

SOCIAL WORK

The social work curriculum is designed to impart the knowledge, values, and skills human service professionals need to work in a variety of practice areas. The training is systematic and begins with the study of introductory concepts. Various types of clients, problems, and methods of addressing those problems are explored. The student's training culminates in supervised field placement experiences based on the student's particular career interest.

Social work graduates are employed in a wide variety of positions. Those who enter policy practice typically serve to educate and mobilize the public around a particular issue such as securing national health insurance for all Americans or repairing the social security system. Often policy practitioners lobby public officials or the courts to change the way social programs are administered and laws are enforced. Those who pursue clinical practice frequently work in the mental health field and provide services to meet community needs such as crisis intervention for clients who have experienced trauma. Other options include probation officer in a corrections setting, a counselor in a substance abuse milieu, a rehabilitation specialist in a center for juvenile delinquents, or as a job coach for the mentally challenged in a sheltered workshop. The career opportunities are as varied as our nation's array of social problems.

MAJOR IN SOCIAL WORK (39-40 credits)

REQUIRED: 10 courses (30 credits)

SWK 110 Intro to Social Work	SWK 310 Practice with Individuals
SWK 210 Contemporary Social Pol	SWK 311 Practice with Families & Groups
SWK 213 Human Diversity	SWK 315 Macro Practice
SWK 301 Human Behavior	SWK 411 Field Placement*
BIO 121 Human Anat & Phys I	POL 101 American Politics

Choose 3 credits from:

SWK 212 Social Work Research Methods	PSY 212 Experimental Psychology
SOC 223 Research Methods	

Choose 3-4 credits from:

PSY/SOC/POL 225 Statistics	ECN 210 Statistics for Business & Economics
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* Students enroll for a minimum of 3 credits of SWK 411 (they can enroll for a maximum of 12 credits)

MINOR IN SOCIAL WORK (18 credits)

REQUIRED: 4 courses (12 credits)

SWK 110 Intro to Social Work	SWK 210 Contemporary Social Pol
SWK 213 Human Diversity	SWK 301 Human Behavior

Choose 3 credits from:

SWK 310 Practice with Individuals	SWK 311 Practice with Families & Groups
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Choose 3 credits from:

SWK 212 Social Work Research Methods	PSY 212 Experimental Psychology
SOC 223 Research Methods	

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

110. Introduction to Social Work

3 credits

This course covers the emergence of the social work profession: professional mission, knowledge, skills, values, practice settings, client groups, helping services, career patterns, and practice methods. Designed to assist students to consider their interest in and ability for careers in social work.

210. Contemporary Social Policy

3 credits

Course content provides students with knowledge and skills to understand the major policies and structures that form the foundation of contemporary social welfare services. Students learn to analyze issues in social welfare policy and social service delivery; analyze and apply the results of policy research relevant to social service delivery; understand and demonstrate policy practice skills and use them to influence, formulate, and advocate for policy consistent with social work values.

212. Social Work Research Methods

3 credits

Qualitative and quantitative research content provides understanding of a scientific, analytic, and ethical approach to building knowledge for practice. The content prepares students to develop, use, and effectively communicate empirically based knowledge, including evidence-based interventions. Research knowledge is used by students to provide high-quality services; to initiate change; to improve practice, policy and social service delivery; and to evaluate their own practice.

213. Human Diversity and Social Work Practice

3 credits

Content emphasizes the interlocking and complex nature of culture and personal identity. Students are educated to recognize diversity within and between groups that may influence assessment, planning, intervention, and research. Students learn how to define, design, and implement strategies for effective practice with persons from diverse backgrounds.

301. Human Behavior and the Social Environment

3 credits

Content includes empirically based knowledge that focuses on the interactions between and among individuals, groups, societies, and economic systems. It includes theories and knowledge of biological, sociological, cultural, psychological, and spiritual development across the life span; the range of social systems in which people live (individual, family, group, organizational, and community); and the ways social systems promote or deter people in maintaining health and well being.

310. Practice with Individuals

3 credits

Utilizing a strengths based systems approach to problem solving, this course introduces students to generalist social work practice and develops a beginning level of ethnic sensitive competence. **Prerequisite: SWK 110, SWK 301, Junior status**

311. Practice with Family and Groups

3 credits

This course emphasizes social work interventions with families and small groups. Covers knowledge, skills, values, and ethics related to social work practice with families and treatment groups, with emphasis on diversity; social and economic justice, and empowerment, especially for oppressed and at-risk families and groups.

Prerequisite: SWK 110, SWK 301, Junior status

312. Family Violence **3 credits**

This course presents a comprehensive introduction to the study of family violence. Students are informed about current controversies in the field from a variety of perspectives—legal, medical and social. Numerous specialty areas covered include: spousal abuse, child physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, sexual offenders, and elder abuse.

313. Psychopathology: Clinical Case Management **3 credits**

This course equips future mental health practitioners with a model and theory for case management with the mentally ill. Students learn assessment techniques, intervention strategies and empirical tools for monitoring symptoms and progress of clients with a variety of mental illnesses.

314. Regulating Women's Lives through Social Welfare Policy **3 credits**

This course reconceptualizes the dynamics of the U.S. social welfare system from the perspective of gender, race and class. It examines the historical roots of gender roles and the effect upon women, family, and society. It will provide a practical framework for students to work with women and empower their female clients.

315. Macro Practice **3 credits**

This course focuses on generalist practice theory and skills as applied to communities, organizations and oppressed populations. Issues of social justice and social action are emphasized. **Prerequisite: SWK 110, SWK 210, SWK 301**

316. Social Work with the Aged: Policy and Practice **3 credits**

This course focuses on assessment of the intervention with elderly individuals and their families. It examines problems encountered by aging persons and prepares students with the wide range of skills and practice modalities necessary for effective practice with this population: group work, case management, consultation, and beginning skills in program planning and administration. The course also explores the development and scope of public policies directed toward older persons such as public and private insurance for chronic care needs, housing and community based services, income maintenance programs and future policies for the aged.

411. Field Placement I **3 credits**

Students choose from a variety of settings which provide applied experience in practice areas such as: gerontology, school social work, child welfare, family services, criminal justice, health, mental health, public welfare, developmental disabilities, hospice, domestic violence, medical social work, student affairs, research, needs assessment, community organizing and adolescent development. **Prerequisites: Junior standing, SWK 110, SWK 301, SWK 310 and SWK 311. Fee.**

412. Field Placement II **3 credits**

Continuation of SWK 411. Students choose from a variety of settings which provide applied experience in practice areas such as: gerontology, school social work, child welfare, family services, criminal justice, health, mental health, public welfare, developmental disabilities, hospice, domestic violence, medical social work, student affairs, research, needs assessment, community organizing and adolescent development. **Prerequisites: Junior standing, SWK 110, SWK 301, SWK 310, SWK 311, and SWK 411. Fee.**