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BOSTON COLLEGE	
  	
  
	
  
Graduate School of Social Work 
Master of Social Work (MSW) 
Credit-Hour Values 
June 1, 2011 
 
The MSW Program requires 65 credits. The MSW credit-hour workload requirements consist of 
in-class instruction, out-of-class major assignments, out-of-class required and recommended 
reading, and the application of course content within a supervised field practicum. The Council 
on Social Work Education (CSWE) defines field education as the signature pedagogy of the 
curriculum, which is responsible for connecting theory and practice. Therefore, the field 
practicum is an integral part of the credit-hour values of all MSW courses. 
 
The MSW Program exceeds the in-class and out-of-class workload expectations as defined by 
the U.S Department of Education. The U.S Department of Education defines 1-credit as 
approximately 45 hours of work per semester, consisting of a mix of in-class instruction and out-of-class student work. In the MSW Program, 1-credit consists of 53.2 hours of instruction and 
student work over a 13-week semester. Over the course of one semester, 1-credit consists of the 
following workload requirements: 
 
8.7 hours of in-class instruction 
8.7 hours of student work on major assignments 
17.3 hours of required and recommended student reading 
18.5 hours of supervised field work