



ہائیر ایجوکیشن کمیشن

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Government of Pakistan, Islamabad

Sector H-9
Islamabad, Pakistan
Phone : +92-51-90402114
+92-51-90402124
www.hec.gov.pk
mabaig@hec.gov.pk

Office of the

Deputy Director (Curriculum)

Academics Division

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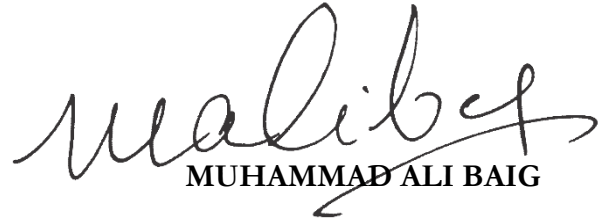
June 12, 2025

SUBJECT: REVISED CURRICULA FOR SOCIAL WORK DEGREE PROGRAMS

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, as mandated by its law, provides guidance to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) on curricula for tertiary education levels in alignment with the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). To address evolving academic trends and industry demands, HEC has revised the curricular standards for Social Work degree programs at NQF levels 5-7. These updated standards are intricately aligned with HEC's Undergraduate Education Policy (V 1.1), Graduate Education Policy (2023) and NQF ensuring coherence with national priorities and adherence to international benchmarks.

2. The revised curricula for Social Work degree programs are hereby notified. Universities offering these programs are advised to align their curricula with these updated standards as a minimum requirement. The respective departments must also develop course contents in accordance with the prescribed framework, ensuring that the programs address evolving scholarly and professional needs to enhance entrepreneurial and employability potential of Social Work graduates. Subsequently, the finalized course contents should be submitted electronically to this office at the earliest. An electronic copy of the revised curricula is available on HEC's official website.

3. With the support of universities in adopting and implementing these standards, HEC envisions a future where Social Work graduates serve as competent, compassionate and responsible professionals and entrepreneurs, driving social change, advancing justice, and contributing meaningfully to national and global development.


MUHAMMAD ALI BAIG

Vice Chancellors/Rectors/Heads

All Public/Private Sector Universities/DAIs

Copy for information to:

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- vi. PS to Director General, Academics Division, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad
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CURRICULUM FOR

SOCIAL WORK DEGREE PROGRAMS

Associate Degree | Bachelor of Science | Master of Science

2025

**Academics Division
Higher Education Commission, Islamabad
Government of Pakistan**

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CONTRIBUTIONS

Dr. Syeda Mahnaz Hassan – Convener

Professor
Department of Social Work
University of the Punjab
Lahore

Dr. Asif Naveed Ranjha – Co-convener

Professor & Chairperson
Department of Social Work
The Islamia University of Bahawalpur
Bahawalpur

Dr. Mumtaz Ali Baloch

Professor & Vice Chancellor
University of Makran
Panjgur

Dr. Beenish Ijaz Butt

Professor & Chairperson
Department of Social Work
University of Sargodha
Sargodha

Dr. Sakina Riaz

Professor
Department of Social Work
University of Karachi
Karachi

Dr. Aisha Shoukat

Associate Professor
Department of Social Work
The Islamia University of Bahawalpur
Bahawalpur

Dr. Syed Faisal Hyder Shah

Associate Professor & Chairperson
Department of Social Work
University of Sindh
Jamshoro

Dr. Shakeel Ahmed

Associate Professor & Chairperson
Department of Social Work
University of Peshawar
Peshawar

Dr. Sonia Omer

Associate Professor
Department of Social Work
University of the Punjab
Lahore

Dr. Arfan Latif

Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology
University of Okara
Okara

Dr. Ayesha Gul

Assistant Professor
Department of Social Work
Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University
Quetta

Dr. Muhammad Aurangzeb Khan

Assistant Professor & Head
Department of Social Work
Women University
Swabi

Dr. Nazia Salah ud Din

Assistant Professor & In-charge
Department of Social Work
Lahore College for Women University
Lahore

Dr. Sumera Farid

Assistant Professor
Department of Social Work
University of Peshawar
Peshawar

Mr. Muhammad Arshad

Assistant Professor
Department of Social Work
University of the Punjab
Lahore

Dr. Amir Alam

Lecturer & Head
Department of Social Work
Shahed Benazir Bhutto University
Sheringal

Dr. Farida Anjum

Director (Curriculum)

Academics Division

Higher Education Commission

Islamabad

Mr. Muhammad Ali Baig – Secretary

Deputy Director (Curriculum)

Academics Division

Higher Education Commission

Islamabad

PREFACE

The curriculum serves as a comprehensive blueprint for the teaching-learning process that students must navigate to achieve specific academic objectives. This encompasses clearly defined prior learning requirements, program objectives, scheme of studies, and course learning outcomes. As knowledge rapidly evolves and new fields emerge, it is crucial to continually develop and revise curricula to ensure they remain current, relevant, and impactful.

As mandated by its law through Clause 10-1 (a), (l), (s), and (v), the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan has been developing and periodically updating curricula through its National Curriculum Revision Committees (NCRCs). These committees are generally composed of subject matter experts, researchers, and representatives from accreditation bodies, professional councils, and industry. In response to the evolving needs, HEC has undertaken the task to develop robust standards for the curricula of degree programs in Social Work at levels 5-7 of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). These standards are meticulously structured in accordance with the HEC's Undergraduate Education Policy (V 1.1), Graduate Education Policy (2023) and NQF ensuring alignment with both national priorities and international educational standards.

The degree programs in Social Work are designed to prepare students for professional engagement with individuals, groups, and communities by fostering a deep understanding of human behavior, social systems, and institutional responses to social needs. These programs provide a rigorous foundation in social work theory, methods, ethics, and field-based learning, enabling graduates to develop the analytical, interpersonal, and problem-solving skills essential for effective practice in diverse settings. The curricular standards, developed by experienced academics and field practitioners from across the country, aim to enhance the quality, relevance, and impact of social work education by integrating evidence-based approaches, rights-based frameworks, and community-centered practices. Graduates are equipped to contribute across multiple sectors including health, education, child and family welfare, disaster response, human rights, and social development—where empathy, advocacy, and ethical service are critical.

With the support of universities in adopting and implementing these standards, HEC envisions a future where Social Work graduates serve as competent, compassionate, and responsible professionals, driving social change, advancing justice, and contributing meaningfully to national and global development.

Dr. Amjad Hussain

Director General
Academics Division

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Minimum Standards

The curricular standards and guidelines prescribed in this document are mandatory at minimum level. Universities or the departments concerned may, however, set higher standards provided that the standards prescribed herein are not reduced or compromised.

Course Sequence, Titles & Credits

For Associate Degree (AD), Bachelor of Science (BS) and Master of Science (MS) in Social Work, the sequence of courses prescribed in this document is logically arranged and is suggestive only. The department concerned may rearrange the sequence and alter the course titles and credit hours provided that the essence of the courses prescribed herein remains intact. The department concerned may also add more courses as and when required subject to the approval of the university's relevant statutory body.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course learning outcomes (CLOs) are the bare minimum standards of learning that students must achieve upon completing a specific course. While these standards must not be compromised, departments are encouraged to enhance the rigor of the CLOs by incorporating additional learning outcomes, provided these do not alter the essence of the prescribed standards. In this document, CLOs are developed for major courses and whereas for electives and interdisciplinary courses, the departments concerned are required to develop their CLOs considering the course's advanced nature. For General Education courses as prescribed in the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1 including the courses of "Pakistan Studies" and "Understanding of Holy Quran I & II", the departments may adopt the CLOs as prescribed in the HEC developed model courses.

Course Syllabus

This document serves as a comprehensive guideline delineating the CLOs for each course as prescribed for the AD, BS and MS in Social Work as minimum standards. The department concerned is required to prepare, modify, and tailor the syllabus of each course, ensuring alignment with the stipulated learning outcomes and scholarly demands. It is in this regard imperative that the department concerned utilizes instructional, reference, and reading materials that it deems appropriate to effectively meet the CLOs.

General Education

For AD and BS in Social Work, the courses for General Education component including the courses of "Pakistan Studies" and "Understanding of Holy Quran I & II" must mandatorily be offered with the same titles and credit hours as prescribed in the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1., and subsequent notifications. The department concerned may adopt and follow the learning outcomes and study contents developed by HEC for these courses as available on its website. The requirement of General Education is not applicable to MS in Social Work.

Requirement of Internship

Supervised internship of 3 credit hours in accordance with HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V.1.1. is a mandatory degree award requirement for BS. This requirement must be graded and supervised under a faculty member in collaboration with a supervisor in the field, protocols of which will be determined by the concerned department subject to approval of the same by the university's relevant statutory body.

Requirement of Capstone

It is a mandatory degree award requirement of 3 credit hours for BS in Social Work. The capstone is a multifaceted body of work that serves as a culminating academic and intellectual experience for students. It must be supervised and graded by a faculty member as per the protocols prescribed by the department concerned. This requirement cannot be substituted with additional course work or internship.

Requirement of Field Work (SW)

Students enrolled in BS Social Work are required to complete 4 social field works of Social Work, each carrying 4 credit hours. These field work courses are an essential component of professional training and are designed to provide students with practical exposure, community engagement experience, and application of social work methods in real-world settings. The academic structure, operational modalities, and assessment protocols for these field work courses shall be determined and administered by the department concerned, in accordance with institutional regulations and professional standards. This requirement cannot be substituted with additional course work or internship.

Generalist Degree Orientation

The BS Social Work program is designed as a generalized professional degree, equipping students with a broad-based understanding of social work theories, methods, and applied skills across diverse practice settings. As such, the program does not offer formal specializations. Students may, however, opt for elective courses from among advanced offerings within the discipline of Social Work to align their learning with specific areas of interest or emerging practice needs. These electives will complement the core curriculum and enhance professional competence without constituting a formal track or specialization.

Associate Degree

The eligibility criteria and the first-four semesters of the BS in Social Work as prescribed in this document guide the admission requirement and the structure of AD in Social Work, respectively. Field experience / internship is not a mandatory requirement for the AD in Social Work.

Entry & Exit Provisions at Undergraduate Level**Pathway for Graduates with Associate Degree**

- a) Candidates who have completed AD in Social Work are allowed admission in the fifth semester of the BS in Social Work with or without any deficiency course up to a maximum of 18 credit hours as determined by the concerned university / department. In case the deficiency courses are of more than 18 credit hours, the university concerned may decide not to offer admission in accordance with its screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies.
- b) Candidates who have completed AD in any discipline other than Social Work shall be required to complete deficiency courses up to a maximum 18 credit hours in a bridging semester as determined by the concerned university / department on case-to-case basis. In case the deficiency courses are or more than 18 credit hours, the university concerned may decide not to offer admission in accordance with its screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies.

- c) The minimum eligibility for admission in the fifth semester in the above cases is 2.00 / 4.00 CGPA in the prior qualification i.e., AD. The university concerned may, however, set higher eligibility and admission criteria for admission in the fifth semester of BS in Social Work.

Pathway for Graduates with Conventional BA / BSc / Equivalent Degree Programs

- a) Candidates having completed two-year conventional BA / BSc / equivalent degree programs are allowed admission in the fifth semester of BS in Social Work in which case, such students shall be required to complete deficiency courses up to a maximum of 21 credit hours through a bridging semester as determined by the concerned university. In case the deficiency courses are of more than 21 credit hours, the university concerned may decide not offer admission, in accordance with its screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies.
- b) The minimum eligibility for admission in the fifth semester in this case is 45% cumulative score in the prior qualification i.e., two-year conventional BA / BSc / equivalent degree programs. The university concerned may, however, set higher eligibility and admission criteria for admission in the fifth semester of BS in Social Work.

Exiting from Bachelor of Science in Social Work with the Associate Degree

Students enrolled in BS in Social Work are allowed to exit the program provided they have completed the requirements of the first-four semesters of the BS degree program as prescribed in this document, and subject to approval of the university's relevant statutory body.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS)

Program Description

The program of BS Social Work is structured in accordance with the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy Version 1.1 (2023) and subsequent notifications, aiming to develop socially responsible, ethically grounded, and professionally competent graduates equipped to address complex social challenges in diverse settings. This four-year degree program offers a comprehensive curriculum that integrates foundational knowledge, theoretical frameworks, and applied skills essential for social work practice. It emphasizes human rights, social justice, and community empowerment while promoting interdisciplinary learning and critical engagement with contemporary social issues. Through this program, students will be trained in core areas such as casework, group work, community development, social policy, legislation, and advocacy, along with practical fieldwork experiences that prepare them for real-world challenges. Graduates of this program will be prepared to contribute effectively in governmental, non-governmental, and international organizations, as well as in research, policy, and grassroots development sectors. The degree also serves as a strong foundation for pursuing advanced studies in social work, development studies, public policy or related disciplines.

Standard Nomenclature

To ensure uniformity, the standard nomenclature for all four-year undergraduate degree programs in Social Work must be **“Bachelor of Science in Social Work”** with its short form as **“BS Social Work”**.

Program Learning Outcomes

By the completion of Bachelor of Science in Social Work, the graduates will be able to:

- a) Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of core social work theories, values, and methods to understand and address the diverse needs of individuals, groups, and communities in varied socio-cultural, political and economic contexts.
- b) Apply theoretical knowledge of social work methods and field work practicum utilizing evidence-based approaches, critical thinking, and experiential learning in assessing needs, design interventions, and advocacy for the solutions to complex social issues at local, national, and global levels.
- c) Apply professional social work ethics and standards to guide decision-making, maintain accountability, and uphold social justice and human dignity across different fields of social work practice.

Eligibility & Admission Criteria

Higher Secondary School Certificate (involving 12 years of schooling) or an IBCC equivalent qualification in any group is the basic eligibility requirement for admission in the BS in Social Work including any of its specializations. Further, the university concerned may set minimum eligibility scores and may conduct entry / admission test through its own testing body or an external testing services provider of repute as per the screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies.

Program Structure

The Bachelor of Science in Social Work is structured in accordance with the provisions of the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. and comprises of minimum **143** credit hours spread over 8 regular semesters. Universities may offer courses up to a maximum of 148 credit hours provided that

the total number of credit hours are reasonably set to achieve the Program Learning Objectives (PLOs) without putting an undue burden on students.

Minimum Credit Hours (including all program related requirements)		143
General Education		34 credit hours (15 courses)
Major	a) Compulsory	57 credit hours (19 courses) Mandatory courses as reflected in the scheme of study, irrespective of the area of specialization (where applicable).
	c) Mandatory Electives	18 credit hours (6 courses) (to be opted from either general pool of electives or from a particular specialization)
	Total Major Requirement	75 credit hours
Interdisciplinary Courses		12 credit hours (4 courses)
Internship		3 credit hours
Field Work		16 credit hours
Capstone Project		3 credit hours
Program Duration		Minimum: 4 Years Maximum: 6 Years (further extendable to another year subject to approval of university's statutory body)
Semester Duration		16-18 weeks for regular semesters (1-2 weeks for examination) 8-9 weeks for summer semesters (1 week for examination)
Course Load (per semester)		15-18 credit hours for regular semesters Up-to 8 credit hours for summer semesters (for remedial / deficiency / failure / repeat courses only)
3 Credit Hours (Theory)		3 classes (1 hour each) OR 2 classes (1.5 hour each) OR 1 class (3 hours) per week throughout the semester.
1 Credit Hour (Field / Practical)		1 credit hour of practical / project / field work requires contact of 3 hours per week throughout the semester.

The standard scheme of studies for the program of BS Social Work is given as under:

SEMESTER I			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Introduction to Social Work	3 (3-0)	Major
2	Social Problems of Pakistan	3 (3-0)	Major
3	Quantitative Reasoning – I *	3 (3-0)	General Education
4	Functional English *	3 (3-0)	General Education
5	Islamic Studies *	2 (2-0)	General Education

	(Religious Edu / Ethics for non-Muslim students)		
6	Applications of Information & Communication Technologies *	3 (2-1)	General Education
7	Understanding of Holy Quran – I *	1 (0-1)	General Education
Total Credits Hours = 18			

SEMESTER II			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Human Growth & Personality Development	3 (3-0)	Major
2	Introduction to Social Welfare	3 (3-0)	Major
3	Quantitative Reasoning – II *	3 (3-0)	General Education
4	Pakistan Studies *	2 (2-0)	General Education
5	Expository Writing *	3 (3-0)	General Education
6	Social Sciences **	2 (2-0)	General Education
7	Understanding of Holy Quran – II *	1 (0-1)	General Education
Total Credits Hours = 17			

SEMESTER III			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Social Development	3 (3-0)	Major
2	Methods of Social Work	3 (3-0)	Major
3	Social Work & Human Rights	3 (3-0)	Major
4	Natural Science ***	3 (3-0)	General Education
5	Arts & Humanities ****	2 (2-0)	General Education
6	Civics & Community Engagement *	2 (2-0)	General Education
7	Ideology & Constitution of Pakistan *	2 (2-0)	General Education
Total Credit Hours = 18			

SEMESTER IV			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Social Legislation	3 (3-0)	Major
2	Social Development & Welfare Organizations	3 (3-0)	Major
3	Social Work Theories	3 (3-0)	Major
4	Fields of Social Work & Practicum	3 (2-1)	Major
5	Entrepreneurship *	2 (2-0)	General Education
6	Interdisciplinary Course – I *****	3	Interdisciplinary
Total Credit Hours = 17			

SEMESTER V			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Social Case Work	3 (3-0)	Major

2	Social Group Work	3 (3-0)	Major
3	Community Organization & Development	3 (3-0)	Major
4	Social Policy & Planning	3 (3-0)	Major
5	Field Work – I *****	4 (0-4)	Field Work
6	Interdisciplinary Course – II *****	3	Interdisciplinary
Total Credit Hours = 19			

SEMESTER VI			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Social Welfare Administration	3 (3-0)	Major
2	Social Work Research	3 (3-0)	Major
3	Social Action	3 (3-0)	Major
4	Field Work – II *****	4 (0-4)	Field Work
5	Interdisciplinary Course – III *****	3	Interdisciplinary
6	Interdisciplinary Course – IV *****	3	Interdisciplinary
Total Credit Hours = 19			

SEMESTER VII			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Elective – I *****	3	Major
2	Elective – II *****	3	Major
3	Elective – III *****	3	Major
4	Elective – IV *****	3	Major
5	Field Work – III *****	4 (0-4)	Field Work
Total Credit Hours = 16			

SEMESTER VIII			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Elective – V *****	3	Major
2	Elective – VI *****	3	Major
3	Climate Change & Social Work	3 (3-0)	Major
4	Field Work – IV *****	4 (0-4)	Field Work
5	Capstone Project	3	Capstone
Total Credit Hours = 16			

- * HEC designed **model courses** for general education may be used by the university.
- ** The university / concerned department may offer any course in the broader category of **“Social Sciences”** including but not limited to a course of Anthropology, Psychology, Education, Economics etc.
- *** The university / concerned department may offer any course in the broader category of **“Natural Sciences”** which should have relevance to the purpose of the degree program.
- **** The university / concerned department may offer any course in the broader category of **“Arts & Humanities”** including but not limited to a course of regional or international

language such as Chinese, Arabic, French, Spanish etc. or any other course such as Philosophy, History etc.

***** The requirement of **field work** is mandatory as per detail given in the guiding principles of this document.

***** The university / concerned department must offer at least 4 **interdisciplinary courses** that may be picked from the recommended list provided in this document, or any other such course to enhance the interdisciplinary understanding of the students, keeping in view the available academic, human and infrastructural resources of the department. **Credit combination** may be arranged in accordance with the nature of the course.

***** The university / concerned department may offer any 6 advanced courses as **electives** keeping in view its available academic, human and infrastructural resources. **Credit combination** may be arranged in accordance with the nature of the course.

Recommended List of Interdisciplinary Courses

Students may opt interdisciplinary courses from the following list where required in the scheme of studies for BS in Social Work, from the same or other departments to complement their holistic understanding of the major, provided that the same is allowed by the department concerned. The list provided here is a recommended one only and the department concerned may add more courses as and when needed.

1. Digital Literacy
2. Education & Society
3. Intercultural Communication
4. Introduction Human Nutrition & Dietetics
5. Introduction to Anthropology
6. Introduction to Communication Studies
7. Introduction to Criminology
8. Introduction to Development Studies
9. Introduction to Economics
10. Introduction to Environmental Science
11. Introduction to Gender Studies
12. Introduction to Psychology
13. Introduction to Public Administration
14. Introduction to Sociology
15. Law & Society
16. Media & Society
17. Modern World History
18. Peace & Development
19. Public Relations
20. Sustainable Development Goals

Recommended List of Elective Courses

Where provided in the scheme of studies, students may select elective courses from the approved list to broaden their understanding of the Social Work discipline, subject to the approval of the relevant department. The following courses are recommended for universities to consider offering as electives. The department concerned may add more courses as and when needed.

1. Child Protection
2. Communication Skills
3. Correctional Social Work
4. Gender-Based Violence & Response Systems
5. Gerontological Social Work
6. Grant Writing & Proposal Development
7. Labor Welfare
8. Local Government & Rural Development
9. Medical & Psychiatric Social Work
10. Monitoring & Evaluation of Social Programs
11. NGO Management
12. Parole & Probation Services
13. Peace Building & Conflict Management
14. Project Management
15. Public Health & Social Work
16. School Social Work
17. Social Entrepreneurship & Innovation
18. Social Risk Management
19. Social Work Carer Services
20. Social Work with Refugees & Migrants
21. Social Work with Special People
22. Substance Use & Rehabilitation Services
23. Sustainable Social Development
24. Youth Welfare & Development

Degree Award Requirements

The following minimum requirements are prescribed for the award of BS in Social Work:

- a) All courses in the General Education category with titles and credit hours as prescribed in HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. including the courses of “Pakistan Studies”, “Understanding of Holy Quran – I” and “Understanding of Holy Quran – II” must be completed.
- b) A minimum of **143** credit hours as prescribed in this document must be completed.
- c) A capstone of 3 credit hours must be completed in accordance with HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. This requirement cannot be substituted with additional coursework or internship / field experience.
- d) A supervised internship of 3 credit hours must be completed in accordance with HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. This requirement cannot be substituted with additional coursework, capstone, project or social field work.
- e) Field work of 16 credit hours as prescribed in this document must be completed.
- f) CGPA must not be below 2.00/4.00 at the time of completion of the degree program. The university may, however, set a higher standard in this regard.
- g) The minimum duration to complete the degree is 8 regular semesters spread over 4 years whereas the maximum duration is 12 regular semesters spread over 6 years. The maximum duration may further be extended to 2 more semesters **(OR)** 1 year, in extraordinary circumstances subject to approval of the university’s relevant statutory body. Summer semester is not considered as a regular semester.

MASTER OF SCIENCE (MS)

Program Description

The Master of Science (MS) in Social Work program is designed in accordance with the HEC Graduate Education Policy 2023 to provide students with advanced academic and professional training in the field of social work. The program aims to deepen students' understanding of social work theories, research methodologies, and ethical frameworks, while enhancing their ability to address complex and evolving social issues across diverse contexts. The curriculum integrates critical inquiry, evidence-based practice, and field-based learning, enabling students to engage with real-world challenges in areas such as health and mental wellbeing, community development, child protection, gender justice, and human rights. Students are expected to apply advanced social work methods, conduct independent research, and contribute to the development of effective social policies and interventions. Graduates of the program will be well-prepared for leadership roles in public institutions, non-governmental organizations, international agencies, and academic or research settings. The MS Social Work program emphasizes interdisciplinary learning, professional accountability, and a strong commitment to social justice, equipping graduates to serve as agents of change in local, national, and global contexts.

Standard Nomenclature

The standard nomenclature for all NQF level 7 qualifications in the field of Social Work must be **“Master of Science in Social Work”** with its short form as **“MS Social Work”**.

Note:

The nomenclature of degree “Master of Science” may be substituted with “Master of Philosophy” as may be determined and approved by the relevant statutory body of the university, keeping all other standards and requirements prescribed herein intact.

Program Learning Outcomes

By the completion of MS Social Work, the graduates will be able to:

- a) Demonstrate advanced and critical knowledge of social work theories, frameworks, and interdisciplinary perspectives to analyze complex social issues and formulate context-specific solutions in diverse socio-economic, cultural, political, and institutional settings.
- b) Design, conduct, and critically evaluate social work research using qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods approaches, adhering to ethical standards and contributing to evidence-informed practice and policy development.
- c) Develop and lead innovative interventions, programs, and policies that address structural inequalities, promote social inclusion, and strengthen community resilience at local, national, and global levels.
- d) Exhibit advanced ethical reasoning, professional leadership, and reflective practice in complex decision-making processes across diverse areas of Social Work, while advocating for social justice, human rights, and sustainable development.

Eligibility & Admission Criteria

- a) An undergraduate degree (involving 16 years of education) in Social Work or any of its specialized areas is the basic eligibility requirement for admission. In case the candidate has knowledge deficiency, the university concerned may offer deficiency courses up to a maximum

of 9 credit hours as it may determine on case-to-case basis and in accordance with HEC Graduate Education Policy (2023).

- b) In addition to the basic eligibility, the university concerned is further required to conduct a rigorous admission test as an eligibility condition for admission to the program, with a passing score of 50% **(OR)** accept the GRE / HAT General / equivalent tests, with a passing score of 50%. The university concerned may also set minimum eligibility scores (above 50%) as per the screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies.

Program Structure

The standard structure of the degree program is as below:

Minimum Credit Hours		32
Course Work	a) Mandatory Subject Core	9 credit hours (3 courses)
	b) Subject Electives	15 credit hours (5 courses)
	c) Mandatory Quranic Courses	2 credit hours (2 courses)
	Total Coursework Requirement	26 credit hours
Research Thesis		6 credit hours
Program Duration		Minimum: 1.5 Years (3 regular semesters) Maximum: 4 Years (8 regular semesters) Note: In case a student is unable to secure an MS within the prescribed timeframe and claims for extension in duration, the university may constitute appropriate authority and determine the causes of delay. In the event of force majeure (i.e., delay on account of circumstance beyond the control of student), the university may grant an extension in the period of award of MS degree in accordance with the duration limiting factor(s) and shall also take corrective measures in case the delay is caused by process or administrative reasons.
Semester Duration		16-18 weeks for regular semesters (1-2 weeks for examination) 8-9 weeks for summer semesters (1 week for examination)
Course Load (per semester)		09-12 credit hours for regular semesters Up-to 8 credit hours for summer semesters (for remedial / deficiency / failure / repetition courses only)
3 Credit Hours (Theory)		3 classes (1 hour each) OR 2 classes (1.5 hour each) OR 1 class (3 hours) per week throughout the semester

The standard scheme of studies for MS Social Work:

SEMESTER I			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Advanced Social Work Theories *	3 (3-0)	Core
2	Quantitative Social Work Research Methods *	3 (3-0)	Core
3	Elective – I **	3	Elective
4	Elective – II **	3	Elective
Total Credit Hours = 12			

SEMESTER II			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Qualitative Social Work Research Methods *	3 (3-0)	Core
2	Elective – III **	3	Elective
3	Elective – IV **	3	Elective
4	Elective – V **	3	Elective
Total Credit Hours = 12			

SEMESTER III			
S.N.	COURSE	CREDIT HOURS	CATEGORY
1	Understanding of Holy Quran – I ***	1 (0-1)	General Education
2	Understanding of Holy Quran – II ***	1 (0-1)	General Education
3	Thesis ****	6	Research
Total Credit Hours = 8			

- * These are the **mandatory** courses for the program, irrespective of the area of specialization.
- ** The university / concerned department may offer any advanced course in the field of Social Work as an **elective**, where required as per its available academic, human and infrastructural resources. **Credit combination** (reflecting balance of theory and field work) must be arranged in accordance with the nature of the course.
- *** These are prescribed for all NQF level 4-8 qualifications as mandated vide HEC letter **No. 10-01/2022/Coord(Acad)/HEC/235** dated March 28, 2025.
- **** **Research** work for thesis must be conducted by students individually in accordance with the university's policy as approved through its statutory bodies provided that the same is in accordance with the HEC Graduate Education Policy (2023).

Degree Award Requirements

The following minimum requirements are prescribed for award of MS:

- A minimum of 26 credit hours of course work including 9 credit hours for core courses, 15 credit hours for electives (advanced courses in Social Work) and 2 credit hours for Quranic courses as prescribed in this document must be completed.
- In addition to coursework, a research thesis of 6 credit hours must also be completed individually as partial fulfilment of the degree program. Requirement of research thesis is mandatory and cannot be substituted with additional course work.

- c) CGPA must not be below 2.50 / 4.00 at the time of completion of the degree program. The university may, however, set a higher standard in this regard.
- d) The minimum duration required to complete the degree is 3 regular semesters which may be extended up to a maximum of 8 regular semesters. Summer semester is not considered as a regular semester.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

AD, BS & MS

(Arranged in Alphabetical Order)

Advanced Social Work Theories

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Critically evaluate classical and contemporary theories relevant to advanced social work practice.
- b) Analyze the applicability of theoretical frameworks in addressing complex social problems across diverse cultural and institutional contexts.
- c) Integrate theory into the formulation of multi-level intervention strategies and reflective practice.

Climate Change & Social Work

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- d) Understand the social work perspective on climate change and environmental justice.
- e) Analyze the impact of climate change on vulnerable populations.
- f) Propose community-based interventions for climate resilience and advocacy.

Community Organization & Development

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand key concepts, objectives and principles of community organization.
- b) Apply participatory approaches of community development for mobilization and empowerment.
- c) Design community development plans addressing indigenous needs and perspectives.

Fields of Social Work & Practicum

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand the major fields and practice settings of social work.
- b) Develop an insight about the role of a professional social worker during field work practicum.
- c) Reflect on practical experiences to connect theory with field learning.

Human Growth & Personality Development

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand stages of human development across the lifespan.
- b) Analyze factors influencing personality formation and change.
- c) Devise affective interventions for human behavior management.

Introduction to Social Welfare

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand the concept and evolution of social welfare.
- b) Analyze the roles of public and private sectors in provision of social welfare services.
- c) Evaluate social welfare programs in local and global contexts.

Introduction to Social Work

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand the concept, history and values of the social work profession.
- b) Identify roles and functions of social workers for resolving social problems.
- c) Apply social work interventions to protect the rights and dignity of the vulnerable population.

Methods of Social Work

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand primary and secondary methods of social work.
- b) Integrate various social work methods in a holistic practice approach.
- c) Empower individuals, groups and communities to enhance their social functioning through methods of social work.

Qualitative Social Work Research Methods

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Design qualitative research studies using appropriate methodological approaches.
- b) Analyze qualitative data using thematic, narrative, or grounded theory techniques with attention to ethical considerations.
- c) Evaluate the rigor and credibility of qualitative research in informing social work interventions and advocacy.

Quantitative Social Work Research Methods

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Design quantitative research studies to address complex issues in the domain of social work using appropriate sampling and measurement techniques.
- b) Analyze and interpret data in accordance with quantitative research techniques.
- c) Critically assess quantitative research findings for their validity, reliability, and applicability to policy and practice.

Social Action

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand the concept and strategies of social action.
- b) Analyze its role in addressing injustice and advocating for change.
- c) Design and execute social action approaches and strategies for social change and community development.

Social Case Work

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand the concept, significance and process of social case work.
- b) Understand case management techniques to assess the problems of client.
- c) Design case work method interventions to make the client self-reliant, restore and enhance their social functioning.

Social Development

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand key concepts and models of social development.
- b) Analyze social indicators and development challenges in Pakistan.
- c) Propose inclusive and sustainable development strategies.

Social Development & Welfare Organizations

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand the role of development and welfare organizations in service delivery.
- b) Analyze organizational structures, missions, and challenges.
- c) Evaluate the contribution of CSOs, NGOs and private & public sector organizations to social development.

Social Group Work

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand the concept, significance and process of social group work.

- b) Explain group dynamics and different models of social group work.
- c) Demonstrate skills to plan and guide structured group sessions.

Social Legislation

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand laws relevant to social work, human rights, and social justice.
- b) Analyze legal protections available for vulnerable populations.
- c) Apply legislative knowledge in client advocacy and policy practice.

Social Policy & Planning

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand the stages and frameworks of social policy planning.
- b) Evaluate existing social policies in terms of their impact and inclusivity.
- c) Develop social policies to address social issues.

Social Problems of Pakistan

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand major social problems of Pakistan.
- b) Analyze the root causes and consequences of social problems.
- c) Propose practical and policy-level responses for addressing these issues.

Social Welfare Administration

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand key functions and structures of welfare administration.
- b) Apply management principles in the context of social service organizations.
- c) Analyze challenges in planning, budgeting, and monitoring of welfare programs.

Social Work & Human Rights

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand the interlinkages between social work and human rights.
- b) Analyze human rights frameworks applicable to social work practice.
- c) Advocate for marginalized populations using rights-based approaches.

Social Work Research

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand research methodologies and methods relevant to social work.
- b) Design and conduct research studies within ethical guidelines.
- c) Interpret and present research findings for academic and professional use.

Social Work Theories

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- a) Understand foundational and contemporary theories in social work.
- b) Analyze how theoretical models inform assessment and intervention.
- c) Apply relevant theories to real-life social work scenarios.