CURRICULUM

Our master’s degree program alternates three summers of intensive curricular coursework with two 8-month supervised internships to provide you with the optimum learning experience. The full-time master’s program begins in June and continues for 27 months ending in August.

The Schedule

First Summer
June-August
Smith College campus

First Internship Placement
September-April
Sites around the country

Second Summer
June-August
Smith College campus

Second Internship Placement
September-April
Sites around the country

Third Summer
June-August
Smith College campus

First Summer
During the first academic summer, courses focus on the knowledge, skills and values which form the foundation, or core, of the social work profession. This also prepares you for the School’s specialization in clinical practice. You will be introduced to the major social work methods (https://catalog.smith.edu/ssw/msw-program/practice/), the psychological and sociocultural theories upon which social work practice rests, the history of social work and social welfare, social policy analysis and research methods.

Second Summer
Coursework in the second summer is firmly rooted in an understanding of human development and adaptation within a sociocultural context utilizing multiple theories of intervention including: psychodynamic theory, family theories, and social constructivist and eco-systemic perspectives.

Third (Final) Summer
Elective courses provide you with the opportunity to focus on particular areas of interest by exploring content on specific populations, particular problems, and/or in innovative practice settings.

Throughout each of your summers, our exceptional student services will assist you with writing, quantitative learning, tech challenges, accessibility needs and much more. In your final summer, you’ll take advantage of our career services with mock interviews, resume help and on-campus job interviews.

Internships
From September through April, you are encouraged to focus exclusively on your learning in your internship.