

11-14-11

MSW Collaborative: Miami University and Wright State University  
Fact Sheet

A Collaborative MSW program is coming to the Greater Miami Valley with a projected start date of August, 2012!!

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and the Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) have approved the initial documents required for Miami University (MU) and Wright State University (WSU) to begin a Collaborative Masters in Social Work (MSW) program. The soonest that final approval for this program can be obtained is June, 2012. In order to be prepared to begin the curriculum in Fall, 2012, an unofficial application will be available by January, 2012. Students will be asked to complete and submit the application by April 1, 2012. The application will be available at [http://www.wright.edu/cola/Dept/social\\_work/grad\\_courses.htm](http://www.wright.edu/cola/Dept/social_work/grad_courses.htm)

The MSW Collaborative will have candidacy status with CSWE during its first four years. Upon successfully meeting all CSWE standards, the program can be accredited during the beginning of the fifth year. This accreditation will apply retroactively to all previous graduates.

This fact sheet answers the most common questions being asked about this new collaborative MSW program. You may also contact [carl.brun@wright.edu](mailto:carl.brun@wright.edu) or [newsomws@muohio.edu](mailto:newsomws@muohio.edu) with any further questions.

**Q. What is the mission of this new program?**

A. To prepare students from the Greater Miami Valley region to become advanced generalist social work professionals. Graduates will be lifelong learners and leaders. They will contribute to the social work profession through advanced generalist practice. Such practice emphasizes effective practice and policy skill development to promote diversity and cultural competency, social and economic justice, reduce oppression, and improve the broader human condition.

**Q. What is OBR?**

A. The Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) is a nine-member advisory board to Chancellor Jim Petro with two ex-officio representatives from the state legislature and was created in 1963 by the General Assembly. Members of the Board of Regents are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate (<http://www.ohiohighered.org/board>). The Chancellor of the OBR has delegated the responsibility for the assessment of new graduate degree programs to the Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study (RACGS), which is composed of the graduate deans of the Ohio universities (<http://regents.ohio.gov/rgp/racgs/>).

All new graduate programs must be approved by RACGS. A 5 page Professional Development Plan (PDP) of the MSW Collaborative was approved by the Graduate Schools of MU and WSU in 2011 and submitted to RACGS. Graduate deans from several universities provided feedback to the proposal and permission was given to develop the full proposal. The full proposal for approval of a new graduate program in Ohio will be presented to RACGS by the Spring, 2012. This proposal is posted on the WSU Social Work website. The proposal is currently being presented to the faculty senate and Board of Trustees at both universities. The program has received overwhelming support at both universities.

**Q. What is CSWE?**

A. The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) is the accrediting body for all BSW and MSW programs in the U.S. ([www.cswe.org](http://www.cswe.org)). All new programs must complete benchmark documents to demonstrate that the program will meet standards for the curriculum and administrative structure. The Benchmark I document required for application for candidacy has been approved by CSWE. A site visit by a CSWE Commissioner of Accreditation will occur in January or February, 2012.

**Q. Where can I learn more about social work to decide if the MSW is my best choice?**

The largest organization for social workers is the National Association of Social Workers: [www.naswdc.org](http://www.naswdc.org) and [www.naswoh.org](http://www.naswoh.org). Another social work organization dedicated to the social advocacy is the Social Welfare Action Alliance: [www.socialwelfareactionalliance.org/](http://www.socialwelfareactionalliance.org/). Persons graduating with a MSW are eligible to become Licensed Social Workers (LSW) and Licensed Independent Social Workers (LISW): [www.cswmft.ohio.gov](http://www.cswmft.ohio.gov).

**Q. Why a collaborative program?**

A. The geographic region of central-western Ohio has been in the need of an MSW program for over 30 years. Persons living in this area have traveled to Columbus or Cincinnati to complete an MSW program. MU and WSU decided that it was best to combine faculty and resources from each campus to provide a collaborative MSW program in the Greater Miami Valley area.

**Q. To which university do I apply?**

A. All persons applying to the MSW Collaborative will complete the same application. Students will check on the application to which university they want to be an official student. A university designation is needed for registration purposes.

**Q. Isn't it more expensive to attend Miami University?**

A. MU has agreed to charge the same tuition rate as WSU for the MSW program.

**Q. From which university will I be graduating?**

A. Both universities will be listed on the diploma.

**Q. Where will classes be taught?**

A. Classes will be taught in a variety of ways. One method will be to use Distance Video Learning classrooms. These classrooms are located at both WSU's Dayton campus and MU's Oxford campus. The rooms have video cameras so that students in both locations can interact with the professor and other students. The professor will alternate teaching from each campus. The second teaching option is to teach at MU branch campuses in Middletown or the Voice of America Campus in Mason.

**Q. What time of day will the classes be taught?**

Classes scheduled for Fall 2012 will be taught M-F in the evening from 6-8:30 P.M. In the future classes may also be taught on Saturdays.

**Q. When will the first classes be taught?**

A. The target beginning term of the MSW Collaborative is Fall, 2012. The term begins on August 27, 2012. This beginning date is based on receiving approval from OBR and CSWE.

**Q. How many students will be accepted for Fall, 2012?**

Thirty: fifteen from MU and fifteen from WSU.

**Q. What are the Admissions requirements?**

In order to be admitted to the Greater Miami Valley MSW Collaborative, applicants must provide transcripts from all colleges and universities attended to verify the following:

1. a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university;
2. a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 2.75 (based on a 4.0 system) from all colleges and universities attended to ensure regular graduate status;
3. a minimum GPA of 3.0 in social work or behavioral science courses.
4. completion of the following behavioral science coursework:
  - a. at least one course in psychology, sociology, or anthropology;
  - b. at least one course in American history, American government, or economics;
  - c. at least one course in human biology; and
  - d. at least one course in statistics.

**Q. Will there be an advanced standing MSW program for BSW graduates?**

Yes, beginning Summer 2013. Requirements for the Advanced Standing Program are:

1. meet all the admission requirements of the Regular MSW Program;
2. have received within the last 5 years before applying, a Bachelor of Social Work degree from a CSWE accredited program OR hold a Bachelor of Social Work degree recognized through the CSWE Recognition and Evaluation service OR hold a Bachelor of Social Work degree covered under a memorandum of understanding with international social work accreditors;
3. have earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 on all previous undergraduate academic work attempted. Students must also have a 3.25 or better in all required undergraduate social work courses;
4. have documentation of positive performance in field practicum from the undergraduate field instructor or social work employer.

**Q. Will there be a part-time program?**

Yes. Our goal is to have a three-year and four-year part-time program beginning Fall 2013.

**Q. What are the required courses?**

Listed below are the titles of the courses taught in the two-year full-time program. Full descriptions of the courses can be found in the proposal that is posted on the Social Work website.

Proposed Greater Miami Valley MSW Collaborative:  
Miami University and Wright State University  
Sample Curriculum  
*Two-Year Full-Time Program*

<b>Fall Semester Year 1</b>	<b>Spring Semester Year 1</b>
SW 7100 Social Welfare Policy I (3CH) SW 7200 Human Behavior and Social Environment I – Micro Systems (3CH) SW 7300 Social Work Practice I (3CH) SW 7400 Social Work Research I (3CH) SW 7500 Cultural Competency (3CH) <div style="text-align: right;">15 hours</div>	SW 7110 Social Welfare Policy II (3CH) SW 7210 Human Behavior and Social Environment II – Macro Systems (3CH) SW 7310 Social Work Practice II (3CH) SW 7600 Field Practicum & Lab I (3 CH) SW 8220 or 8320 Concentration Focus Area Elective (3CH) <div style="text-align: right;">15 hours</div>
<b>Fall Semester Year 2</b>	<b>Spring Semester Year 2</b>
SW 8100 Advanced Generalist Social Work Practice I (3CH) SW 8200 or 8300 Concentration Focus Area Practice Course (3CH) SW 8600 Field Practicum and Lab II (6CH) SW 7310 Social Work Research II (3 CH) <div style="text-align: right;">15 hours</div>	SW 8110 Advanced Generalist Social Work Practice II (3CH) SW 8210 or 8310 Concentration Focus Area Policy Course (3 CH) SW 8610 Field Practicum and Lab III (6 CH) SW 8410 Social Work Research III (3 CH) <div style="text-align: right;">15 hours</div>

**Q. What are the field education requirements?**

Students will complete 900 hours of field education across three different semesters.

**Q. Where can I get more information about this proposed program?**

A. Contact Carl Brun, Chair, WSU Social Work at 937-775-2868 or [carl.brun@wright.edu](mailto:carl.brun@wright.edu). Visit the WSU Social Work website at [http://www.wright.edu/cola/Dept/social\\_work/grad\\_courses.htm](http://www.wright.edu/cola/Dept/social_work/grad_courses.htm) or like us on facebook for updates @ wright.state.socialwork