

SOCIAL WORK

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In 1990 the Minnesota State University Board and the Minnesota State University's Higher Education Coordinating Board approved a social work major at SMSU and the major was accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) in 1996 (retroactive to 1992). The SMSU Social Work Program prepares students to become competent entry-level social work practitioners in a wide range of settings, with emphasis on direct service. The accredited major meets one of the requirements for social work licensure, which is required to practice social work in most settings in Minnesota. The preparation of students for generalist practice to entry-level positions is the primary function of the program. The curriculum is designed to provide students with the knowledge, values and skills necessary to practice on an entry-level with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities in a variety of practice settings. The curriculum of the baccalaureate social work program gives students the professional foundation necessary for advanced graduate study in social work. The field education component provides opportunities for students to consider personal and professional options regarding specialization and graduate education.

The undergraduate social work curriculum provides a professional foundation that builds on a liberal arts base and interdisciplinary coursework with an intensive core of social work classes and field practice experience. Students complete a 400-hour field practicum in a social services organization. Students integrate theoretical knowledge, values exploration, and skills development in applying a generalist model of social work practice. A strong emphasis of the program is the focus on rural at-risk populations.

Information on the social work profession, social work careers, and social work licensing in Minnesota can be found on the National Association of Social Workers Web sites at www.naswdc.org and www.socialwork.state.mn.us

The Formal Admission Process

Students apply for formal admission into the major at the beginning of their junior year. Applications are submitted during fall semester, but spring admissions do take place when student numbers warrant it. Criteria for formal admission to the social work major are available from the social work faculty, and can be found in the Social Work Student Handbook. These documents are also available on the Social Work home page, which can be found at www.SouthwestMSU.edu/Academics/Programs/SocialWork.

Requirements for Formal Admission to the Major

- minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5
- minimum overall GPA of 2.5 in the courses required for formal admission to the major
- minimum of 31 earned semester hours of Liberal Arts Curriculum
- minimum grade of “C” (2.0) in all interdisciplinary, Liberal Arts Curriculum, and social work courses, except for the following three courses: ENG 102, ENG 103, and SPCH 110
- minimum grade of “C+” in ENG 102, ENG 103, and SPCH 110

Admission standards and processes are outlined in the Southwest Minnesota State University *Social Work Program Student Handbook*.

Bachelor of Science: Social Work (75 credits)

Requirements for the social work major include social work courses, interdisciplinary courses, and some liberal arts curriculum requirements.

I. Liberal Arts Foundation: (22 credits)

BIOL 100	Biology in the Modern World (LAC) (Lecture/Lab:3/1)	4
ECON 201	Principles of Microeconomics (LAC)	3
	OR	3
ECON 202	Principles of Macroeconomics (LAC)	3
HUMT 203	Modern Western Civilization (LAC)	3
PHIL 103	Ethics (LAC).....	3
POL 120	American National Government (LAC)	3
PSYC 101	General Psychology I (LAC)	3
SOCI 101	Introduction to Sociology	3

II. Interdisciplinary Foundation: (15 credits)

SOCI 315	Applied Social Research Methods.....	3
PSYC 200	Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences.....	3
PSYC 335	Abnormal Psychology	3
PSYC 340	Developmental Psychology	3
	Select ONE of the following:	3
INDS 101	Introduction to Indigenous Nations and Dakota Studies.....	3
INDS 230	Dakota History and Culture.....	3
INDS 310	Indigenous Spirituality and World View	3

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

III. Professional Social Work Foundation: (25 credits)

SWRK 101	Social Welfare in a Changing World.....	3
SWRK 234	Introduction to Social Work.....	3
SWRK 330	Basic Interviewing Skills.....	2
SWRK 340	Human Behavior in the Social Environment.....	3
SWRK 351	Diverse and At-Risk Populations.....	3
SWRK 402	Social Welfare Policy.....	3
SWRK 335*	Generalist Practice I.....	4
SWRK 336*	Generalist Practice II.....	4

* *Social Work Methods Sequence: admission to the major is required.*

IV. Field Practicum: (13 credits)

SWRK 415	Field Research Seminar.....	1
SWRK 484	Pre-Field Practicum Seminar.....	1
SWRK 485	Field Practicum Seminar (Capstone).....	3
SWRK 499	Field Practicum.....	8

Social Welfare Minor

The social welfare minor prepares students whose occupational goals may be enhanced by a social welfare background that includes an understanding of social welfare services, policies, and delivery systems. A minor in social welfare is not accepted by the Council on Social Work Education as adequate preparation for entry level professional social work practice, neither does a minor in social welfare qualify one to take social work state licensure examinations. Note: some 300 and 400 level courses may require a prerequisite.

Minor: Social Welfare (20 credits)

I. Required Courses: 14 credits

ECON 202	Principles of Macroeconomics (LAC).....	3
SWRK 101	Social Welfare in a Changing World.....	3
SWRK 234	Introduction to Social Work.....	3
SWRK 330	Basic Interviewing Skills.....	2
SWRK 402	Social Welfare Policy.....	3

II. Electives: 6 credits

Select ONE course from each of the following two groups:

1. ED 230	Education in Rural America.....	3
INDS 344	Federal Indian Policy.....	3
HIST 363	History of Social Welfare in the United States.....	3
2. SWRK 242	Introduction to Gerontology.....	3
SWRK 250	Social Services in Health Care.....	3
SWRK 280	Substance Abuse and Other Addictive Behaviors.....	3

Total Credits: 20

SOCIAL WORK COURSES (SWRK)

SWRK 101 Social Welfare in a Changing World (3 credits)

The evolution of social welfare concepts, policies and programs in the U.S., including cross-national comparisons on inequality and social welfare policy, and implications for the future of social welfare.

SWRK 234 Introduction to Social Work (3 credits)

The profession of social work in the U.S., including general history, ideology and values; the social science base of social work; systems theory; the generalist model for social work practice; professional ethics and organizations; social work with diverse and disadvantaged populations; and fields of practice.

SWRK 242 Introduction to Gerontology (3 credits)

This course will introduce students to the field of aging and the impact of aging upon the individual, the family, and society. The course will also cover social, cultural, political, and economic issues facing older adults.

SWRK 250 Social Services in Health Care (3 credits)

This course focuses on how social workers in hospitals and clinics assist people in making better use of health care facilities, in preventing illness, in dealing with the impact of disability on themselves and their families, and in preserving their health. Emphasizes the necessity for effective collaboration with other health professionals in interdisciplinary health teams for optimum services.

SWRK 280 Substance Abuse and Other Addictive Behaviors (3 credits)

This course will acquaint students with issues of substance abuse and other addictive disorders. Students will examine current theories of addiction, discuss various treatment modalities, and come to understand the issues of assessment and intervention. Race, gender, and culture will be addressed throughout the course.

SWRK 286 Special Topics (1-4 credits)

Specialized study in social work, such as social work with select populations or selected issues. Prerequisite: SWRK 234.

SWRK 321 Workshop (1-2 credits)

Selected continuing education topics in social work.

SWRK 330 Basic Interviewing Skills (2 credits)

The course shall provide exposure to basic interviewing skills with emphasis on the values of empathy, genuineness, and client empowerment. Further, the course shall offer basic intervention skills such as active listening, empathy, probing, assessing, challenging, and summarizing. The course shall emphasize the diversity of human behavior and experience and recognize the uniqueness of each individual client. The overall course material will serve as a conceptual underpinning of generalist social work practice to serve as a base of knowledge for practice courses.

SWRK 340 Human Behavior in the Social Environment (3 credits)

The theoretical aspects of the systems perspective as a framework for social work practice; integration of knowledge of biological, psychological, social-structural and cultural sources of behavior as they affect or are affected by human behavior; understanding of behavior and environment. Prerequisites: SOCI 101, PSYC 101 and BIOL 100.

SWRK 342 Generalist Social Work Practice I (4 credits)

This course is designed to introduce generalist skills and knowledge for social work practice with individuals and families within a framework of social work's core values and fundamental practice responsibilities. These core values include social justice and client empowerment, and practice responsibilities include cultural responsiveness, commitment to professional competence, and the demonstration of practice effectiveness. This course introduces conceptual and theoretical frameworks for social work practice in a diversity of settings and client systems (micro, mezzo and macro); skill development processes for problem-solving, engagement with individuals and families, assessment, planning, implementation, evaluation, termination, and follow-up. Lecture, discussion, role-play, and case study methods, with an emphasis on at-risk and socially, economically disadvantaged populations. Prerequisite: admission to social work major; pre- or co-requisites: SWRK 340, PSYC 340.

SWRK 343 Generalist Social Work Practice II (3 credits)

The course will focus on family roles, family dynamics, group dynamics, group structure and process, group types, functions, roles, stages of development, styles of leadership, skills of conducting groups, techniques, problem resolution and the reality and effects of group termination. The course shall emphasize the diversity of human behavior and experience, and recognize the uniqueness of each individual client. Prerequisite: SWRK 342/

SWRK 344 Generalist Social Work Practice II (4 credits)

Generalist Social Work Practice II focuses on assessment and intervention skills specific to macro practice with communities and organizations, including development of problem definition, collecting and assessing information, strategic planning, implementing organizing strategies and techniques, and evaluating community and organizational outcomes. Lecture, discussion, videos, role-play, and case study methods, with an emphasis on at-risk and socially, economically disadvantaged populations. Theoretical content on intervention methods of class advocacy and social action for achieving social and economic justice are incorporated in the contexts of generalist practice as an essential means of empowerment. Prerequisites: SWRK 342 and 343.

SWRK 350 Advanced Study in Rural Social Work (3 credits)

Central concepts and approaches for advanced locality-relevant generalist practice. Prerequisites: SOCI 135 and SWRK 340.

SWRK 351 Diverse and At-Risk Populations (3 credits)

Examines quality-of-life dimensions and outcomes of diverse and at-risk populations important to human service professionals, including age, class, color, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex and sexual orientation; dimensions examined include education, employment, health, housing, justice administration, and welfare. Prerequisites: SOCI 101 and SWRK 234.

SWRK 352 Militarism and the U.S.: Human Costs and Consequences (3 credits)

Drawing on perspectives from various academic fields, an overview of recent and current U.S. militarism is presented; emphasis is on the costs and consequences of militarism for military personnel, military families, and civilian populations; personal and social healing from and alternatives to militarism will be explored. Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and SOCI 101.

SWRK 354 The Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights (3 credits)

A survey of sociological, psychological, historical, and other dimensions of the Holocaust and other cases of genocide and genocidal killing during the Twentieth century. The human rights movement as an attempt to prevent and resist genocide will be examined. Prerequisite: junior or senior standing or consent of instructor.

SWRK 402 Social Welfare Policy (3 credits)

Social welfare policy models including rational and political models; policy making processes from the individual level through local, state, national, administrative, and legislative processes; an overview of social welfare policies in the U.S. Prerequisites: SWRK 101, ECON 201 or 202, and POL 120.

SWRK 415 Field Practicum Research (1 credits)

This course will enable students to understand the rationale for and application of a variety of research techniques which are commonly used in Social Work practice. Students will develop an appreciation for the methodologies that enable social workers to effectively manage human and monetary resources. The content of this course assumes the student has had an introductory research course and that the student is in an applied field such as Social Work or Sociology. Students will be introduced to the research ethics and the diverse issues which affect research, such as race, gender, age, and sexual identity. Prerequisites: admission to Field Practicum; concurrent enrollment in SWRK 499, SWRK 485.

SWRK 450 Individual Study (1-4 credits)

Limited to eight (8) hours, not more than four hours in a given subject area.
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

SWRK 484 Pre-Field Practicum Seminar (1 credit)

The purpose of this course is to prepare pre-admitted, Social Work majors to register for SWRK 485, 415, 499 and to enter an approved Field Agency with an approved Field Supervisor/Instructor during the following semester. The course provides an opportunity for students to explore issues related to preferences for field experiences, discuss concerns connected with entering the field (including standards for selection of Field Agencies and Field Supervisor/Instructors), complete required forms for applying to Field Instruction complete a Learning Outcomes contract and Field Agency Orientation, examine the mechanics of field placement (including resume, placement interview, liability insurance, and transportation), identify and examine uses of supervision in Field Instruction and review NASW Code of Ethics, Minnesota data Privacy Laws, and Minnesota board of Social Work Licensing Laws. Prerequisites: completing or completion of all courses required in the major.

SWRK 485 (M) Social Work Field Practicum Seminar (3 credits)

This course provides an opportunity for students in field instruction to explore affective and cognitive aspects of practice, to demonstrate knowledge of his/her field agency in which she/he is placed, to evaluate experiences from a social work perspective, to apply generalist, social work models to field experiences, to enhance skills in the use of discussion methods, to share self-awareness in relation to human diversity and with regard to a developing professional social work identification, to apply problem solving approaches to problems in the field, and to continue to expand research knowledge and skills. Prerequisite: SWRK 484. Concurrent enrollment in SWRK 499, SWRK 415.

SWRK 486 Special Topics (1-4 credits)

Specialized study in social work, such as social work with select populations or selected issues. Prerequisites: SWRK 234, 335.

SWRK 499 Field Practicum (8 credits)

At least 400 hours supervised field practice in community agencies and programs as a practical application of social work knowledge and skills gained from major coursework. Emphasis on direct work with clients, whether individuals, groups, or communities; taken concurrently with SWRK 485 where students use their experiences to analyze social work theory and practice. Prerequisite: SWRK 484. Concurrent enrollment in SWRK 485, SWRK 415.