Preface

The School of Social Work offers the Baccalaureate degree in Social Work (BSW) and the Masters degree in Social Work (MSW). The MSW degree program offers two concentrations: Direct Practice and Administrative Leadership. Both the BSW and MSW degree programs are fully accredited by Council on Social Work Education through 2020.

Terminal Degree

The terminal degree for social work practice is the Masters of Social Work. However, the terminal degree for social work education is the earned doctorate in social work (usually a Ph.D., though a few universities grant the Doctor of Social Work), or in a related field (such as special education, psychology, educational human resources development, adult continuing education, public health, higher education administration, leadership studies, public administration, or child and family studies). Clinical faculty who hold the MSW only with no earned doctorate teach field practicum and selected clinical undergraduate courses. All Texas State job ads announcing tenure-track social work faculty positions specify that applicants must hold the doctorate as well as the MSW. Clinical faculty position announcements specify that applicants must hold the MSW.

Hiring Faculty without Terminal Degree

1) What is the process for determining alternate credentials?
   Alternate credentials are not accepted.

2) Specific acceptable alternate credentials
   Alternate credentials are not accepted.

3) Acceptable related licensures
   We require our social work faculty to be licensed in good standing as social workers. A faculty member might also hold a related license, such as Licensed Professional Counselor, but we require the social work license (in Texas, the relevant license titles are Licensed Clinical Social Worker or Licensed Master Social Worker, or the specialty designation of Licensed Master Social Worker-Advanced Practitioner).

4) The level of honors or awards that are acceptable
   No honors or awards will satisfy the minimum requirements of holding the required credentials for employment.

5) Any areas exempt from hiring faculty with less than terminal degrees
   The doctorate is the terminal degree for tenure-track social work educators. All Texas State social work faculty must hold the MSW, the terminal practice degree. We also require that all faculty must also have at least 2 years of practice experience and be licensed social workers. Those clinical faculty who hold the MSW only with no earned doctorate teach field practicum and selected clinical undergraduate courses.

6) Other: N/A