

Bonafide Academic Requirements for the Masters of Social Work Based in Indigenous Knowledges (MSW-IK) Program

The MSW-IK Program has identified and proposes the following Bona Fide Academic Requirements (BFAR) as the core academic requirements that a graduate student must acquire in order to gain, and demonstrate acquisition of, essential knowledge and skills.

BFAR Statement	Taught	Assessed
Student must attend in person ¹ , participate in Indigenous cultural activities and/or events, and complete the pass/fail coursework for the foundational course and the Elder-Led courses as required by the MSW-IK program.	SWRK 7700 SWRK 7710 SWRK 7740 SWRK 7770 SWRK 7800	SWRK 7700 SWRK 7710 SWRK 7740 SWRK 7770 SWRK 7800
Student must complete the academic coursework as required by the MSW-IK program.	SWRK 7720 SWRK 7730 SWRK 7750 SWRK 7780 SWRK 7810	SWRK 7720 SWRK 7730 SWRK 7750 SWRK 7780 SWRK 7810
Student must attend in person ¹ and participate in the project/thesis seminars as required by the MSW-IK program.	SWRK 7760 SWRK 7790	SWRK 7760 SWRK 7790
Student must successfully defend and complete a comprehensive project paper or equivalent , as required by the MSW-IK program and determined by the members of their respective advisor councils.	SWRK 7820 MSW-IK Advisor Advisor Council	SWRK 7820 MSW-IK Advisor Advisor Council
Student must successfully defend and complete a thesis and produce a recorded/published thesis , as required by the MSW-IK program and determined by the members of their respective advisor councils/committees.	GRAD 7000 MSW-IK Advisor Advisor Council	GRAD 7000 MSW-IK Advisor Advisor Council
Student must conduct research in a “culturally safe ² ” and ethical manner, referring to their respective ethics board and supervisor(s) to ensure respect is maintained for: human dignity and/or animal welfare; vulnerable persons; Indigenous knowledges; informed consent; justice and diversity; confidentiality and privacy; beneficence and non-maleficence in the work that they conduct.	SWRK 7820 GRAD 7000	SWRK 7820 GRAD 7000

1. The above noted courses where attendance “in person” is required, refers to situations where participation in cultural activities necessitates that students be physically present to be able to experience and participate in Indigenous practices and cultural-based ceremonies. For instance, students cannot learn how to build and/or prepare for a sweat lodge or smudge in sharing circles unless they are physically present to understand Indigenous teachings and practices around these and other cultural activities. Also, physical attendance is required where students provide updates on their projects/thesis activities. Attendance at these seminars is an essential part of the relationship building aspects of Indigenous knowledge and based on a cultural way of life. Learning Indigenous ways of being, doing, feeling, and seeing requires students to be present emotionally, intellectually, physically, and spiritually. Indigenous knowledge cannot be imparted without interconnection and relationship building with other students, the faculty instructors, and the knowledge holders, including the vital connections to the elements of land, water, air, and fire. Attendance may take place in a traditional university classroom or at a designated location outside the classroom. All project/thesis seminars are co-taught by the MSW-IK Program’s two Traditional Knowledge Holders and two Faculty Instructors where students receive advice, guidance, and a balanced approach to understanding social work research and practice from Western and Indigenous perspectives.

2. Since the MSW-IK is a program that teaches from an Indigenous standpoint, the word “culturally” has been placed before the word “safe.” Cultural safety considers the social and historical contexts of inequities faced by Indigenous populations and is not focused on understanding “Indigenous culture,” rather being culturally safe is about paying attention and being sensitive (having cultural humility) to the roots of inequities that stem from the historical and ongoing colonization experienced by Indigenous peoples across the

various social service sectors, including research. Furthermore, culturally safe practices include actions which recognize and respect the cultural identities of others, and safely meet their needs, expectations and rights.