

## SOCIAL WORK BSSW AND MINOR

### Social Work

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences  
Department of Social Work  
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Website: [www.sbs.mnsu.edu/socialwork](http://www.sbs.mnsu.edu/socialwork)

BSSW Program Director: Debra Gohagan  
Dept Chair: David Beimers

Faculty: Ross Aalgaard, Jennifer Andrashko, David Beimers, Laura Benesch, Christine Black-Hughes, Kofi Danso, Nancy Fitzsimons, Debra Gohagan, Annelies Hagemeyer, Paul Mackie, Jennifer Parker, Sky Smith, Laurie Strunk, Kimberly Zammit

**Accreditations.** Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) since 1974.

The BSSW Program is built on a strong liberal arts program. Graduates are prepared for generalist social work practice with individuals, families, organizations, and communities. The program's graduates are committed to ethical and professional practice that enhances human well-being and supports social, economic, and environmental justice for all members of our diverse and global society.

This major prepares students for graduate education in social work and related fields. This nationally accredited major meets licensure requirement to practice social work in most settings in Minnesota. A major in social work does not require that students pursue a minor degree. However, students can choose to complete a minor, add a second major, or pursue certification programs; most of which will require additional coursework and semester[s].

**Academic Map/Degree Plan at [www.mnsu.edu/programs/#All](http://www.mnsu.edu/programs/#All)**

#### POLICIES/INFORMATION

**Admission to the BSSW Program.** An application for admission to the BSSW program is required before students are given permission to complete the advanced curriculum (SOWK 441, SOWK 443, SOWK 446, SOWK 450 and SOWK 455). Admission is limited to 34 students per semester. Admission criteria include:

- 2.8 Cumulative and 2.8 Social Work GPAs,
- Earned at least 75 credits at the end of the semester applying,
- Completed (or in process of completing) all university and social work general education requirements,
- Completed (or in process of completing) SOWK 200 & 300 level courses,
- Earned a minimum grade of "C-" in all BSSW Program required courses.

**Admission to the major** is not necessary for enrollment in SOWK 200 & 300 level courses. However, students registering for SOWK 300 level courses will need to meet with a BSSW Program Advisor to get permission to register for upper division courses. Students must also complete an application form for permission to complete SOWK 315, Junior Field Experience, and SOWK 450 and SOWK 455, Senior Practicum and Practicum Seminar.

**Advising.** Students are assigned to a BSSW Program Faculty Advisor as early as possible and should meet with their advisor every semester.

**GPA Policy.** Formal admission to the Social Work major requires that applicants have achieved a 2.8 GPA in the required social work general education and social work specific courses, including courses completed in other departments/institutions and a 2.8 cumulative GPA. A minimum grade of "C-" is required in Social Work and required supporting courses. Once formally admitted to the BSSW Program, students are to maintain continued satisfactory academic performance by earning a minimum grade of "C-" in Social Work required courses.

**P/N Grading Policy.** SOWK 315 (Social Work Junior Field Experience), SOWK 450, and SOWK 455 (Senior Practicum and Practicum Seminar), are offered only on a P/N basis. Students cannot take any other social work courses (for major or for a social welfare minor) as P/NC.

**Residency and Transfer Requirements.** Transfer students must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours at Minnesota State Mankato. Students who wish to transfer credits in Social Work from another institution must have left prior institution(s) in good standing. Students transferring Social Work course credits from other institutions must complete at least 24 credits within the BSSW Program curriculum.

**Credit for classroom courses** completed at other institutions is evaluated on an individual basis by the BSSW Program Director and/or faculty. The student must present course syllabi including assignments and texts used and meet all other admission to the BSSW Program requirements. All transfer students must see a BSSW Program Faculty Advisor for course planning before registering for social work courses.

The BSSW Program does not substitute life experience for coursework credit.

**Criminal Background Check.** A criminal background check is required prior to SOWK 315, Junior Field Experience and SOWK 450/455, Senior Practicum and Practicum Seminar.

#### SOCIAL WORK BSSW

Degree completion = 120 credits

#### Required General Education

Values, Ethics, and Critical Thinking (choose 3 - 4 credits)

Select one course from the following:

- ENG 213W Perspectives: Ethics and Civic Responsibility in Literature (4)
- PHIL 110 Logic and Critical Thinking (3)
- PHIL 120W Introduction to Ethics (3)
- PHIL 222W Medical Ethics (3)
- PHIL 240W Law, Justice & Society (3)

Biological Systems (choose 3 - 4 credits)

Select 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)

Select one course from the following:

- ANTH 230 People and Cultures of the World (4)
- ANTH 240 Language and Culture (4)
- ANTH 340 Language and Power (4)
- ENG 211W Perspectives in Literature and Human Diversity (4)
- ETHN 100 American Racial Minorities (3)
- ETHN 101 Introduction to Multicultural & Ethnic Studies (3)
- ETHN 150 Multi-Cultural/Ethnic Experience (3)
- GEOG 103 Introductory Cultural Geography (3)
- HUM 281W Human Diversity and Humanities 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 Indigenous Studies (3)
- AIS 210W Oral Traditions (3)
- AIS 230W American Indians of Minnesota (3)
- AIS 240W American Indian Women (3)
- CDIS 290 Introduction to Communication Disorders (3)
- ETHN 201W Perspectives on African Americans (3)
- ETHN 203W Perspectives on Asian Americans (3)
- ETHN 204W Perspectives on Latinos/Hispanics (3)
- GWS 110 Introduction to Gender (4)
- GWS 110W Introduction to Gender (4)
- GWS 220 Sex and Gender Worldwide (4)
- GWS 220W Sex and Gender Worldwide (4)
- GWS 225 Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (4)
- GWS 225W Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender 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 An Introduction to the U.S. Economy (3)
- ECON 201 Principles of Macroeconomics (3)
- ECON 202 Principles of Microeconomics (3)
- POL 101 Introduction to Public Life (3)
- POL 104 Understanding the U.S. Constitution (3)
- POL 106 Politics in the World Community (3)
- POL 111 United States 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)

PSYCH 201 or HLTH 475 may be taken to meet program requirements, but are not counted in General Education

- ECON 207 Business Statistics (4)

## SOCIAL WORK CONTINUED

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SOC 202 Introductory Social Statistics (3)  
STAT 154 Elementary Statistics (3)  
Human Development (choose 3 - 4 credits)  
Select one course from the following:  
FCS 301 Lifespan Development (3)  
KSP 235 Human Development (3)  
PSYC 343 Introduction to Developmental Psychology (4)  
Psychology (choose 4 credits)  
PSYC 101 Introduction to Psychological Science (4)

### Major Common Core

SOWK 215W may be completed for SOWK 215. SOWK 310 may be completed for SOWK 310W.

SOWK 212 Introduction to Social Work (4)  
SOWK 215 Introduction to Social Welfare Services (4)  
SOWK 310W 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)  
SOWK 446 Organizations and Community Practice (4)  
SOWK 450 Integrative Seminar (4)  
SOWK 455 Social Work Practicum (8)

### Major Restricted Electives

Please choose one course from the following:

SOWK 415 Child-Family Welfare Services (3)  
SOWK 417 Co-morbidity of Mental Health & Substance Use Disorders in Social Work (3)  
SOWK 419 Social Work and Aging (3)  
SOWK 422 Social Work and Chemical Dependency (3)  
SOWK 425 Social Work in Health Care Setting (3)  
SOWK 427 Social Work Response to Intimate Partner 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 212 Introduction to Social Work (4)  
SOWK 215 Introduction to Social Welfare Services (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 422 Social Work and Chemical Dependency (3)  
SOWK 425 Social Work in Health Care Setting (3)  
SOWK 427 Social Work Response to Intimate Partner 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.

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## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### 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 215 (4) Introduction to 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 of diverse populations. This course emphasizes social challenges and impact of oppression facing American society and the program and policy prescriptions designed to minimize or eliminate these problems.

Fall, Spring, Summer.

GE-5, GE-9

Diverse Cultures - Purple

### 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.

Prerequisite: SOWK 212, SOWK 215

Fall, Spring, Summer (On Demand)

### 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.

Prerequisite: SOWK 212; SOWK 215 or SOWK 215W

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.

Prerequisite: SOWK 212, SOWK 215, SOWK 310

Fall, Spring; Summer (On Demand)

### SOWK 415 (3) Child-Family Welfare Services

This course provides an overview of social services that support the well-being of children and families in a diverse society. Students, regardless of disciplinary affiliation, identify personal and professional values, develop a working knowledge of the theories that inform practice with children and families, and understand the roles and legal responsibilities of child welfare workers and professionals from multiple disciplines in the delivery of child welfare services.

Fall, Spring

### SOWK 417 (3) Co-morbidity of Mental Health & Substance Use Disorders in Social Work

Co-morbid substance abuse and mental health disorders will be encountered by social workers in all areas of practice. Current research on dual diagnosis indicates integrated treatment of substance misuse and mental illness is the most effective approach to treatment. This course will provide an understanding of the intersection of multiple diagnoses, and enable social worker professionals to effectively treat multiple diagnoses in their area of practice. This course examines the interaction of addictive and other mental health disorders. Particular focus is placed on case-conceptualization, assessment, and intervention with multiply diagnosed clients in specific populations.

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

### 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 Response to Intimate Partner Violence**

Course provides an overview of intimate partner violence from a theoretical and evidence-based, social work perspective. Students learn about intervention strategies from direct practice to advocacy and policy change. Multiple systems are explored. The intersection of gender, class, sexual orientation, age, and culture with intimate partner violence is covered.

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. Students 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)

### **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. Prerequisite: ECON 207 or HLTH 475 or PSYC 201 or SOC 202 or STAT 154 Or other statistics course as approved by BSSW Program Advisor.

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.

Prerequisite: Admission to the BSSW Program/major. Permission to register given by BSSW Program.

Fall, Spring

### **SOWK 443 (4) Social Work Interviewing and Counseling Skills**

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

Prerequisite: SOWK 441. Permission to register given by BSSW Program.

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.

Prerequisite: SOWK 441. Permission to register given by BSSW Program.

Fall, Spring

### **SOWK 450 (4) Integrative Seminar**

Integration of senior field practicum with academic content and concepts. Serves as the capstone experience. Taken with SOWK 455.

Prerequisite: SOWK Foundation, Practice Sequence, and permission

Co-requisite: SOWK 455

Fall, Spring

### **SOWK 455 (8) 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.

Prerequisite: SOWK Foundation, Practice Sequence, and permission

Co-requisite: SOWK 450

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.