



**MA/MSW DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM  
2025-2026**

**PURPOSE**

The dual degree—Master of Social Work and Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry—is designed for students who are interested in serving both the pastoral and social needs of individuals, families, groups and communities. The program reflects the University’s mission to educate individuals who are committed to the pursuit of social justice. A specific goal is to develop the skills and credentials necessary to plan, administer and/or provide social services within a local church or church-related agency. Students admitted to the program may expect to receive both the Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry (MA) and the Master of Social Work (MSW) degrees in approximately 3 years of full-time study (more if approved for part-time study by the SSW).

**OBJECTIVES**

1. To educate practitioners in social work and pastoral ministry who can effectively integrate their theological understanding with the theories and practice of social work.
2. To provide the core curriculum of each discipline while enabling students to concentrate in the specific area of knowledge and practice that corresponds to their professional goals.
3. To provide applied learning experiences with professional supervision through two field internships.
4. To prepare practitioners who have a commitment to work with the church in bringing about a human condition that is free from violence, oppression, and discrimination, and one that protects and promotes the development of all peoples.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME**

At the completion of this dual degree program, graduates will be able to integrate their theological education and formation for ministry with the theories and practice of social work.

**SPECIALIZED PRACTICE**

In the School of Social Work students must choose an area of specialized practice: Clinical Practice or Macro Practice. Clinical students focus on practice directly with individuals, families, and groups in dealing with personal, interpersonal, and social problems. Macro students develop specific knowledge and skills to achieve change in organizational and community settings.

**FIELDS-OF-PRACTICE**

Prior to entering the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, students will choose a Field-of-Practice from one of the following areas: Black Leadership in Social Work; Children, Youth, & Families; Global Practice; Health; Latinx Communities; or Mental Health. Dual degree students are not automatically eligible to choose the Global Field-of-Practice with an international placement because of the required full-time Spring field placement. However, with sufficient planning and approval, students may be able to adjust their CSTM and SSW class schedules to be eligible for applying for the Global Field-of-Practice.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Students must be accepted independently to the CSTM and to the SSW.
- 2) Students may begin their studies in either the CSTM or SSW or by taking courses in both programs simultaneously. SSW requirements are sequenced but CSTM requirements need not be, with the exception of Spiritual Formation for Ministry, Theological Foundations, Theological Reflection for Ministry, and Professional Ethics for Ministry (see below).
- 3) The program is designed for completion in three years with an extension to four years for those starting on a part-time basis. Requests for extensions must be approved by the SSW Academic Standards Review Committee and the Dean of the SSW.
- 4) The integrity of both the MA and the MSW degrees is to be maintained as follows:
  - a) SSW requires 65 credits for the MSW degree, 9 of which are taken in CSTM courses.
  - b) For the 48-credit track of the MA, CSTM takes 8 credits from SSW courses.
    - i) Dual degree students in the 48-credit MA complete the degrees with 96 credits rather than 113 credits if taken independently.
  - c) For the 36-credit track of the MA, CSTM takes 6 credits from SSW courses.
    - i) Dual degree students in the 36-credit MA complete the degrees with 86 credits, rather than 101 credits if taken separately.
- 5) Students are to develop an appropriate course of study working with the designated faculty advisors at the respective schools.
- 6) Students must follow the relevant policies of each program in academic requirements, financial aid, registration, and all other matters. For further details, refer to the Academic Policies and Procedures pages of each school's website:
  - a) Academic Policies and Procedures - School of Social Work
  - b) [Academic Policies and Procedures Page - Clough School of Theology and Ministry](#)
- 7) Students pursuing the MA in Theology and Ministry/MSW Integrated Program (Option A) and the School-Specific Program (Option B) are expected to receive both degrees at May commencement.
- 8) The two required field internships are through the SSW. The first internship is during the student's SSW first full-time year; the second is during the final academic year.

## STUDENT ADVISEMENT AND SCHOOL LIASONS

The SSW and the CSTM each have a Liaison for the MA/MSW Dual degree Program. They can help answer your questions regarding the program in general and will serve as your primary contact in each of the schools throughout the course of your studies.

The Liaisons for the Dual Degree Program are:

- **CSTM:** Jennifer L.S. Bader, Ph.D., Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, 617-552 4478, [jennifer.bader@bc.edu](mailto:jennifer.bader@bc.edu).
- **SSW:** Teresa Schirmer, Associate Dean, 617-552-0743, [touhey@bc.edu](mailto:touhey@bc.edu).

The SSW and the CSTM assign each student an advisor in their respective schools. Students are encouraged to meet with advisors at each school to plan their individual programs.

- **CSTM Faculty Advisor:** Heather M. DuBois, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Peace Studies, Trauma, and Spirituality, 617-552-6680, [heather.dubois@bc.edu](mailto:heather.dubois@bc.edu).

For information concerning adding or dropping a course, course scheduling and availability, etc., please contact:

- **CSTM:** Cara Burke, Assistant Director, Academic and Student Services, 617-552-8441, [cara.burke@bc.edu](mailto:cara.burke@bc.edu)
- **SSW:** Teresa Schirmer, Associate Dean, 617-552-4762, [touhey@bc.edu](mailto:touhey@bc.edu).

## FIELD EDUCATION

The dual degree requires two field placements during the two years of social work study. Both are under the auspices of the School of Social Work. The first-year social work placement is designed to be a broadening experience and can be done in a religious setting or a placement setting that honors the spiritual dimension of the person. The second year of field education affords the student the option of being placed within an agency that is consistent with the student's pastoral goals. These include hospital-based placements, mental health centers, hospice programs, various programs with Catholic Charities, women's shelters, Latinx communities, etc. There are opportunities for working with children, families, the aging, teens, etc., in clinical, community organizing, and administrative settings.

In planning for your second placement, students should meet with the Field staff at the SSW before finalizing the placement application.

- **Field Placements:** Joe McLaughlin, Assistant Director of Field, (617) 552-0831, [joe.mclaughlin.2@bc.edu](mailto:joe.mclaughlin.2@bc.edu).

## TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID

Tuition is paid to the school in which the dual degree student is currently enrolled. For Options A & B, tuition is paid to the CSTM in Academic Year I and for all summers and to the SSW in Academic Years II and III.

Students are eligible for financial aid only from the school to which their enrollment has been assigned. Thus, when enrolled at the CSTM students are eligible to apply for and receive aid from the CSTM. When they transfer their enrollment to the SSW, they are only eligible for aid from the SSW. Each school has unique financial aid policies, so it is important to check in with the financial aid counselors at both the CSTM and the SSW, and with the Boston College financial aid office.

## COURSE WORK

Students may begin their studies in either the CSTM or SSW or by taking courses in both programs simultaneously. SSW requirements are sequenced, while many of the CSTM course requirements are not. Dual Degree students should follow the recommended process at both schools. SSW course progression can be found in the guides on the following pages. A CSTM program of study is available on the [CSTM website](#). Please consult the [CSTM Course Catalog](#) for additional information.

### **Option A: Integrated Program**

Students begin their course of studies in both schools simultaneously. Course selections for the SSW are sequenced and should be taken as instructed on the SSW program of study. Course selection at the CSTM should be made in consultation with the CSTM faculty advisor; however, the following should be taken during the first year of the program:

#### First Semester: Fall CSTM Courses

- Theological Foundations in Practical Perspective
- CSTM Course
- Theological Reflection for Ministry\*
- Spiritual Formation for Ministry\*
- Professional Ethics in Ministry Workshop I

#### Second Semester: Spring CSTM Courses

- CSTM Course
- CSTM Course
- Theological Reflection for Ministry\*
- Spiritual Formation for Ministry\*
- Professional Ethics in Ministry Workshop II

### **Option B: School Specific Program**

Students start their course of studies in one school, and the following year take courses only in the other school. In the third year, students are registered in SSW and may have CSTM courses to take as well as the MATM Capstone Project to complete.

### **A few helpful hints as you work your way through CSTM courses.**

- TMST7057 Theological Foundations in Practical Perspective should be taken during the first year of studies with the CSTM. This class is offered in the fall and summer terms.
- Spiritual Formation for Ministry\* and Theological Reflection for Ministry\* are 1-credit, year-long courses. In the case of Spiritual Formation for Ministry, students must register for the same section in the fall and the spring. Students are strongly encouraged to take these courses during their first year of studies with the CSTM.
- Professional Ethics for Ministry workshops are a graduation requirement for CSTM students. Students are strongly encouraged to complete this requirement during their first year of studies.
- A final Capstone Project is required of all MATM students. Dual Degree students are encouraged to draft their MATM Capstone Project proposal during the spring semester of their second full year of studies, develop the project during their second summer, and defend in the fall of their final year.

**OPTION A: Integrated Program (A-48)**  
**with the 48-credit M.A.T.M.**

**ACADEMIC YEAR I: CSTM & SSW**

FALL SEMESTER			SPRING SEMESTER		
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Course #	Course Name	Credits
SCWK7721	Human Behavior in the Social Environment	3	SCWK7701	Social Welfare System	3
SCWK7723	Re-thinking Diversity: Systems of Oppression and Privilege	3	SCWK7722 or SCWK8889	Psychosocial Pathology (Clinical) or Social Innovation (Macro)	3
TMST7057	Theological Foundations in Practical Perspective	3	TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3	TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
TMPSxxxx	CSTM Module	1	TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
TMPS7080	Spiritual Formation for Ministry**	0	TMPS7080	Spiritual Formation for Ministry**	1
TMPS7280	Theological Reflection for Ministry**	0	TMPS7280	Theological Reflection for Ministry**	1
TMCE7038	Professional Ethics for Ministry Workshop	0	TMPS7096	Professional Ethics for Ministry Workshop	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>17</b>

\*\* Yearlong course

**SUMMER I: CSTM**

TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>

**ACADEMIC YEAR II: SSW & STM**

FALL SEMESTER			SPRING SEMESTER		
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Course #	Course Name	Credits
SCWK7762	Basic Skills in Clinical Social Work	3	SCWK8855 or SCWK8833	Clinical Practice with Children and Families (Clinical) or Leadership and Social Transformation (Macro)	3
SCWK8800	Basic Skills in Macro Practice	3	SCWK8856 or SCWK8888	Clinical Practice with Adults (Clinical) or Community Engagement for Social Change (Macro)	3
SCWK9921	Field Education I	3	SCWK9932 or SCWK9942	Field Education II (Clinical) Field Education II (Macro)	3
TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3	TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3	TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>

**SUMMER II: SSW**

SCWKxxxx	SSW Elective in student's specialized practice	3
SCWKxxxx	SSW Elective in student's specialized practice	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>

**ACADEMIC YEAR III: SSW AND CSTM**

FALL SEMESTER			SPRING SEMESTER		
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Course #	Course Name	Credits
SCWK7747	Research Methods	3	SCWK8841	Program Evaluation	3
SCWKxxxx	Advanced Practice in Field-of-Practice	3	SCWKxxxx	Advanced Policy	3
SCWK9933 or SCWK9943	Field Education III (Clinical) or Field Education III (Macro)	4	SCWK9934 or SCWK9944	Field Education IV (Clinical) or Field Education IV (Macro)	4
TMPSxxxx	CSTM Module	1	STM	MATM Capstone Project	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>

**OPTION B: School-Specific Program (B-48)**  
**with the 48-credit M.A.T.M**

**ACADEMIC YEAR I OR II: STM**

FALL SEMESTER			SPRING SEMESTER		
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Course #	Course Name	Credits
TMST7057	Theological Foundations in Practical Perspective	3	TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3	TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3	TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3	TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
TMPS7080	Spiritual Formation for Ministry	0	TMPS7080	Spiritual Formation for Ministry	1
TMPS7280	Theological Reflection for Ministry	0	TMPS7280	Theological Reflection for Ministry	1
TMCE7038	Professional Ethics in Ministry Workshop,	0	TMPS7096	Professional Ethics in Ministry Workshop	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>14</b>

\*\* Yearlong course

**SUMMER I: CSTM**

TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>

**ACADEMIC YEAR I OR II: SSW (CLINICAL OR MACRO)**

FALL SEMESTER			SPRING SEMESTER		
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Course #	Course Name	Credits
SCWK7721	Human Behavior in the Social Environment	3	SCWK7722 or SCWK8889	Psychosocial Pathology (Clinical) or Social Innovation (Macro)	3
SCWK7723	Re-thinking Diversity: Systems of Oppression and Privilege	3	SCWK8855 or SCWK8833	Clinical Practice with Children and Families (Clinical) or Leadership and Social Transformation (Macro)	3
SCWK7762	Basic Skills in Clinical Social Work	3	SCWK8856 or SCWK8888	Clinical Practice with Adults (Clinical) or Community Engagement for Social Change (Macro)	3
SCWK8800	Basic Skills in Macro Practice	3	SCWK7701	Social Welfare System	3
SCWK9921	Field Education I	3	SCWK9932 or SCWK9942	Field Education II (Clinical) or Field Education II (Macro)	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>

**SUMMER II: SSW**

SCWKxxxx	SSW Elective in student's specialization	3
SCWKxxxx	SSW Elective in student's specialization	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>

**ACADEMIC YEAR III: SSW AND CSTM**

FALL SEMESTER			SPRING SEMESTER		
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Course #	Course Name	Credits
SCWK7747	Research Methods	3	SCWK8841	Program Evaluation	3
SCWKxxxx	Advanced Practice in Field-of-Practice	3	SCWKxxxx	Advanced Policy	3
SCWK9933 or SCWK9943	Field Education III (Clinical) or Field Education III (Macro)	4	SCWK9934 or SCWK9944	Field Education IV (Clinical) or Field Education IV (Macro)	4
TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3	TMxxxxxx	CSTM Module	1
TMPSxxxx	CSTM Module	1	STM	MATM Capstone Project	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>11</b>

**OPTION A: Integrated Program (A-36)**  
**with the 36-credit M.A.T.M.**

**ACADEMIC YEAR I: CSTM & SSW**

FALL SEMESTER			SPRING SEMESTER		
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Course #	Course Name	Credits
SCWK7721	Human Behavior in the Social Environment	3	SCWK7701	Social Welfare System	3
SCWK7723	Re-thinking Diversity: Systems of Oppression and Privilege	3	SCWK7722 or SCWK8889	Psychosocial Pathology (Clinical) or Social Innovation (Macro)	3
TMST7057	Theological Foundations in Practical Perspective	3	TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3	TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
TMPS7080	Spiritual Formation for Ministry**	0	TMPS7080	Spiritual Formation for Ministry**	1
TMPS7280	Theological Reflection for Ministry**	0	TMPS7280	Theological Reflection for Ministry**	1
TMCE7038	Professional Ethics for Ministry Workshop	0	TMPS7096	Professional Ethics for Ministry Workshop	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>

\*\* Yearlong course

**SUMMER I: CSTM**

TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>

**ACADEMIC YEAR II: SSW & STM**

FALL SEMESTER			SPRING SEMESTER		
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Course #	Course Name	Credits
SCWK7762	Basic Skills in Clinical Social Work	3	SCWK8855 or SCWK8833	Clinical Practice with Children and Families (Clinical) or Leadership and Social Transformation (Macro)	3
SCWK8800	Basic Skills in Macro Practice	3	SCWK8856 or SCWK8888	Clinical Practice with Adults (Clinical) or Community Engagement for Social Change (Macro)	3
SCWK9921	Field Education I	3	SCWK9932 or SCWK9942	Field Education II (Clinical) or Field Education II (Macro)	3
TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3	TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
TMxxxxxx	CSTM Module	1			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

**SUMMER II: SSW**

SCWKxxxx	SSW Elective in student's specialized practice	3
SCWKxxxx	SSW Elective in student's specialized practice	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

**ACADEMIC YEAR III: SSW AND CSTM**

FALL SEMESTER			SPRING SEMESTER		
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Course #	Course Name	Credits
SCWK7747	Research Methods	3	SCWK8841	Program Evaluation	3
SCWKxxxx	Advanced Practice in Field-of-Practice	3	SCWKxxxx	Advanced Policy	3
SCWK9933 or SCWK9943	Field Education III (Clinical) or Field Education III (Macro)	4	SCWK9934 or SCWK9944	Field Education IV (Clinical) or Field Education IV (Macro)	4
TMPSxxxx	CSTM Module	1	CSTM	Capstone Project	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

**OPTION B: School-Specific Program (B-36)**  
**with the 36-credit M.A.T.M**

**ACADEMIC YEAR I OR II: STM**

FALL SEMESTER			SPRING SEMESTER		
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Course #	Course Name	Credits
TMST7057	Theological Foundations in Practical Perspective	3	TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3	TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3	TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3	TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
TMPS7080	Spiritual Formation for Ministry**	0	TMPS7080	Spiritual Formation for Ministry**	1
TMPS7280	Theological Reflection for Ministry**	0	TMPS7280	Theological Reflection for Ministry**	1
TMCE7038	Professional Ethics in Ministry Workshop, Part I	0	TMPS7096	Professional Ethics in Ministry Workshop, Part II	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>

\*\* Yearlong course

**SUMMER I: CSTM**

TMxxxxxx	CSTM Course	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>

**ACADEMIC YEAR I OR II: SSW (CLINICAL OR MACRO)**

FALL SEMESTER			SPRING SEMESTER		
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Course #	Course Name	Credits
SCWK7721	Human Behavior in the Social Environment	3	SCWK7722 or SCWK8889	Psychosocial Pathology (Clinical) or Social Innovation (Macro)	3
SCWK7723	Re-thinking Diversity: Systems of Oppression and Privilege	3	SCWK8855 or SCWK8833	Clinical Practice with Children and Families (Clinical) <b>or</b> Leadership and Social Transformation (Macro)	3
SCWK7762	Basic Skills in Clinical Social Work	3	SCWK8856 or SCWK8888	Clinical Practice with Adults (Clinical) or Community Engagement for Social Change (Macro)	3
SCWK8800	Basic Skills in Macro Practice	3	SCWK7701	Social Welfare System	3
SCWK9921	Field Education I	3	SCWK9932 or SCWK9942	Field Education II (Clinical) or Field Education II (Macro)	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

**SUMMER II: SSW**

SCWKxxxx	SSW Elective in student's specialized practice	3
SCWKxxxx	SSW Elective in student's specialized practice	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

**ACADEMIC YEAR III: SSW AND CSTM**

FALL SEMESTER			SPRING SEMESTER		
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Course #	Course Name	Credits
SCWK7747	Research Methods	3	SCWK8841	Program Evaluation	3
SCWKxxxx	Advanced Practice in Field-of-Practice	3	SCWKxxxx	Advanced Policy	3
SCWK9933 or SCWK9943	Field Education III (Clinical) or Field Education III (Macro)	4	SCWK9934 or SCWK9944	Field Education IV (Clinical) or Field Education IV (Macro)	4
TMPSxxxx	CSTM Module	1	CSTM	MATM Capstone Project	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>