

SOCIAL WORK

Social Work

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

Department of Social Work

358 Trafton Science Center N • 507-389-6504

Website: www.sbs.mnsu.edu/socialwork

Chair: William A. Anderson

Michelle Alvarez, William A. Anderson, David Beimers, Annelies Hagemester, Christine Black-Hughes, Nancy Fitzsimons, Marilyn Frank, Debra Gohagan, Paul Mackie, Laura Strunk, Robin R. Wingo, Kimberly Zammitt

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, SOWK 443, SOWK 445, SOWK 447, SOWK 450 and SOWK 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 Junior Field Experience and Practice Courses.

P/N Grading Policy. SOWK 312 (Junior Field Experience taken in the Junior Year) and SOWK 450 and SOWK 455 (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 BSSW

Required General Education

BIOL 100 Our Natural World (4)

ECON 100 An Introduction to the U.S. Economy (3)

ETHN	100	American Racial Minorities (3)
KSP	235	Human Development (3)
POL	111	United States Government (3)
SOC	101	Introduction to Sociology (3)
SOC	202	Introductory Social Statistics (3)

Major Common Core

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	312	Junior Field Experience (5)
SOWK	412	Social Welfare Issues & Policies (3)
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)
SOWK	469	Applied Social Work Research (3)

Major Restricted Electives

(Choose 3 credits)

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)

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.

Fall, Spring
GE-1C, GE-5, GE-9

SOWK 210 (3) Introduction to Social Work I

An introduction to social work as a profession (values, ethics, areas of practice, and the curriculum).

Fall, Spring

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.

Fall, Spring
GE-11

SOCIAL WORK

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.

Fall, Spring
GE-5, GE-8
Diverse Cultures: Purple

SOWK 291 (1-3) Exploratory Studies

Under faculty mentorship, students can pursue subjects of individual interest related to social work and social welfare.

Fall, Spring

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, SOWK 210, SOWK 214, and social work supporting courses: SOC 101, ETHN 100, KSP 235, BIOL 100
Fall, Spring

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, SOWK 210, SOWK 214, and permission
Fall, Spring, Summer

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
Fall, Spring

SOWK 415 (3) Child-Family Welfare Services

Social services designed to facilitate child development and family functioning.

Fall, Spring

SOWK 419 (3) Social Work and Aging

Service delivery issues and social work practice with older persons, their families and communities.

Spring

SOWK 420 (3) Women's Issues in Social Work

Women's concerns as clients and workers in the social service system.
Variable

SOWK 422 (3) Social Work and Chemical Dependency

This course is designed to provide upper level (junior and senior) undergraduate social work students with a comprehensive introduction to the epidemiology (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.

Fall

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.

Spring

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 intervention 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.

Pre: SOWK 441 and permission
Fall, Spring

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, SOWK 443
Fall, Spring

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
Fall, Spring

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
Fall, Spring

SOWK 469 (3) Applied Social Work Research

Research issues and techniques, needs assessment, program and practice evaluation.

Fall, Spring

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.

SOCIAL WORK

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 research on topics of their choice.