Social Work

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Department of Social Work
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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.

POLICIES/INFORMATION

Admission to Major. 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 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.

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 satisfactory academic performance by earning a minimum grade of “C-” in required courses. No formal additional requirements are applied to acceptance for the Social Work Practicum in the final semester of the program, other than successful completion of course requirements, including Junior Field Experience and practice sequence courses.

P/N Grading Policy. SOWK 450 and SOWK 455 (Social Work 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

Degree completion = 120 credits

Required General Education
KSP 235 Human Development (3)
Values, Ethics, and Critical Thinking
(choose 3-4 credits one course from the following)
ENG 213W Perspectives in Ethics and Civic Responsibility (4)
PHIL 110 Logical and Critical Thinking (3)
PHIL 120W Introduction to Ethics (3)
PHIL 222W Medical Ethics (3)
PHIL 240W Law, Justice and Society (3)

Biological Systems
(choose 3-4 credits one course from the following)
BIOL 100 Our Natural World (4)
BIOL 102 Biology of Women (3)

Diversity and Social Justice A
(choose 3-4 credits one course from the following)
ANTH 230 People and Cultures of the World (4)
PHIL 100 Political Social Thought and Community (3)
ENGL 111W Social Problems (3)
PHIL 240W Law, Justice and Society (3)

Diversity and Social Justice B
(choose 3-4 credits one course from the following)
AIS 101 Introduction to American Indigenous Studies (3)
AIS 210W Oral Traditions (3)
AIS 230W American Indians of MN (3)
AIS 240W American Indian Women (3)
CDIS 290 Introduction to Communication Disorders (3)
ETHN 150 Multicultural and Ethnic Experience (3)
ETHN 201W Perspectives on African Americans (3)
ETHN 203W Perspectives on Asian Americans (3)
ETHN 204W Perspectives on Latinos/Hispanics (3)
GWS 110W Introduction to Gender (4)
GWS 220W Global Perspectives on Women and Change (4)
GWS 225W Introduction to LGBT Studies (4)
REHB 110W Sensitivity to Disability (3)

Social, Economic, and Political Perspectives
(choose 6 credits)
(Select two courses each from different departments from the following)
ECON 100 Introduction to US Economy (3)
ECON 201 Macroeconomics (3)
ECON 202 Microeconomics (3)
POL 101 Introduction to Public Life (3)
POL 104 Understanding US Constitution (3)
POL 106 Politics in the World Community (3)
POL 111 US Government (3)
SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology (3)
SOC 150 Social Problems (3)
URBS 150 Sustainable Communities (3)

Statistical Analysis Methods
(choose 3-4 credits one course from the following)
ECON 207 Business Statistics (4)
SOC 202 Introductory Social Statistics (3)
STAT 154 Elementary Statistics (3)

Major Common Core
SOWK 180W Social Welfare Services (4)
SOWK 212 Introduction to Social Work (4)
SOWK 310 Human Behavior in the Social Environment (4)
SOWK 315 Junior Field Experience (4)
SOWK 410 Social Welfare Policy (4)
SOWK 435 Applied Social Work Research (4)
SOWK 441 Generalist Social Work Practice (4)
SOWK 443 Social Work Interviewing and Counseling Skills (4)
Diverse Cultures - Purple
GE-5, GE-8

global citizen can act in tangible ways to make that “citizenship” more meaningful.

Students will confront conditions that impede development and keep people locked
and socially deprived in all parts of the world, primarily developing coun-
tries.

This course exposes students to some of the major realities of life among the poor

SOWK 255 (3) Global Responses to Human Need

projects. Students are provided with information about the BSSW curriculum.
in a diverse society, and apply values, ethics, and theories through group-based

and tasks, and core theories and social work skills required for generalist social

work in Health Care Setting (3)
SOWK 427 Social Work and Domestic Violence (3)
SOWK 420 Women’s Issues in Social Work (3)
SOWK 422 Social Work and Chemical Dependency (3)
SOWK 419 Social Work and Aging (3)

SOWK 450 Integrative Seminar (2)
SOWK 455 Social Work Practicum (10)

Major Restricted Electives
(choose one course from the following)

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
SOWK 180W Social Welfare Services (4)
SOWK 212 Introduction to Social Work (4)
SOWK 310 Human Behavior in the Social Environment (4)
SOWK 410 Social Welfare Policy (4)

One additional course from the following:

SOWK 255 Global Responses to Human Need (3)
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 315 and SOWK 435 may be considered at part of the Social Welfare
Minor with the approval of the Chair.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SOWK 180W (4) Social Welfare Services

The objective of this course is to explore welfare as a social institution. Consideration will be given to formal and informal efforts to meet common social needs. This course emphasizes social challenges facing American society and the program and policy prescriptions designed to minimize or eliminate these problems. Fall, Spring, Summer

WI, GE-5, GE-9

SOWK 212 (4) Introduction to Social Work

An introduction to social work as a profession including the history of the profes-
sion, professional behaviors, values and Codes of Ethics, fields of practice, roles
and tasks, and core theories and social work skills required for generalist social
work practice. Students will develop skills in critical thinking, professional com-
munication and behavior, demonstrate self-awareness as they prepare to work
in a diverse society, and apply values, ethics, and theories through group-based
projects. Students are provided with information about the BSSW curriculum. Fall, Spring

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

SOWK 310 (4) Human Behavior in the Social Environment

Applies theoretical frameworks for assessing and organizing knowledge of hu-
man behavior and the social environment in conjunction with social systems, to
understand individual, family, group, organizational, and community systems.
Attention is paid to human diversity, discrimination, and oppression.
Pre: SOWK 180W, SOWK 212
Fall, Spring, Summer

SOWK 315 (4) Junior Field Experience

Beginning level supervised field experience with a social service agency. Students complete 120 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 the semester before registration.
Pre: SOWK 180W, SOWK 212
Fall, Spring, Summer

SOWK 410 (4) Social Welfare Policy

Exploration of the interrelatedness of social services, social policy formulation
and analysis, and generalist social work practice. Presentation of contemporary
social issues and social welfare policies, the introduction of a framework for
policy analysis, and an overview of policy, practice, advocacy and action skills.
Critical analysis of issues and policy from a social work perspective, drawing
from the values and ethics of the profession, with examination of how issues
differentially impact groups within our diverse society.
Pre: SOWK 180W, SOWK 212, SOWK 310
Fall, Spring, Summer

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. Fall (On-Demand), Spring (On-Demand), Summer (On-Demand)

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. Fall (On-Demand), Spring (On-Demand), Summer (On-Demand)

SOWK 425 (3) Social Work in Health Care Setting

Service delivery issues and skills for working in hospitals, nursing homes, and
community programs. Fall (On-Demand), Spring (On-Demand), Summer (On-Demand)

SOWK 427 (3) Social Work and Domestic Violence

The overall goal of this course is to enable students to understand the rationale
and application of a variety of intervention strategies for the prevention and
intervention of domestic violence. Fall (On-Demand), Spring (On-Demand), Summer (On-Demand)

SOWK 430 (3) Social Work in the School Setting

Service delivery issues, knowledge and skills for providing social services
within school settings. Fall (On-Demand), Spring (On-Demand), Summer (On-Demand)

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. Stu-
dents hoping to do a practicum in a disability services setting should complete
this course prior to beginning the practicum. Fall (On-Demand), Spring (On-Demand), Summer (On-Demand)

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SOWK 435 (4) Applied Social Work Research
Explores research issues and techniques, needs assessments, and program and practice evaluations. In addition, there is a lab designed to supplement class discussions and to assist students in understanding some of the technical details and specific skills associated with conducting research and writing a research proposal. The lab enhances skills in developing questionnaires, reviewing previous studies, using American Psychological Association (APA) citations and data analysis using SPSS.
Pre: ECON 207 or SOC 202 or STAT 154
Fall, Spring

SOWK 441 (4) Generalist Social Work Practice
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 Interviewing and Counseling Skills
Intervention skills for working with individuals, families, and groups.
Pre: SOWK 441 and permission
Fall, Spring

SOWK 446 (4) Organizations and Community Practice
This course prepares students for direct and indirect macro generalist social work practice in organizations and communities. Students will learn: 1) to recognize characteristics and assets of organizations and communities, 2) to identify and respond to changing community and organizational needs, and 3) strategies for planned change process in organizations and communities. Emphasis is placed on engaging, assessment, intervening and evaluating consumer services across mezzo and macro systems through the process of participating in task-oriented groups.
Pre: Admission to the major.
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 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 research on topics of their choice.