

# SOCIAL WORK, SCHOOL OF

<http://socialwork.illinois.edu>

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## Overview of Curriculum and Requirements

The purpose of undergraduate social work education at the School of Social Work is to provide a comprehensive educational experience for students that is grounded in a liberal arts tradition and prepares graduates for excellence in the areas of social work practice, policy, social engagement and leadership.

Upon degree completion, graduates will be prepared for entry into generalist social work practice, advanced standing in graduate social work education, and a multitude of career opportunities. These can include careers in communications, corrections, education, government, health care, human resources, law, non-profit organizations, religious studies, and public service. Obtaining an undergraduate degree in Social Work gives students the opportunity to pursue a License of Social Work (LSW). A BSW degree also makes students eligible to pursue Advanced Standing status in many masters of Social Work (MSW) programs. The advanced standing status enables BSW graduates to receive a MSW in only one year.

The focus of undergraduate curriculum delivery is through a student-centered strengths-based educational model that fosters student understanding by providing a challenging, yet supportive environment of high expectations that encourage the development of well-informed and engaged citizens.

## Degree title: Bachelor of Social Work

The social work major prepares practitioners for generalist social work practice with individuals, groups, families and communities. The curriculum requires a minimum of 120 hours for graduation. Minimum required course work in the major equates to 53 course hours of social work coursework, which includes 15 credit hours of combined agency-based field practicum (internship) and field seminar.

## Departmental Distinction

The top 10% of the BSW graduating class will graduate with distinction.

## Admission Requirements for Freshman

The following requirements must be met for consideration for admission as a freshman into the BSW Program:

- University of Illinois application-The application includes a major selection, an essay, a list of activities, work experience, community service, honors and awards, and an accurate email address
- Application fee
- Self-Reported Academic Record (SRAR)
- Official test scores-Standardized test scores are required for admission review: either ACT (code 1154) or SAT I (cod 1836) scores are accepted

- English proficiency
- We do NOT accept letters of recommendation

For more detailed information regarding application requirements and the application process, please visit the University of Illinois Admissions website at: [www.admissions.illinois.edu](http://www.admissions.illinois.edu) (<http://www.admissions.illinois.edu>)

## Admission Requirements for Transfer and Inter-College Transfer Students (ICT)

The following requirements must be met for consideration for admission into the BSW Program:

- Documentation of a minimum of 50 (fifty) hours of volunteer<sup>1</sup> or paid work experience must be provided with the submission of the BSW application or prior to beginning the BSM program. These hours must be completed by working with or for an underrepresented population or population in need.<sup>1</sup>
- Cumulative minimum GPA 2.5 or higher
- Evidence of strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Evidence of personal attributes that are suitable for the profession of social work
- Successful completion of the application process for entry <https://socialwork.illinois.edu/academics/bachelor-of-social-work/admissions-information/bsw-application/>.

<sup>1</sup> *Volunteer hours may include classroom service learning and work completed through registered student organizations and Greek organization affiliations. If you need assistance obtaining additional hours, please contact the Community Learning Lab (<http://socialwork.illinois.edu/community-learning-lab>) or the Office of Volunteer Programs (<http://union.illinois.edu/get-involved/office-of-volunteer-programs>).*

## Application Deadline:

**To be guaranteed consideration for the Spring term, you must apply by October 15th. To be guaranteed consideration for the Fall term, you must apply by March 1st. The School of Social Work may consider ICT applications after this date if the application specifically requests consideration for an earlier term.**

## General Education

### Communication Skills and Composition

|                                 |  |     |
|---------------------------------|--|-----|
| CMN 101                         | Public Speaking                                | 6-7 |
| & RHET 105                      | and Writing and Research                       |     |
| or CMN 111                      | Oral & Written Comm I                          |     |
| & CMN 112                       | and Oral & Written Comm II                     |     |
| Advanced Composition - SOCW 300 | will meet the Advanced Composition Requirement | 3-4 |

### Language other than English

Complete of the third level or equivalent is required for graduation. American Sign Language is also acceptable. 0-9

### Humanities and the Arts

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Literature and the Arts                  | 3 |
| Historical and Philosophical Perspective | 3 |

### Social and Behavioral Science

Any course that has been approved as a Social and Behavioral Science course from the General Education course list. 9

**Cultural Studies**

Western cultures 3

Non-Western/ U.S. minority 3

**Natural Sciences and Technology**

Life Science 3

Physical Science 3

**Quantitative Reasoning**

SOCW 225 Intro Stat for Social Work

STAT 100 Statistics

ECON 202 Economic Statistics I

EPSY 280 Elements of Statistics

SOC 280 Intro to Social Statistics

PSYC 235 Intro to Statistics

From the approved campus list 3

**BSW Requirements**

SOCW 200 Introduction to Social Work 3

SOCW 300 Diversity: Identities & Issues 3

SOCW 401 Practice I 4

SOCW 402 Practice II 3

SOCW 403 Practice III 3

SOCW 410 Social Welfare Pol and Svcs 3

SOCW 427 Social Work Research Methods 3

SOCW 451 HBSE I: Human Development 3

SOCW 461 Professional Practice Seminar I 4

SOCW 470 Field Practicum & Professional Seminar II 15

Social Work electives: 9

SOCW 310 UG Research Assistance

SOCW 315 Social Work Services for Older Adults

SOCW 321 Social Entre & Social Change

SOCW 325 International Development with Grassroots Organizations

SOCW 330 International Perspectives

SOCW 360 Social Work and the Military

SOCW 380 Current Topics in Social Work (may be repeated)

SOCW 412 Hispanics in the U.S.

SOCW 416 Child Welfare Issues & Trends

SOCW 418 Independent Study

SOCW 420 Subst Use in Social Context

SOCW 436 Intl SW & Development

SOCW 455 Social Work with Women

SOCW 475 Undergraduate Research Abroad

SOCW 480 UG Research Project

Total SOCW hours 53

**Minimum hours required for graduation 120**

The Social Work Minor is designed for students interested in combining a primary academic area with social welfare and professional social work content. It emphasizes synthesis and application of social work theories,

policies and research in the development of comprehensive solutions to major social problems.

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**Minor required courses: 12**

SOCW 200 Introduction to Social Work

SOCW 300 Diversity: Identities & Issues

SOCW 410 Social Welfare Pol and Svcs

SOCW 451 HBSE I: Human Development

**Choose Two: 6**

SOCW 240 Death & Dying

SOCW 297 Asian Families in America

SOCW 310 UG Research Assistance

SOCW 315 Social Work Services for Older Adults

SOCW 321 Social Entre & Social Change

SOCW 330 International Perspectives

SOCW 360 Social Work and the Military

SOCW 380 Current Topics in Social Work

SOCW 412 Hispanics in the U.S.

SOCW 416 Child Welfare Issues & Trends

SOCW 418 Independent Study

SOCW 420 Subst Use in Social Context

SOCW 436 Intl SW & Development

SOCW 455 Social Work with Women

SOCW 475 Undergraduate Research Abroad

SOCW 480 UG Research Project

Total Hours 18

SOCW Class Schedule (<https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/DEFAULT/DEFAULT/SOCW>)

**Courses**

**SOCW 101 SOCW Orientation Seminar credit: 2 Hours.**

Informational orientation seminar for Social Work majors to enhance their understanding of college life and social work as a profession.

**SOCW 199 Undergraduate Open Seminar credit: 1 to 4 Hours.**

Approved for letter and S/U grading. May be repeated.

**SOCW 200 Introduction to Social Work credit: 3 Hours.**

Broad survey of the field of social work; introduction to social services, social welfare organizations, major social problems and target population groups, and the methods used in working with individuals, groups, and communities; includes the range of personnel and skills in social work agencies, and the means of education and training for social work professionals.

This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:

Social Beh Sci - Soc Sci

**SOCW 225 Intro Stat for Social Work credit: 3 Hours.**

Introduction of basic concepts in statistics with emphasis on the application of statistical methods in social work research. Topics include: descriptive statistics, probability theory and distributions, point and interval estimation, hypothesis testing, central tendency, variability, independence, contrasts, correlation and regression, non-parametrics, concepts of levels of measurements, and statistical vs. practical significance. Priority will be given to Social Work majors. Credit is not given for SOCW 225 if credit for a college level introductory statistics course has already been earned.

This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:  
Quantitative Reasoning I

**SOCW 240 Death & Dying credit: 3 Hours.**

This course will focus on various aspects of death and dying. Content will examine different types of death, impact of death throughout the lifespan, cultural beliefs and practices regarding death and dying, grief, healing after loss, legal and ethical issues related to death, and the roll of social workers at the end of life. Students will be encouraged to examine their own thoughts, values, feeling, and beliefs about death and dying.

This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:  
Social Beh Sci - Soc Sci

**SOCW 297 Asian Families in America credit: 3 Hours.**

Offers a comparative analysis of Asian families as they cope and adapt to American society. Examines: 1) how families from four major Asian-American groups (Chinese, Indian, Japanese and Korean) function in American society; 2) how these families compare to families in their country of origin; and 3) how these families are similar to or different from the 'typical American' family. Includes visits to Asian cultural institutions and with Asian families. Same as AAS 297 and HDFS 221.

This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:  
Social Beh Sci - Soc Sci  
Cultural Studies - US Minority

**SOCW 298 Social Work Experiential Learning Fees credit: 0 Hours.**

This is a shell course to assess fees to support the cost of providing student learning experiences in social work practice settings. Additional fees may apply. See Class Schedule. Approved for S/U grading only. Prerequisite: The SOCW Admissions and Records Officer will manually add this course to student schedules.

**SOCW 299 Study Abroad credit: 0 to 18 Hours.**

Lectures, seminars, and practical work in an approved study-abroad program in Social Work appropriate to the student's course of study. Approved for letter and S/U grading.

**SOCW 300 Diversity: Identities & Issues credit: 3 Hours.**

This introductory course explores multiple dimensions of diversity in a pluralistic and increasingly globalized society. Using a social work strengths perspective as well as historical, constructivist, and critical conceptual frameworks; the course examines issues of identity, culture, privilege stigma, prejudice, and discrimination. The social construction and implications of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and other dimensions of difference is examined at individual, interpersonal, and systems levels. Students are expected to use the course material to explore their personal values, biases, family backgrounds, culture, and formative experiences in order to deepen their self-awareness and develop interpersonal skills in bridging differences. Finally, students apply learning from the course to identify characteristics of effective social work and other health and human service provision among people culturally different themselves; and to identify opportunities for change contributing to prejudice reduction and cross-cultural acceptance at home, work and in society.

This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:  
Advanced Composition  
Cultural Studies - US Minority

**SOCW 310 UG Research Assistance credit: 0 to 3 Hours.**

Assist departmental faculty in on-going research. Topics and nature of assistance vary. Capstone paper required. Approved for Letter and S/U grading. May be repeated in separate terms up to 6 hours. Prerequisite: Evidence of adequate preparation for such study; consent of faculty member supervising the work; and approval of the department head. Majors only.

**SOCW 315 Social Work Services for Older Adults credit: 3 Hours.**

Focus on the aging process, special needs of older adults, and the role of social work in addressing these needs. All levels of social work intervention are considered, direct practice with older persons and their families, service delivery systems in local communities, and state and national policies. Special attention is given to the needs of caregivers, person-centered care, diverse vulnerable populations and resources for older adults to age in place.

**SOCW 321 Social Entre & Social Change credit: 3 Hours.**

Intended for undergraduates who have an interest in creating programs and products that have social values for communities. Features social entrepreneurship as an approach to social development and will consider its application and related change strategies to a wide array of social problems. Social entrepreneurship has emerged as a change approach that features the application of entrepreneurial practices to social ventures. Social entrepreneurship is similar to business entrepreneurship in its emphasis on selected program development and management principles and processes, but social entrepreneurs have the primary goal of creating social value in communities rather than personal or shareholder wealth. The initial part of the class will emphasize instructing students in broad concepts and principles related to entrepreneurship, while the latter portion of the course will feature students working on teams to design social projects.

**SOCW 325 International Development with Grassroots Organizations credit: 3 Hours.**

This course engages students to think critically about international aid and development by cultivating an awareness of moral and ethical dilemmas that often go unconsidered by young professionals. It intends to help students develop greater cultural awareness and humility by recognizing differences in equity and global social, economic, and political structures. The course is a second eight-week offering and uses a blended learning approach with asynchronous online content combined with in-person classroom educational activities. Students apply the knowledge learned through the course by working directly with an international grassroots social organization during a 4-8 week immersion experience abroad. Course is an 8 week pre-departure training is required. Students complete a service learning placement in summer with an international grassroots organization.

**SOCW 330 International Perspectives credit: 3 to 6 Hours.**

This course provides cross-cultural learning experiences within the context of international community-based service learning. Students will explore human service delivery through direct involvement with international social service institutions. This cultural immersion course is a collaborative partnership between the University of Illinois School of Social Work and selected international universities. Countries visited, varies by semester. May be repeated in separate terms up to 12 undergrad hours if topics vary.

**SOCW 335 Cities and Immigrants credit: 3 Hours.**

Same as UP 335. See UP 335.

**SOCW 350 Health Promotion Practicum credit: 3 Hours.**

Same as CHLH 340. See CHLH 340.

**SOCW 360 Social Work and the Military credit: 3 Hours.**

This course provides an overview of military social work practice including: military culture, issues and needs of soldiers and their families, ethical considerations, and the roll of social workers. Prerequisite: For majors only.

**SOCW 380 Current Topics in Social Work credit: 3 to 6 Hours.**

Presents and analyzes special topics related to current social work practice, policy and research. Topics vary; see Class Schedule for current offering. May be repeated in the same or separate terms.

**SOCW 400 Generalist SW Practice Methods credit: 4 Hours.**

Foundation methods course that is a prerequisite for all advanced methods courses. Overview of generalist social work practice and intervention with individuals, groups, organizations and communities; introduction to core concepts, value base and ethical principles of the profession. Emphasis is given to the bio-ecological framework, person-in-environment and systems theory. Skills in developing beginning professional relationships are addressed via a skills lab component. Students begin the process of professional self-awareness to begin to identify how the personal values and beliefs they hold impact upon their interactions. 4 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Admission to MSW program.

**SOCW 401 Practice I credit: 4 Hours.**

Overview of generalist social work practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Designed to introduce core concepts, values, and ethical principles of the profession as well as to provide basic skills, and knowledge related to generalist social work practice with a broad array of client systems. Emphasis is give to the biological-psychological-social-spiritual framework, person-in-environment, strengths perspective, and system theory. Skills in developing beginning professional relationships, which are characterized by mutuality, collaboration, empowerment, and client self determination within the problem-solving process are addressed. 3 undergraduate hours. No graduate credit. Prerequisite: SOCW 200.

**SOCW 402 Practice II credit: 3 Hours.**

Provides students with culturally responsive, micro-level skills development for working with and on behalf of individuals, families, and groups. Builds on the basic helping skills learned in SOCW 401 and offers further practice on interviewing skills, more emphasis on ethical decision-making, assessment, and intervention, evaluation applied to individuals, families, and groups. 3 undergraduate hours. No graduate credit. Prerequisite: SOCW 401.

**SOCW 403 Practice III credit: 3 Hours.**

Provides knowledge and skills about the theory and practice of planned change in communities and organizations using a generalist model of social work practice. Builds on the foundation knowledge and skills gained in SOCW 401 with emphasis on assessment, planning, intervention, and evaluation skills for macro-level practice. 3 undergraduate hours. No graduate credit. Prerequisite: SOCW 401.

**SOCW 410 Social Welfare Pol and Svcs credit: 3 or 4 Hours.**

Examination of social welfare within a historical context, addressing the economic, political, social and ideological influences that have shaped the social welfare system and programs. Critical study of the income maintenance system in the United States as a response to the problems of inequality of opportunity and income, poverty, and income security; consideration of alternative approaches with discussion of the social worker's role in the system. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

**SOCW 412 Hispanics in the U.S. credit: 3 or 4 Hours.**

Hispanics constitute a growing population in the United States. The size and heterogeneity of Hispanics raises complex issues in crafting public policy and in designing and delivering social services. This course offers an extensive portrait of Hispanics in the United States. Students will explore questions and demographic characteristics, language and religious practices, education, criminal justice, neighborhood and economic restructuring, immigration, social service systems, and community action in the context of creating an effective public policy agenda. Same as LLS 412. 3 or 4 undergraduate hours. 3 or 4 graduate hours.

**SOCW 416 Child Welfare Issues & Trends credit: 3 or 4 Hours.**

This course examines theoretical and programmatic aspects for child welfare practice. Emphasis is placed on the roles and functions of child welfare workers, including engagement, assessment, intervention and permanency planning. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: SOCW major.

**SOCW 418 Independent Study credit: 1 to 4 Hours.**

Independent study of a topic of special interest in the field of social work. 1 to 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

**SOCW 420 Subst Use in Social Context credit: 3 Hours.**

Introduces students to the problem of substance abuse and its impact on society. Examines the physiological, psychological, social, and cultural aspects of substance abuse. At the individual and familial levels, the course examines the causes, development, prevention, and treatment of substance abuse. At the societal level, the course examines public policy efforts to regular and control substance use from both historical and contemporary perspective. Implications for social and economic justice are also examined. 3 undergraduate hours. No graduate credit.

**SOCW 427 Social Work Research Methods credit: 3 or 4 Hours.**

Basic principles of social science research and importance for social work practice: overview of research principles including the stages of a research project, design of research; quantitative and qualitative methodologies, design of questionnaires, methods of data collection and preparation of reports. Introduction to various research designs such as the survey, program evaluation, single subject design, quasi-experiments, and experimental design. Enrollment preference given to students in the MSW program. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

**SOCW 436 Intl SW & Development credit: 3 or 4 Hours.**

This online course introduces students to policy and practice issues associated with international social work. It emphasizes ethical dilemmas, with the goal of sensitizing students to the importance of culturally sensitive practice for marginalized populations in global contexts. Weekly online discussion sessions use the Blackboard Online Platform. Students must have high speed internet connection and headset with microphone for course interaction. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

**SOCW 451 HBSE I: Human Development credit: 3 or 4 Hours.**

Examination of the major theories that inform social work's understanding of human behavior in a variety of social contexts. A bio-ecological systems framework, together with a developmental approach in understanding the ways in which individuals, families, groups, organizations, institutions, and communities interact, is presented. Issues of gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability and sexual orientation are introduced so students can gain understanding of how these components affect and influence development across the lifespan. Enrollment preference given to students in the MSW program. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

**SOCW 455 Social Work with Women credit: 3 or 4 Hours.**

Focuses on women and how cultural belief systems related to gender are instantiated through the differential treatment of females and males in our education, mental health, social welfare and health care systems; and the consequences of such practices through the lifespan. Includes consideration of policies and practices that support women emphasizing issues of special concern to women of color, lesbians, older women, impoverished women and disabled women. Same as GWS 454. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

**SOCW 457 Health Planning credit: 3 Hours.**

Same as CHLH 457. See CHLH 457.

**SOCW 461 Professional Practice Seminar I credit: 4 Hours.**

The goal of this course is to begin the process of integrating all the foundation knowledge of generalist social work that students have learned and begin applying it to real life situations. Students will complete a portfolio and a service learning experience that will help them being to make the connection between the core competencies, theories and applications to real life experiences. During this course students will begin the process of being matched with the agency where they will serve their internship during the last semester of their senior year. 4 undergraduate hours. No graduate credit. Prerequisite: SOCW 401.

**SOCW 470 Field Practicum & Professional Seminar II credit: 15 Hours.**

This course is a supervised field practice experience and seminar where students apply knowledge and skills in social work engagement, assessment, planning and interventions to individuals, groups, families, organizations, and communities. Students are expected to promote sustainable social change through planned problem solving and empowerment to enhance the well-being of others. The practicum consists of 32 hours/week for 16 weeks. 15 undergraduate hours. No graduate credit. May be repeated; instructor approval required. Prerequisite: SOCW 461. SOCW majors only.

**SOCW 473 Immigration, Health & Society credit: 3 or 4 Hours.**

Same as CHLH 473, LLS 473, and SOC 473. See LLS 473.

**SOCW 475 Undergraduate Research Abroad credit: 1 to 4 Hours.**

Students assist in research under faculty supervision at a location outside of the United States. Topics and type of assistance vary. 1 to 4 undergraduate hours. No graduate credit. May be repeated in separate terms up to 6 hours. Prerequisite: Evidence of adequate preparation for such study; consent of faculty member supervising the work (who will have examined the proposed research plan); and approval of department. Not available to freshman.

**SOCW 480 UG Research Project credit: 0 to 3 Hours.**

Conduct research study under the supervision of a departmental faculty member. Topics and nature of assistance vary. Capstone paper required. 0 to 3 undergraduate hours. No graduate credit. Approved for letter and S/U grading. May be repeated in separate terms up to 6 hours. Prerequisite: Evidence of adequate preparation for such study; consent of faculty member supervising the work; and approval of the department head. Majors only. Not available to freshman and sophomores.