be allocated toward each degree. The 4 courses that meet requirements of both degrees are in the center column of Table 2. One course includes content that is similar in both programs, basic research methodology (SSW 660 Introductory Research Methodology). Research methodology is required in the MSW program and is an elective in the Bioethics program. Two Bioethics courses are acceptable substitutes for MSW courses. MED 281, Health Care Policy, will meet the requirement for an MSW Advanced Policy course; the content is similar in scope and difficulty as that expected of an advanced policy course. MED 284, Bioethics and the Law, core content for Bioethics, is an appropriate elective course in the MSW program. One course would be an elective in each program, MED 206, Research Ethics.

In terms of completing degree requirements, toward the M.S.W. Social Work degree, students will take 16 of the 17 required Social Work courses (48 credits). One additional requirement, the Advanced Policy course, is met by a policy course in Bioethics (MED 281). No required content will be lost. In the regular degree program, students take two electives in social work or any related graduate department. Two Bioethics courses are appropriate electives and will enrich the content of the M.S.W. program.

Toward the M.S.B. degree, students take all 10 required courses and one elective course. The second elective course is met by a social work course that is content similar to the elective, RSSW 660 Introductory Research Methodology. No required content is lost.

**4d. Number of semesters required for dual program completion.** The model program is laid out in Table 1. The degree will take three academic years and three summers to complete.

**4e. Other program requirements.** There are no additional requirements. Students must satisfactorily complete all courses, including courses in Field Instruction (internship in an agency).

**4f. Assuring program quality:** Several means exist to assure program quality. First, the M.S.W. degree program (including the variation proposed in this dual jointly registered degree program) is accredited by an external accrediting body, the Council on Social Work Education. It is reviewed periodically by outside reviewers and must meet rigorous standards, especially when variations to the regular degree programs are present. Secondly, as part of the M.S.W. requirements, students must complete four semesters of field instruction, carrying out social work duties in a social work agency (practica or internship). Professional responsibility as well as concerns for liability require careful monitoring of student preparation for and supervision during the field practica. Thirdly, the M.S.B. is undergoing accreditation by the Department of Education of New York State and uses a curriculum designed to satisfy the current core competencies for clinical ethics consultation standards of the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities and to meet prospective requirements of such accrediting and funding bodies as the Joint Commission on Accrediting Healthcare Organizations (JACHO) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Finally, faculty at both programs have formal mechanisms for periodic review of curriculum, including the content and relevance of courses that fulfill degree requirements.

**4g. Admissions:** Students must be eligible to matriculate in both programs and must be accepted through the admissions process of each program.

**Table 1**  
**Proposed Dual Jointly-Registered Degree**  
**Master of Social Work (Direct Practice) at the University at Albany School of Social Welfare and**  
**Master of Science in Bioethics at Albany Medical College and Graduate College of Union University**  
**Curriculum and Model Program**

Time Frame	University at Albany Master of Social Work	Albany Medical College/Graduate College of Union University Master of Science in Bioethics
Year 1 Fall	SSW 600 Social Welfare Policy and Services (3 credits) SSW 610 Human Behavior and	

	Social Environment I (3 credits) SSW 620 Micro Practice in Social Work I (3 credits) SSW 630 Macro Practice in Social Work I (3 credits) SSW 650 Field Instruction I (3 credits)	
Year 1 1 Winter	SSW 611 Human Behavior and Social Environment II (3 credits) SSW 621 Micro Practice in Social Work II (3 credits) SSW 631 Macro Practice in Social Work II (3 credits) SSW 651 Field Instruction II (4 credits) SSW 660 Introductory Research Methodology (3 credits)	
Year 1 Summer  2nd half (August)		MED 246 Proseminar in Health and Human Values (2 weeks in August Albany Medical College)
Year 2 Fall	SSW xxx Advanced Practice (3 credits)** SSW xxx Advanced Behavior (3 credits)*	MED 281 Health Care Policy (on line/on-site option) MED 206 Research Ethics: Scientific Integrity (on line/on-site option)
Year 2 Winter	SSW xxx Advanced Practice (3 credits)*	MED 274 Biomedical Ethics (on line/on-site option in Spring)
Year 2 Spring		MED 202 Clinical Ethics (on line) MED 284 Bioethics and the Law (on line)
Year 2 Summer		MED 301 Practicum I – Clinical Ethics (Albany Medical College)
Year 3 Fall	SSW 661 Evaluation of Clinical Practice (3 credits) OR SSW 665 Research Methods in	MED 302 Practicum II – Online Practicum ) (conducted in social work

	Social Work Management (3 credits) (prepare proposal for masters project) SSW 752 Field Instruction III (4 credits)	field practicum)
Year3 Winter	SSW 753 Field Instruction IV (4 credits)	MED 391 Masters Project I (on line)(conducted in social work field practicum)
Year 3 Spring		MED 392 Masters Project (on line) (conducted in social work field practicum)
Year 3 Summer		MED 399 Capstone in Clinical Ethics (Albany Medical College) 10 days in May
Total credits	51	37

**Table 2**  
**Proposed Dual Jointly-Registered Degree**  
**Master of Social Work (Direct Practice) at the University at Albany School of Social Welfare and**  
**Master of Science in Bioethics at Albany Medical College and Graduate College of Union University**  
**Allocation of Credits to the Degree Programs**

Credits counting toward Master of Social Work only	Credits counting toward both degrees	Credits counting toward Master of Science in Bioethics only
SSW 600 Social Welfare Policy and Services (3 credits) SSW 610 Human Behavior and Social Environment I (3 credits) SSW 620 Micro Practice in Social Work I (3 credits) SSW 630 Macro Practice in Social Work I (3 credits)	SSW 660 Introductory Research Methodology (3 credits) MED 281 Health Care Policy MED 274 Biomedical Ethics MED 284 Bioethics and the Law	MED 246 Proseminar in Health and Human Values MED 206 Research Ethics: Scientific Integrity MED 202 Clinical Ethics MED 301 Practicum I –

SSW 650 Field Instruction I (3 credits) SSW 611 Human Behavior and Social Environment II (3 credits) SSW 621 Micro Practice in Social Work II (3 credits) SSW 631 Macro Practice in Social Work II (3 credits) SSW 651 Field Instruction II (4 credits) SSW 661 Evaluation of Clinical Practice (3 credits) OR SSW 665 Research Methods in Social Work Management (3 credits) SSW 752 Field Instruction III (4 credits) SSW 752 Field Instruction III (4 credits) SSW xxx Advanced Practice (3 credits) SSW xxx Advanced Practice (3 credits) SSW xxx Advanced Behavior (3 credits)		Clinical Ethics MED 302 Practicum II – Online Practicum MED 391 Masters Project I  MED 392 Masters ProjectII MED 399 Capstone in Clinical Ethics
48 credits	13 credits	27 credits

**Table 3**

**School of Social Welfare  
University at Albany-State University of New York  
M.S.W. Curriculum with Concentration in Direct Practice**

**First-Year Generalist Curriculum**

**First Semester (Fall)**

RSSW 600 Social Welfare Policy and Services (3 credits)  
RSSW 610 Human Behavior and Social Environment I (3 credits)  
RSSW 620 Micro Practice in Social Work I (3 credits)



RSSW 630 Macro Practice in Social Work I (3 credits)  
RSSW 650 Field Instruction I (3 credits)

**Second Semester (Spring)**

RSSW 611 Human Behavior and Social Environment II (3 credits)  
RSSW 621 Micro Practice in Social Work II (3 credits)  
RSSW 631 Macro Practice in Social Work II (3 credits)  
RSSW 660 Introductory Research Methodology (3 credits)  
RSSW 651 Field Instruction II (4 credits)

**Second-Year Direct Practice Concentration**

**Third Semester (Fall)**

RSSW xxx Advanced Behavior (3 credits)\*  
RSSW xxx Advanced Practice (3 credits)  
RSSW 661 Evaluation of Clinical Practice (3 credits)  
RSSW xxx elective (3 credits)  
RSSW 752 Field Instruction III (4 credits)

**Fourth Semester (Spring)**

RSSW 7xx Advanced Policy (3 credits)  
RSSW 7xx Advanced Practice (3 credits)  
RSSW xxx elective (3 credits)  
RSSW 753 Field Instruction IV (4 credits)

**Table 4**

**School of Social Welfare  
University at Albany - State University of New York  
Courses Currently Designated as Meeting Advanced Concentration Distribution  
Requirements**

**Advanced Policy:**

SSW 740 Social Gerontology: Policies, Programs and Services  
SSW 780 Child Welfare  
SSW 781 Poverty, Health and Health Policy  
SSW 782 International Social Welfare Policy  
SSW 783 SW in Rural Settings  
SSW 784 Women and Social Policy  
SSW 785 Mental Health Policy

**Advanced Behavior:**

SSW 711 Variant Family Forms  
SSW 712 Family Violence  
SSW 717 Discrimination: Implications for Social Work  
SSW 721 Ego Psychology: Theory in Practice  
SSW 732 Traumatology  
SSW 734 Latter Half of Life  
SSW 735 Disorders of Children and Adolescents  
SSW 737 Families in Mid and Late Life

**Advanced Practice:**

SSW 710 Social Work Practice with Children  
SSW 719 Comparative Approaches to Direct Treatment  
SSW 721 Ego Psychology  
SSW 722 Social Work Interventions in Grief and Loss  
SSW 724 Social Work Practice with Groups  
SSW 725 Social Work Practice with Involuntary Clients

SSW 727 Advanced Family and Marriage Therapy  
SSW 729 Social Work Practice with Women  
SSW 731 Clinical Case Management  
SSW 731 Social Work Practice with Immigrants  
SSW 731 Spirituality in SW Practice  
SSW 731 Crisis Intervention  
SSW 731 Theory and Treatment of Depression  
SSW 741 Practice with Mature and Aging Adults  
SSW 742 Cognitive Methods in Social Work Practice  
SSW 745 Social Work Intervention in Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism  
SSW 746 Cultural Diversity in Social Work Practice  
SSW 747 Task-Centered Practice  
SSW 748 Social Work Practice in Mental Health Settings  
SSW 749 Social Work Practice in Health Care Settings  
SSW 770 Assessment and Treatment of Problems of Adolescence  
SSW 771 Social Work Interventions in Family Violence  
SSW 772 Social Work in the Schools  
SSW 773 Sexual Identity and Social Work Practice

**Table 5**  
**Master of Science in Bioethics at Albany Medical College and Graduate College of**  
**Union University**  
**Curriculum**

MED 246 Proseminar In Health & Human Values (on site)  
MED 281 Health Care Policy  
MED 274 Biomedical Ethics  
MED 284 Bioethics & the Law  
MED 301 Practicum I - Clinical Ethics (on site)  
MED 205 Reproductive Ethics (elective)\*  
MED 206 Scientific Integrity (elective)\*  
MED 207 Empirical Research Methods (elective)\*  
MED 202 Clinical Ethics  
MED 302 Practicum II – On-line Practicum  
MED 391 Masters Project I  
MED 392 Masters Project II  
MED 399 Capstone in Clinical Ethics (on site)

\*Students select two elective courses.