

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.

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 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 312 (Junior Field Experience taken in the Junior Year) and 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

Required General Education

KSP 235 Human Development (3)

Values, Ethics, and Critical Thinking

(Choose 3-4 credits)

Select 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) Select one course from the following:

BIOL 100 Our Natural World (4)

BIOL 101 Biology of Women (3)

Diversity and Social Justice A

(Choose 3-4 credits) Select one course from the following:

ANTH 230 People and Cultures of the World (4)

ANTH 240 Language and Culture (4)

ENG 211W Perspectives in Literature and Human Diversity (4)

ETHN 100 American Racial Minorities (3)

ETHN 101 Introduction to Multicultural and Ethnic Studies (3)

HUM 281W Human Diversity and Human Traditions (4)

KSP 220W Human Relations in a Multicultural Society (3)

PHIL 115W Philosophy of Race, Class, and Gender (3)

PHIL 205W Culture, Identity, and Diversity (3)

Diversity and Social Justice B

(Choose 3-4 credits) Select one course from the following:

AIS 101 Introduction to American Indian Studies (3)

AIS 210W Oral Traditions (3)

AIS 230 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 Pers 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): Select 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 190W Social Welfare Services (3)

SOWK 210 Introduction to Social Work (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 and Policies (3)

SOWK 441 Social Work Practice I (4)

SOCIAL WORK

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

(Please 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 (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
WI, 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

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.

SOCIAL WORK

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.

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.