Master of Social Work
Offering social work professionals the knowledge and skills needed to develop ethical intervention strategies at the clinical and community level.
The University of New England is Maine’s largest private university, featuring two distinctive campuses in Maine, a vibrant campus in Tangier, Morocco, and an array of innovative offerings online. Our hands-on, experiential approach empowers students to join the next generation of leaders in their chosen fields. We are home to Maine’s only medical and dental colleges, a variety of other inter-professionally aligned health care programs, and nationally recognized degree paths in the marine sciences, the natural and social sciences, business, the humanities and the arts.
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The University of New England holds a firm commitment to excellence in online education. Through the College of Graduate and Professional Studies, UNE Online is an innovative and established leader in the online learning community.

THE UNE ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM:

- Is flexible and convenient, providing 24/7 access to course materials.
- Enables student-centered teaching, allowing you to engage in ways that best suit your learning style.
- Encourages student interaction and increases instructor accessibility.
- Facilitates increased knowledge through interaction with a global and diverse population of students and faculty.
- Encourages research to practice through course assignments that are practical and applied.

ONLINE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- No campus visits required – the program is 100% online.
- No GRE required for admission.
- Traditional and Advanced Standing tracks.
- Renowned faculty of practitioners, researchers, and educators.
- Three admission cycles per year.
- Our program was the first asynchronous, CSWE-accredited online MSW program in the nation.
- Regionally accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE).
- Accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).
In the United States, accreditation is a key measure used to identify institutions and programs that provide a high-quality education.

**NEW ENGLAND COMMISSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

The University of New England is regionally accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE). NECHE is the federally-recognized regional accreditor for the six New England States, and was formerly known as the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education for NEASC. Accreditation is the review of the quality of educational institutions and programs.

Regional accreditation bodies tend to be more established, more prestigious, and their standards are typically more stringent than national accreditation bodies. Regional accreditation is often given to non-profit academic schools (public or private). National accreditation is granted to for-profit schools that offer vocational, career, or technical programs.

**COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION**

The University of New England’s School of Social Work is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), which is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation as the sole accrediting agency for social work education in the U.S.

**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION-ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR LA FORMATION EN TRAVAIL SOCIAL**

The Canadian Association for Social Work Education-Association Canadienne Pour La Formation En Travail Social (CASWE-ACFTS) has a mutual degree recognition agreement with the CSWE stating that degrees from CASWE-ACFTS and CSWE accredited Bachelor and Master of Social Work programs are considered equivalent. More information can be found on the CSWE website.
School of Social Work Vision & Mission

The University of New England’s School of Social Work envisions a world where social workers are at the forefront of advocating with individuals and communities for human dignity and social inclusion by mobilizing efforts to end inequities, exploitation, and violence.

MISSION

The mission of the School of Social Work is to provide transformative and collaborative learning that embraces the values of social inclusion and promotes enhanced quality of life for individuals and communities.

VALUES

Our values promote social inclusion\(^1\) conceptualized as actions taken to improve quality of life, access to equitable resources, enhancement of human bonds within the context of cultural diversity and engagement of people, populations and communities to fully participate in society. Towards this end:

- We promote culturally-informed practice that is respectful of the complexity and diversity of people’s lives and circumstances.
- We recognize that social exclusion prevents people from full and just participation in their communities as a consequence of inequities, discrimination, and disadvantage arising from adversity in early life and continuing across the life course.
- We practice social responsibility by raising public awareness of social exclusion, challenging discrimination and acting with and on behalf of groups, populations, and communities.
- We support person-centered collaborative practices and partnerships that bring together diverse workers and community members to meet the best interests of individuals, families, and groups.

1. “The process of improving the ability, opportunity and dignity of people, disadvantaged on the basis of their identity, to take part in society.” (2013, World Bank Publication)
Our Master of Social Work is 100% online with timely, relevant classes for professionals looking to advance their careers. We offer two options that take your previous social work experience into account: the Traditional track and the Advanced Standing track.

**TRADITIONAL TRACK**

The Traditional track is a 64-credit program, designed for students who do not already possess a Bachelor of Social Work and instead possess a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution or equivalent. Traditional students are required to complete 32 credit hours in each of their generalist and specialization years. In addition, Traditional track students will complete two 560-hour field placements, one in their generalist year and one in their specialization year.

**ADVANCED STANDING TRACK**

The Advanced Standing track is designed for students who have earned their Bachelor of Social Work degree from a CSWE-accredited institution within the past seven years. Advanced Standing students are required to complete one 560-hour specialization field placement.

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

- Required courses are offered three times a year.
- Electives are designated as either community or clinical.
- Traditional students MUST complete their generalist field experience (SSW 522) before taking required or elective specialization courses.
- Advanced Standing students can take both clinical and community electives. However, if a student is seeking licensure after graduation, we encourage students to research the licensing requirements for the state in which they intend to practice. Licensing requirements can be found here: [https://online.une.edu/social-work/msw/student-resources/interactive-map-for-social-work-licensing/](https://online.une.edu/social-work/msw/student-resources/interactive-map-for-social-work-licensing/)
LEARNING OUTCOMES

All graduates of the UNE School of Social Work will demonstrate knowledge, skills, and leadership in the following:

• Practice social inclusion to enable people, populations, and communities to fully participate in society, enhance human bonds in the context of cultural diversity and ensure improved quality of life and equitable resource distribution.

• Engage in culturally-informed relationship building respectful of the complexity and diversity of contexts and circumstances.

• Utilize theories of human behavior, social systems, and social inclusion when offering interventions with people and their environments.

• Promote ethical reflection, critical consciousness and shared decision-making based on social work values and with consideration of the broader contexts of the world in which we live.

• Balance the roles of helpers, activists, and advocates through collaboration with communities to build healthy and sustainable resources.

• Engage as critical consumers and producers of research and evaluation applied to clinical and community practices.

• Practice person-centered and collaborative community partnerships across diverse settings.

“The online community was amazing. We were able to really connect and work together as a group; it felt like you were just chatting with a classmate.

- Melina Paiewonsky
MSW Graduate ‘18
These courses can be taken as part of a degree-seeking program or individually for personal or career development. If you would like to take an individual course without enrolling in a degree program, please reach out to an Enrollment Counselor.

### TRADITIONAL TRACK

#### REQUIRED COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSWO 501</td>
<td>Human Behavior &amp; the Social Environment I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSWO 502</td>
<td>Human Behavior &amp; the Social Environment II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSWO 503</td>
<td>Social Work Research I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSWO 504</td>
<td>Social Work Research II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSWO 505</td>
<td>Social Welfare Policy and Programs I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSWO 506</td>
<td>Social Welfare Policy and Programs II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSWO 510</td>
<td>Social Work Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSWO 511</td>
<td>Social Work Practice II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSWO 520</td>
<td>Field Practicum I / Seminar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSWO 522</td>
<td>Field Practicum II / Seminar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSWO 552</td>
<td>Contemporary Theory of SW Practice: Individuals and Families</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSWO 553</td>
<td>Advanced Social Work Practice with Families</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSWO 565</td>
<td>Administration &amp; Supervision</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSWO 580</td>
<td>Field Practicum III / Seminar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSWO 582</td>
<td>Field Practicum IV / Seminar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSWO 597</td>
<td>Advanced Psychological Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Four electives (see page 9)
ADVANCED STANDING TRACK

REQUIRED COURSES

SSWO 526  Integrating Clinical / Community Practice Frameworks (3 credits)
SSWO 552  Contemporary Theory of SW Practice: Individuals and Families (3 credits)
SSWO 553  Advanced Social Work Practice with Families (3 credits)
SSWO 565  Administration & Supervision (3 credits)
SSWO 580  Field Practicum III / Seminar (4 credits)
SSWO 582  Field Practicum IV / Seminar (4 credits)
SSWO 597  Advanced Psychological Assessment (3 credits)

Four electives

*Licensing requirements vary by state and we encourage you to research elective requirements for the state in which you intend to practice. Licensing requirements can be found here: https://online.une.edu/social-work/msw/student-resources/interactive-map-for-social-work-licensing/

ELECTIVES (3 CREDITS EACH)

SSWO 514  Program Evaluation
SSWO 564  Program Dev & Community Practice
SSWO 571  Social Work Practice
SSWO 585  Substance Abuse: A Social Work Perspective
SSWO 605  Social Determinants of Health: Inequality, Health, and Healing
SSWO 608  Grant Research & Program Writing (Community)
SSWO 610  Social Work in the Political Arena
SSWO 611  Social Work Practice and Intimate Partner Violence
SSWO 613  Advanced Trauma-Based Practice
SSWO 615  Contemporary Controversies
SSWO 618  Homelessness and Social Work
SSWO 627  Psychopharmacology: Drugs / Behavior
SSWO 628  Use of Creative Arts in Social Work Practice
SSWO 633  Social Work Practice with Child, Adolescent, Parent
SSWO 635  Aging and Health
SSWO 638  Multiculturalism and Social Work
SSWO 642  Narrative Therapy
SSWO 652  Motivational Interviewing / Social Work Practice
SSWO 670  Grief, Loss, Death and Dying in Social Work
SSWO 673  Social Work and the Law
SSWO 675  Social Work Practice in the Rural Environment
SSWO 685  Comm Organizing / Comm Building

INTERPROFESSIONAL ELECTIVES

Students also have the option to take electives from our other online graduate programs. A full list of these interprofessional courses can be found here: https://online.une.edu/shared-interprofessional-courses/
FIELD PLACEMENT

Field placement is the opportunity for students to integrate their coursework into a real-life practice situation. Students will have the opportunity to learn about local resources, network in the community, and develop and hone clinical skills.

Each field placement will occur over a period of 32 weeks with the student being at the placement for 18–20 hours per week. Students are responsible to research, locate and initiate their placement site, but will be supported in this process by a UNE practicum coordinator.

“What I enjoy most about UNE Online is the ability to offer social work education to students in rural and remote areas—students who otherwise wouldn’t have such access. When we provide training to a disabled veteran in Wisconsin or a single mom in Alaska, we not only change their lives but the lives of their future clients.”

- Wanda Anderson
  MSW, LCSW, Field Placement Coordinator

“Placements ensure that students have the best education possible. The placement experience is a chance for us to interact with students and help them truly understand what social work is. If a student were to discover that they don’t care for a certain type of social work, that’s fine. But at least they now know what it is in a real-world sense. Placements expose the students to experiences and situations that they can then take out into the world.”

- Jennifer O’Neil
  MSW, LCSW, Online MSW Program Director
Admissions

REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are encouraged to review the Master of Social Work requirements for admission for each track prior to beginning their application, as the application process vary.

TRADITIONAL TRACK REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution or equivalent.
- 3.0 cumulative undergraduate GPA or better.
- Computer with internet connection, including the hardware and software requirements described in the Technology Requirements section. Must also possess sufficient computer skills to navigate the internet as all classes are accessed 100% online.

ADVANCED STANDING TRACK REQUIREMENTS:

In addition to the requirements for the Traditional track:

- Graduation from CSWE-accredited Bachelor of Social Work program, within the last seven years strongly preferred.
- Equivalent coursework at the undergraduate level to UNE’s generalist year courses completed, with a “B” or better strongly preferred.
- Evidence of significant experience in the human services field with MSW supervision.
TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:

- Access to a computer and the internet.
- Webcam - 1280 x 720 (1 megapixel) resolution recommended.
- Microphone/speakers.
- Microsoft Office - free and available to students with their @une.edu account via Office 365; includes Microsoft Outlook for your @une.edu email.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

- Complete the online graduate application at: https://go.une.edu/apply, including professional statements addressing provided prompts.
- Submit a $40 non-refundable application fee.
- Submit official transcript(s) reflecting conferral of a bachelor’s degree. Applicants with international degrees should contact an Enrollment Counselor for more information.
- Two completed Applicant Recommendation Forms.
- A current resume or CV.
Tuition & Financial Aid

TUITION & FEES

- Application Fee (non-refundable) $40
- General Services Fee (per semester, non-refundable) $55
- Tuition (per credit hour) $950
- Malpractice Insurance Fee (annual, non-refundable) $50
- Technology Fee (per semester, non-refundable) $85
- Registration Fee (non-matriculated students per semester) $30

FINANCIAL AID

At UNE, more than 90% of our students receive a form of financial aid. Investing in your education is a big financial commitment, which is why the University of New England is proud to offer accredited and quality online education at a competitive price. Financing a college education is a partnership between the student, their family, and the University. The Financial Aid Office at UNE is available to assist online students and their families in finding the financial means necessary to achieve their educational goals.

- Graduate tuition and fee rates are subject to change.
- Students are expected to pay for textbooks and materials at the beginning of the semester. Books, supplies and other items available at the UNE Bookstore or through other online channels.
- Standard enrollment for each semester is based on six credits.
- For more information on military and veteran benefits, please visit http://www.une.edu/registrar/veteran-benefits
The University of New England is committed to student success and that success is directly related to the overall student experience. At UNE, we believe that a successful student is a supported student. To that end, as an online student, we offer a variety of academic, technical, and administrative support to assist you on your academic journey.

STUDENT SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Throughout each student’s graduate degree process, a support specialist is available by phone and email to answer any questions, provide access to all of the resources that UNE Online has to offer, and ultimately guide them from the start of their studies through graduation.

Your student support specialist will help with the following:

- Notifications about textbooks and other course resources
- Posting announcements about course or schedule revisions
- Assistance with course registration
- Contacting a faculty member
- Navigating the course site or using course tools
- General course information or questions
- And more
The Student Academic Success Center provides a comprehensive array of academic support services including workshops, tutoring, writing support, and individual learning consultations to online students. Its mission is to empower students to become more independent and efficient learners so that they are able to meet the University’s academic standards and attain their personal educational goals.

**ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES**

- Career Center
- Writing Support
- Student Financial Services
- Library Services
- Blackboard Tutorials
- Student Access Center
- Technology Support

UNE Online offered everything I was looking for: out-of-state tuition was reasonable, I didn’t have to log into school at a certain time, and I could enter the program and move along the Advanced Standing track at my preferred pace.

- Nicole Petrin
MSW ‘19
Jennifer O’Neil, MSW, LCSW, is the Program Director for the online Master of Social Work program. She earned her undergraduate degree as an adult learner and practiced at an agency that worked with substance users and HIV positive patients after graduating with her MSW. She is currently working on her PhD dissertation, concentrating on women veterans in higher education.

“Our goal is the give our students the skills to be the kind of social worker that they want to be. We offer the scholar-practitioner model, which means that a high percentage of our faculty members currently work in the field. Since our faculty are active both professionally and academically, they are able to bring their industry knowledge back to the classroom and share it with students. This gives students the ability to actively participate in discussions that revolve around situations that are happening in real time and not just read about it in a textbook.

I think one of our biggest strengths is our student support model. I hear this from both students and faculty. It’s a wonderful model because each student has one steady person with whom they can always get in touch, regardless of where they are in the program or who is teaching their current class. Students tell us that the support staff is not only terrific – but they always pick up their phones!

Overall, our program helps our students realize their goals. I love the thought of UNE Online creating the best possible social workers out there.”
“Having worked in several facets of social work myself, I think that those interested in the social work field should be aware that a career in social work can be flexible. The core social work concepts and values remain the same across the field.

One of the biggest things I looked for when I was a hiring in a clinical setting, was authenticity. We also looked for people who were self-reflective, people who were being honest with themselves and others about what their strengths and challenges were. We are all great at something, but nobody is good at everything. Each one of us always has room to grow in many different ways. Within social work we have the code of ethics, and that’s one of the hallmarks of the profession. We want people who are going to fully understand, honor and embody that code.

I’ve found UNE students to be eager, enthusiastic, and dedicated to becoming a part of the social work profession. I love the wide variety of students that I work with. Working in a fully-asynchronous online program has allowed me to interact with some phenomenal people.”
The School of Social Work Student Organization (SSWSO) promotes a sense of community among students in the program, and gives voice to MSW students. We hold regular meetings, plan educational and social events, and connect with students in other academic departments at UNE. Members of our group sit on the WCHP Graduate and Professional Association governing board, and attend School of Social Work meetings.

We provide a platform through which you can make your voice heard and organize with peers to affect change within the School and within UNE. We also help plan the yearly commencement celebration for the graduating Social Work class.

When you enroll in the School of Social Work, you automatically become a member of the SSWSO, and we encourage you to become actively involved through participating in our various Committees.

These include committees dedicated to:

- Social Events
- Orientation
- Self-Care
- Lunch and Learn
- Commencement
- Social Work Appreciation Month

As a member of the SSWSO you are also invited to participate in the monthly School Meeting of all Social Work faculty and staff, and to participate on the following faculty committees:

- Curriculum
- Admissions
- Assessment
The University of New England has repeatedly claimed a spot in U.S. News & World Report’s rankings for Best Online Graduate Education Programs.