

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2025

MSW in Play Therapy specialising in Play-based Intervention (Coursework) (01251077)

Department Social Work and Criminology

Minimum duration of study 1 year

Total credits 180

NQF level 09

Programme information

Closing date for applications: 31 July annually.

Admission requirements

1. Bachelor of Social Work degree of equivalent
2. A weighted average of at least 60% at final-year level
3. Registration at the South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP) or with a relevant professional body, where applicable

Additional requirements

A compulsory module in research methodology, namely MWT 864, must be passed.

Pass with distinction

A student passes with distinction when an average mark of 75% (not rounded) is achieved for the core modules and the mini-dissertation, subject to a minimum of 70% for the mini-dissertation.

Curriculum: Final year

MWT 864 is a non-credit-bearing module and must be attended satisfactorily as prerequisite for MWT 895.

Core modules

Play therapy with the child 861 (MWT 861)

Module credits	25.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	Departmental selection.
Contact time	8 lectures per day for 5 days
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Social Work and Criminology
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

*Departmental selection
Play therapy with the child

Developmental social work and child welfare; approaches; child development theories; the multi-disciplinary team; the Gestalt play therapy process; therapeutic relationship with the child; sensory awareness and contact; enhancing the sense of self; utilisation of projection; play techniques: drawing.

The child in the family 862 (MWT 862)

Module credits	25.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	MWT 861 and Departmental selection (MSW programmes)
Contact time	8 practicals per week, 8 lectures per day for 5 days
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Social Work and Criminology
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

*Closed - requires departmental selection
The child in the family

Play techniques: clay and sand tray work; the child in context of the family; assessment in different contexts (eg therapeutic, forensic, safety and risk); trauma and loss; play-based family intervention.

The child in the community 863 (MWT 863)

Module credits	25.00
NQF Level	09

Prerequisites Departmental selection, MWT 861, MWT 862.

Contact time 8 lectures per day for 5 days

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Social Work and Criminology

Period of presentation Semester 2

Module content

*Closed - requires departmental selection

The child in the community

The effect of adverse conditions; play techniques; biblio play; drama and sociodrama; puppets and music; prevention, early intervention and early childhood development; resilience in individuals, families and communities.

Research methodology 864 (MWT 864)

Module credits 0.00

NQF Level 09

Prerequisites Departmental selection.

Contact time 8 lectures per day for 5 days

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Social Work and Criminology

Period of presentation Semester 1

Module content

*Departmental selection

Research ethics, research approaches, types of research, research designs and research process as applicable to social work.

Play therapy: Practical 869 (MWT 869)

Module credits 15.00

NQF Level 09

Prerequisites MWT 869 runs concurrently with MWT 861, MWT 862 and MWT 863;
Departmental selection

Contact time Total of 150 hours of practical training

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Social Work and Criminology

Period of presentation Year



Module content

* Closed - for departmental selection

Integration and demonstration of theoretical components of play therapy in practice. This include ground principles of play therapy approaches and development theories, principles and techniques of play assessment and play therapy; the implementation of the play therapy process with the child client within his different systems.

Mini-dissertation: Social work 895 (MWT 895)

Module credits	90.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	MWT 864
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Social Work and Criminology
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

A comprehensive report (80-100 pages) on an approved research project based on independent research in a specialist field in social work selected in consultation with a supervisor. Scholastic and advanced research of selected specialist area including the planning, resourcing and managing of processes. Accountability for achieving and evaluating personal and/or group output.

General Academic Regulations and Student Rules

The [General Academic Regulations \(G Regulations\)](#) and [General Student Rules](#) apply to all faculties and registered students of the University, as well as all prospective students who have accepted an offer of a place at the University of Pretoria. On registering for a programme, the student bears the responsibility of ensuring that they familiarise themselves with the General Academic Regulations applicable to their registration, as well as the relevant faculty-specific and programme-specific regulations and information as stipulated in the relevant yearbook. Ignorance concerning these regulations will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression, or basis for an exception to any of the aforementioned regulations. The G Regulations are updated annually and may be amended after the publication of this information.

Regulations, degree requirements and information

The faculty regulations, information on and requirements for the degrees published here are subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information.

University of Pretoria Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) verification project

The higher education sector has undergone an extensive alignment to the Higher Education Qualification Sub-Framework (HEQSF) across all institutions in South Africa. In order to comply with the HEQSF, all institutions are legally required to participate in a national initiative led by regulatory bodies such as the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Council on Higher Education (CHE), and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). The University of Pretoria is presently engaged in an ongoing effort to align its qualifications

and programmes with the HEQSF criteria. Current and prospective students should take note that changes to UP qualification and programme names, may occur as a result of the HEQSF initiative. Students are advised to contact their faculties if they have any questions.