Social Work Program

Degrees Offered: B.S.W.

Accredited by the Council on Social Work Education

Admission Requirements:

Students may declare a major in the School of Social Work upon admission to the University or with permission of the School.

NOTE: The School of Social Work reserves the right to maintain a balanced enrollment. This may restrict the numbers of freshmen, transfer students, and internal transfers who wish to be Social Work majors.

— Most Social Work courses are restricted to Social Work majors.
— The School does not offer a minor in Social Work.
— Only Social Work students may take required courses.

Academic credit for life experience and/or previous work experience is not given, in whole or in part, in lieu of any Social Work course. All Social Work majors must also be formally admitted to the program. The admission process is a prerequisite for taking any 300-level Social Work course. In order to be formally admitted, students are required to make formal application before their enrollment in SWK 223. To be accepted, students must have satisfied the following requirements:

1. At least 30 hours of credit with a minimum 2.50 overall GPA;
2. Grade of C or better in all courses required for the major;
3. Successful completion of at least 25 pre-approved hours of volunteer or paid work experience in an appropriate social service agency within the past 2 years.
4. 15 hours required in an introductory social work course and liberal arts courses: SWK 170; ECO 103; PSY 110, 350; SOC 106.
5. 12 hours required in General Education courses which include: AN 185; BSC 101 or BSC 145 or BSC 170; POL 101 or 106; a category QR course chosen from ECO 138 or PSY 138 or POL 138 or MAT 150 or MQM 100.
6. All General Education courses must be completed prior to admission to the BSW program. Exceptions may be made for students who demonstrate potential for academic success in Social Work.

Exceptions are granted upon the recommendations of the Social Work Admission Committee and the Director or designee of the Social Work program.

Retention Requirements:

The School reserves the right to enforce professional standards of practice as specified in Section 6369 of the Clinical Social Work and Practice Act. These standards may be taken into consideration in decisions related to program retention. Additionally, students must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.50 and a grade of C or better in all major required courses to proceed into SWK 394 and 398A10.

HONORS IN SOCIAL WORK

The School of Social Work offers honors work for superior students majoring in Social Work. In order to qualify, the student must be a member of the University Honors Program, have completed a minimum of 12 hours for honors credit, and achieve a cumulative University GPA of 3.30 or better, and have a GPA of 3.50 or better in Social Work. Students pursuing this option should contact the School’s Director of Student Services. Further details about the University Honors program are available at: Honors.IllinoisState.edu.

MAJOR IN SOCIAL WORK

— Additionally, students pursuing a Bachelor of Social Work degree must choose from one of the following options:
  — One additional three hour course in the natural sciences, mathematics, statistics, or technology beyond those required for General Education.
  — Successful completion of LAN 115 or the equivalent.

Fall Semester - First Year

SWK 222 - Contemporary Social Welfare Policy
SWK 223 - Human Behavior I
SWK 310 - Understanding Diverse Populations
SWK 325 - Generalist Practice: Individuals
SWK 326 - Practice Skills

Spring Semester - First Year

SWK 225 - Human Behavior II
SWK 315 - Social Work Research
SWK 329 - Preparation for Professional Practice
SWK 336 - Generalist Practice II: Families
SWK 337 - Generalist Practice III: Groups

Fall Semester - Second Year

SWK 345 - Generalist Practice IV: Communities
SWK 394 - Field Instruction Seminar I
SWK 398A10 - Field Instruction I

Spring Semester - Second Year

SWK 346 - Policy Practice and Advocacy
SWK 395 - Field Instruction Seminar II
Social Work

SWK 398A11 - Field Instruction II
Approved elective course

- Suggested electives: CJS 101, 102; TCH 312; COM 223; ECO 103; FCS 224; IDS 111; IT 140; PHI 238; POL 105, 215; PSY 123, 213, 233, 301, 302, 333, 347; SOC 106, 108, 111, 112, 123, 240, 260, 262, 342, 366; SWK 323, 324, 330; WGS 120; or other relevant courses selected in consultation with the school’s Director of Student Services.

The Baccalaureate Degree in Social Work is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. The principal educational goal is to prepare students for beginning generalist social work practice.

Special Concentration and Certificates:

Concentration in Women’s and Gender Studies: This 12-hour concentration has been designed for social work majors who wish to integrate a working knowledge of gender issues and their intersections with the undergraduate BSW degree. SWK 329 pre-practicum must be with an organization focusing on gender issues.

Child Welfare Concentration: This concentration has been designed for students who wish to enhance the social work major by integrating a working knowledge of child welfare practice with the undergraduate social work degree.

Gerontology Certificate and Minor: This special program has been designed for students who wish to enhance the social work major by integrating a working knowledge of gerontological issues with the undergraduate social work degree.

Students interested in any of the above programs should contact the Director of Student Services in the School of Social Work.

Social Work Courses

170 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK
3 sem. hrs.
Survey of the profession of social work and the institution of social welfare in the contemporary United States.

211 SOCIAL GERONTOLOGY
3 sem. hrs.
Process and consequences of aging; interplay between social and social-psychological forces and the aged population in society. Also offered as SOC 211. Prerequisite: Completion of 45 hours or consent of the instructor. SOC 106 or PSY 111 is recommended.

222 HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND PROGRAMS
3 sem. hrs.
Historical development and critical analysis of social welfare programs, policies, and issues. Prerequisites: Formal admission to SWK major. Concurrent registration in SWK 223, 310, 325, 326.

223 HUMAN BEHAVIOR IN THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT I
3 sem. hrs.
The integration of major concepts from the social and behavioral sciences in terms of their relevance for micro social work practice. Prerequisites: Formal admission to SWK major or consent of the school advisor. Concurrent registration in SWK 222, 310, 325, and 326.

225 HUMAN BEHAVIOR IN THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT II
3 sem. hrs.
Integration of concepts from the social-behavioral sciences regarding relevance for micro, mezzo, and macro practice. Focus is on the second half of the life cycle. Prerequisites: SWK 222, 223, 310, 325, 326. Major only or consent of the school advisor. Concurrent registration in SWK 315, 329, 336, and 337.

310 UNDERSTANDING DIVERSE POPULATIONS
3 sem. hrs.
Examines the impact of discrimination and oppression on the development and delivery of social work services to diverse populations. Prerequisites: Formal admission to SWK major or consent of the school advisor. Concurrent registration in SWK 222, 223, 325, 326.

311 ISSUES IN GERONTOLOGY
3 sem. hrs.
Advanced treatment of selected subjects in gerontology. Multiple enrollments are allowed if content differs. Also offered as SOC 311. Prerequisites: SOC/SWK 211 or consent of the instructor; Completion of 75 hours or consent of the instructor.

315 SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH
3 sem. hrs.
Application of theories and skills of research to social work practice with individuals, families, groups, communities, and organizations. Prerequisites: SWK 222, 223, 310, 325, and 326. Concurrent registration in SWK 225, 329, 336, and 337. Major only or consent of the school advisor.

323 CHILD WELFARE SERVICES
3 sem. hrs.
Services for dependent, neglected, abused, and handicapped children and their families. Recommended before SWK 398A10 if student wishes placement in a child and family service agency. Prerequisite: Major only or consent of the instructor. SWK 222 is recommended.

324 TOPICS IN CHILD WELFARE
3 sem. hrs.
Analysis of current child welfare topics and the role of the profession of social work. Prerequisite: SWK 323, majors only or consent of the instructor.

325 GENERALIST PRACTICE I: INDIVIDUALS
3 sem. hrs.
Introduction to generalist social work practice with an emphasis on working with individuals. Prerequisites: Formal admission to SWK major or consent of the school advisor. Concurrent registration in SWK 222, 223, 310, and 326.
326 PRACTICE SKILLS
3 sem. hrs.
Course which teaches interpersonal social work practice skills.
Formerly PRACTICE SKILLS LABORATORY. Prerequisites: Formal admission to SWK major. Concurrent registration in SWK 222, 223, 310, and 325.

329 PREPARATION FOR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE
3 sem. hrs.
An educationally focused community service experience and seminar that emphasizes socialization of students to the profession of social work. Prerequisites: SWK 222, 223, 310, 325, 326. Concurrent registration in SWK 225, 315, 336, and 337.

330 TOPICS IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL WELFARE
1-3 sem. hrs.
Analysis of current social welfare topics and the role of the profession of social work. Multiple enrollments are allowed; maximum 6 hours. Prerequisite: Consent of the instructor.

336 GENERALIST PRACTICE II: FAMILIES
3 sem. hrs.
Introduces students to the social work knowledge and practice skills necessary to effect change and growth in struggling families. Prerequisites: SWK 222, 223, 310, 325, 326. Concurrent registration in SWK 225, 315, 329, and 337. Major only or consent of the school advisor.

337 GENERALIST PRACTICE III: GROUPS
3 sem. hrs.
Expands the theoretical foundation and practice methodology by focusing specifically on knowledge and skills to effect change in small groups. Prerequisites: SWK 222, 223, 310, 325, and 326. Concurrent registration in SWK 225, 315, 329, and 336. Major only or consent of the school advisor.

345 GENERALIST PRACTICE IV: COMMUNITIES
3 sem. hrs.
Social work practice with neighborhoods, communities, and human service agencies, including program planning, grant writing, administration, supervision, and evaluation. Prerequisites: SWK 225, 315, 329, 336, and 337. Concurrent registration in SWK 394 and 398A10. Major only or consent of the school advisor.

346 POLICY PRACTICE AND ADVOCACY
3 sem. hrs.

394 FIELD INSTRUCTION SEMINAR I
2 sem. hrs.
Taken with the field practicum, this seminar facilitates students’ initial integration of generalist practice knowledge with practice in a field agency. Prerequisites: SWK 225, 315, 329, 336, and 337. Concurrent registration in SWK 345 and 398A10.

395 FIELD INSTRUCTION SEMINAR II
2 sem. hrs.
Taken with the field practicum, this seminar facilitates students’ integration of generalist practice knowledge with practice in a field agency. Prerequisites: SWK 315, 337, 394, 398A10; concurrent registration in SWK 398A11.

398A10 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE: FIELD INSTRUCTION I
7 sem. hrs.
Supervised field instruction and practice in social work methods with individuals, groups, and communities in a social welfare agency. CR/NC only. Prerequisites: SWK 225, 315, 329, 336 and 337. Concurrent registration in SWK 345 and 394. Senior standing and admission to SWK major.

398A11 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE: FIELD INSTRUCTION II
7 sem. hrs.
Advanced supervised field instruction and practice in social work setting. Same as SWK 398A10 but experiences are more diverse and complex. CR/NC only. Prerequisites: SWK 345, 394, 398A10. Concurrent registration in SWK 346 and 395.