

# 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](http://www.sbs.mnsu.edu/socialwork)

Chair: Annelies Hagemester

Michelle Alvarez, Ross Aalgaard, David Beimers, Kofi Danso, Annelies Hagemester, Christine Black-Hughes, Nancy Fitzsimons, Debra Gohagan, Paul Mackie, Laura Strunk, Robin R. Wingo, Kimberly Zammitt

**Accreditations.** Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

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 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 101 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)

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 one course from the following)

AIS 101 Introduction to American Indian 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 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 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 Social Work Practice I (4)

SOWK 443 Social Work Practice II (4)

SOWK 446 Organizations and Community Practice (4)  
 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 (3), SOWK 415 (3), SOWK 419 (3), SOWK 420 (3), SOWK 422 (3), SOWK 425 (3), SOWK 427 (3), SOWK 430 (3), SOWK 432 (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 social 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 profession, 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 communication and behaviors, 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, Spring

#### **SOWK 310 (4) Human Behavior in the Social Environment**

Applies theoretical frameworks for assessing and organizing knowledge of human 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

#### **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.

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.

---

## SOCIAL WORK

---

### **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) 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 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 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.