Program: Social Work MSW Program  
Rating: High Quality  

The Master of Social Work (MSW) is a longstanding professional degree program that has an on-site and distance learning option in Sioux City, Des Moines and in the Quad Cities. The MSW is a highly sought after degree that addresses the need for social work practitioners across the state. There are 2-, 3- and 4- year options for completion of the MSW program depending on the site. Of the 88 students who were enrolled in F04, 84 completed the MSW within the maximum time of 4 years and with a 95% completion rate. In a 2009 survey, 82% of MSW alumni reported being employed in a social work position with 70% being certified. The elements of the MSW are very strong and the overall program is highly regarded.

Program: Social Work PhD Program  
Rating: Good  

The doctoral program in Social Work was started in 1998 and is the only social work doctoral program in Iowa. The applicant pool is small but growing in size and in quality. The student cohort is diverse and students receive modest funding opportunities. Students take advantage of internal opportunities to seek support and the relationship of the Graduate College with Sponsored Programs to identify external sources of support for students is helpful. Since the program is fairly new, GC completion and TTD data only reflects a small cohort. Still completion is adequate at 60%. TTD is long at 7.7 years, but that most likely reflects the fact that most students are part-time. Graduates appear to be placed at a spectrum of institutions, including research intensive institutions. The program has put together a reasonable set of goals to improve the program, but resources will be critical for future gains. The program offers seminars that are available and potentially important to graduate students in other related programs. A new graduate certificate in multicultural competence was recently approved.