

Social Work

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Department of Social Work
358 Trafton Science Center N • 507-389-6504
Web site: www.mnsu.edu/dept/socialwk

Chair: William A. Anderson

William A. Anderson, Annelies Hagemeister, Christine Black-Hughes,
Nancy Fitzsimons, Marilyn Frank, Debra Gohagan, Robin R. Wingo

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 314, 443, 445, 411 and 418) occurs during the first semester of 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.

SOCIAL WORK BS

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):
SOC 202 or HLTH 475 or PSYC 201 (4 credits)

Required for Major (Core, 52 credits):

SOWK 190 Social Welfare Services (3)
SOWK 210 Introduction to Social Work I (3)
SOWK 214 Community Social Services Projects (3)
SOWK 305 Human Behavior in Social Work Practice (3)
SOWK 312 Introduction to Field Practice (5)
SOWK 314 Social Work Practice I (4)
SOWK 411 Social Work Practicum Seminar (2)
SOWK 412 Social Welfare Issues and Policies (3)
SOWK 418 Practicum (10)
SOWK 443 Social Work Practice II (4)
SOWK 445 Social Work Practice III (4)
SOWK 469 Applied Social Work Research (3)
SOWK 495 Senior Paper (2)
Choose one of the following:
SOWK 415 Child and Family Welfare Services (3)
SOWK 419 Social Work and Aging (3)
SOWK 420 Women's Issues in Social Work (3)
SOWK 425 Social Work in Health Care Settings (3)
SOWK 430 School Social Work (3)

Required Minor: None.

SOCIAL WELFARE MINOR

Required for Minor (21 credits):

SOWK 190 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)

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 (Introduction to Field Practice, taken in the Junior Year) and SOWK 411 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 University, 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.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SOWK 190 (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

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

Social Work

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 190, 210, 214, and social work supporting courses: SOC 101, ETHN 100, EDFN 235, BIOL 100 F, S

SOWK 312 (5) Introduction to Field Practice

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 190, 210, 214, and permission F, S

SOWK 314 (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.

Pre: SOWK 190, 210, 214, 305, 312, and permission F, S

SOWK 411 (2) Social Work Practicum Seminar

Integration of field experience with academic content and concepts. Taken with 418 and 445.

Pre: SOWK foundation, 443, 495, and permission F, S

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 418 (10) Social Work Practicum

Pre: SOWK 443, 495, and permission 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 425 (3) Social Work in Health Care Setting

Service delivery issues and skills for working in hospitals, nursing homes, and community programs.

F

SOWK 430 (3) School Social Work

Service delivery issues, knowledge and skills for providing social services within school services.

S

SOWK 443 (4) Social Work Practice II

Intervention skills for working with individuals, families, and groups.

Pre: SOWK 314 and permission F, S

SOWK 445 (4) Social Work Practice III

Intervention skills for working with organizations and communities. Taken with SOWK 411 and 418.

Pre: SOWK 443 and permission F, S

SOWK 465 (3) Analyzing the Small Community

Community study, application of research techniques; student-conducted research and analysis using a community setting.

Variable

SOWK 469 (3) Applied Social Work Research

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

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 (2) Senior Paper

Required senior capstone experience. Taken with SOWK 443.

Pre: SOWK 314 F, S

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.
