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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