SOCIAL WORK

Social Work
College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Department of Social Work
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Web site: www.sbs.mnsu.edu/socialwork

Chair: William A. Anderson

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This major is preparation for beginning-level generalist social work practice. The program is accredited for baccalaureate level education by the Council on Social Work Education. This major is also excellent preparation for graduate work in social work and related fields. This accredited major meets one of the requirements for social work licensure, which is required to practice social work in most settings in Minnesota.

Students should request that they be assigned to a social work advisor as early as possible. Admission to the major is not necessary for enrollment in 100 and 200 level courses. Formal admission to the practice sequence (SOWK 441, 443, 445, 447, 450 and 455) occurs during the student’s junior year. An application for admission is required. To be eligible for admission at that time, students must have a 2.8 GPA and a minimum grade of “C” in all required courses.

Policies/Information

GPA Policy. Formal admission to the Social Work major requires that applicants have achieved a 2.8 GPA in the required pre-major courses, including those taken in other departments, and a 2.8 cumulative GPA. A minimum grade of “C” is required in Social Work and supporting courses. Under some circumstances exceptions are made based on evidence of explanatory factors, strong academic performance in recent semesters and good results in courses within the major.

Once formally admitted, students are expected to demonstrate continued academic performance. No formal additional requirements are applied to acceptance for practicum in the final semester, other than successful completion of course requirements, including Introduction to Field Practice and Senior Paper.

P/N Grading Policy. SOWK 312 (Junior Field Experience taken in the Junior Year) and SOWK 450 and 418 (Practicum and Practicum Seminar, taken in the Senior Year), are offered only on a P/N basis. All other required major and pre-major courses must be taken for grade and must be passed with a minimum grade of “C.”

Residency and Transfer Requirements. Transfer students are expected to complete a minimum of 30 credit hours at Minnesota State Mankato. Students who wish to transfer credits in Social Work from another university must have been honorably dismissed from the previous school(s). Students transferring Social Work credits must complete at least 24 credits from within the department.

Credit for classroom courses in Social Work taken at other institutions will be evaluated on an individual basis by the student’s faculty advisor or by the department chairperson. The student will be expected to present course syllabi including assignments and texts used. All transfer students must see a department advisor for guidance and transcript evaluation before attempting to register for upper division courses.

Criminal Background Check. A criminal background check may be required prior to admission and fieldwork/practicum.

SOCIAL WORK B.S.S.W

Required General Education (Supporting, 19 credits):
SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology (3)
ETHN 100 American Racial Minorities (3)
BIOL 100 Our Natural World (4)
KSP 235 Human Development (3)
ECON 100 An Introduction to the U.S. Economy (3)
POL 111 United States Government (3)
3 Credits of Statistics, chosen from:
Required statistics, support courses (3-4 credits):
SOC202 or HLT 475 or PSYC 201 (4 credits)

Required for Major (Core, 50 credits):
Social Work Intro Courses (9 credits)
SOWK 190W Social Welfare Services (3)
SOWK 210 Introduction to Social Work I (3)
SOWK 214 Community Social Service Projects (3)
Social Work Integrating Courses (8 credits)
SOWK 305 Human Behavior in Social Work Practice (3)
SOWK 312 Junior Field Experience (5)
Social Work Research/Policy (6 credits)
SOWK 412 Social Welfare Issues and Policies (3)
SOWK 469 Applied Social Work Research (3)
Social Work Practice/Field Sequence (26 credits)
SOWK 441 Social Work Practice I (4)
SOWK 443 Social Work Practice II (4)
SOWK 445 Social Work Practice III (3)
SOWK 447 Social Work Practice IV (3)
SOWK 450 Integrative Seminar (2)
SOWK 455 Social Work Practicum (10)
Social Work Elective (3 credits required)
SOWK 415 Child - Family Welfare Services (3)
SOWK 419 Social Work and Aging (3)
SOWK 420 Women’s Issues in Social Work (3)
SOWK 422 Social Work and Chemical Dependency (3)
SOWK 425 Social Work in Health Care Setting (3)
SOWK 427 Social Work and Domestic Violence (3)
SOWK 430 Social Work in the School Setting (3)
SOWK 432 Social Work and Disabilities (3)
SOWK 485 Selected Topics (1-6)
SOWK 497 Internship: Social Work (1-10)

Required Minor: None.

SOCIAL WELFARE MINOR

Required for Minor (21 credits):
SOWK 190W Social Welfare Services (3)
SOWK 210 Introduction to Social Work I (3)
SOWK 214 Community Social Service Projects (3)
SOWK 305 Human Behavior in Social Work Practice (3)
SOWK 412 Social Welfare Issues and Policies (3)
SOWK xxx (approved by social work advisor) (3)
SOWK xxx (approved by social work advisor) (3)

Course Descriptions

SOWK 190W (3) Social Welfare Services
Welfare as a social institution. Formal and informal efforts to meet common social needs.
F,S
GE-1C, 5, 9 CD-Related

SOWK 210 (3) Introduction to Social Work I
An introduction to social work as a profession (values, ethics, areas of practice, and the curriculum).
F,S
GE-11

SOWK 214 (3) Community Social Service Projects
An experiential introduction to the problem solving process in social work, task groups and group development. Students work in small groups to design, research, implement, and evaluate a community social service project.
F,S
GE-11

SOWK 255 (3) Global Responses to Human Need
This course exposes students to some of the major realities of life among
the poor and socially deprived in all parts of the world, primarily developing
countries. Students will confront conditions that impede development and
keep people locked into poverty and despair, and will discuss how a person
who sees her/himself as a global citizen can act in tangible ways to make that
“citizenship” more meaningful.
F, S
GE-5, 8 CD-Related
SOWK 291 (1-3) Exploratory Studies
Under faculty mentorship, students can pursue subjects of individual interest
related to social work and social welfare.
F, S
SOWK 305 (3) Human Behavior in Social Work Practice
A systematic overview and integration of the diverse factors which influence
behavior and create the context for social work practice.
Pre: SOWK 190W, 210, 214, and social work supporting courses: SOC 101, ETHN
100, EDFN 235, BIOL 100  F, S
SOWK 312 (5) Junior Field Experience
Beginning level supervised field experience with a human service agency.
Students complete 150 hours of observation and agency service and attend
a seminar which integrates the field experience and social work values,
knowledge, and practice skills. Application required during semester before
registration.
Pre: SOWK 190W, 210, 214, and permission  F, S, SS
SOWK 412 (3) Social Welfare Issues & Policies
Theoretical and practical exploration of the interrelatedness of social services,
social policy formation and analysis, and social work practice.
Pre: ECON 100 & POL 111  F, S
SOWK 415 (3) Child-Family Welfare Services
Social services designed to facilitate child development and family functioning.
F, S
SOWK 419 (3) Social Work and Aging
Service delivery issues and social work practice with older persons, their
families and communities.
S  
CD-Core
SOWK 420 (3) Women's Issues in Social Work
Women's concerns as clients and workers in the social service system. Variable
CD-Core
SOWK 422 (3) Social Work and Chemical Dependency
This course is designed to provide upper level (junior and senior) undergradu-
ate social work students with a comprehensive introduction to the epidemi-
ology (scientific study of disease), etiology (causes of disease), history, policy,
and treatment modalities of substance abuse from a person-in-environment
and systems theory social work perspective.
SOWK 425 (3) Social Work in Health Care Setting
Service delivery issues and skills for working in hospitals, nursing homes, and
community programs.
F
SOWK 427 (3) Social Work and Domestic Violence
The overall goal of this course is to enable students to understand the rationale
for and application of a variety of interventions strategies for the prevention
and intervention of domestic violence.
SOWK 430 (3) Social Work in the School Setting
Service delivery issues, knowledge and skills for providing social services
within school settings.
S
SOWK 432 (3) Social Work and Disabilities
Course focuses on service delivery issues and skills, using a strengths-based,
family systems, and empowerment approach for working with individuals
with developmental and other disabilities and their families across the life
span. Students hoping to do a practicum in a disability services setting should
complete this course prior to beginning the practicum.
SOWK 441 (4) Social Work Practice I
Overview of generalist social work practice including assessment and interven-
tion methodology and strategies; social work with diverse populations; ethical
issues/dilemmas; importance of social work research. Application required
during semester before registration.
SOWK 443 (4) Social Work Practice II
Intervention skills for working with individuals, families, and groups.
re: SOWK 441 and permission  F, S
SOWK 445 (3) Social Work Practice III
Generalist social work micro, mezzo, and macro practice skills are applied
to community-based practice, with an emphasis on: (1) understanding how
healthy communities function, (2) recognizing community needs and assets,
and (3) learning strategies for community organizing and planned change.
Intervention skills for working with communities.
Pre: SOWK 441, 443  F, S
SOWK 447 (3) Social Work Practice IV
This course prepares students with social work practice knowledge, skills, and
values to address organizational issues while considering the needs of clients.
Social justice, advocacy, ethics, generalist social work practice, and professional
development will be examined within the organization.
Pre: SOWK 441, SOWK 443 & SOWK 445
SOWK 450 (2) Integrative Seminar
Integration of senior field practicum with academic content and concepts.
Serves as the capstone experience. Taken with SOWK 455 and SOWK 447.
Pre: SOWK Foundation, Practice Sequence, and permission  F, S
SOWK 455 (10) Social Work Practicum
Culminating practicum experience with 32 hour per week placement in a
social service setting with supervision provided by a degreed social worker.
Taken with SOWK 450, SOWK 447.
Pre: SOWK Foundation, Practice Sequence, and permission  F, S
SOWK 469 (3) Applied Social Work Research
Research issues and techniques, needs assessment, program and practice evalu-
atation.  
F, S
SOWK 485 (1-6) Selected Topics
Topics announced when offered
Variable
SOWK 490 (1-3) Workshop
SOWK 492 (1-3) Honors Reading
SOWK 495 (1-3) Social Work Honors Paper
This elective is for those students who desire to complete an advanced writing
assignment in preparation for employment or graduate education.
SOWK 497 (1-10) Internship: Social Work
Additional field experience in approved social agency.
SOWK 499 (1-6) Individual Study
Under faculty mentorship, students may pursue in-depth library or field re-
search on topics of their choice.