SOCIAL WORK

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MAJOR PROGRAM IN SOCIAL WORK

Social work has been designated as a growth profession for this century. The social work program prepares students for beginning generalist practice and for graduate degree programs.

First year, sophomores, and transfer students must consult with their social work adviser when registering for classes in order to ensure that they fulfill prerequisite and recommended university requirements. Pre-advisement is available to students currently enrolled in two-year institutions who are interested in transferring to the bachelor's degree program in social work. These students should make an appointment with the SCSU Academic Advisement Center.

BSW Admission Standards and Procedure

Students interested in majoring in social work must complete a two-step admission process. Initially, students must be accepted into the University by the Admissions Office. Then, application is made for admission to the Bachelor's of Social Work Program in the spring semester prior to the fall semester in which students anticipate enrolling in 300-level social work courses. Applications are available on the Department
of Social Work website. The Department of Social Work admissions application deadline is February 15.

To be accepted into the program and given permission to enroll in 300-level and above social work courses, all social work prerequisites must be completed by the end of the spring semester in which the application is submitted:

• Completion of 57 credits of university requirements.
• A minimum grade point average of 2.75 and good standing with the University.
• Successful completion of SWK 200 or its equivalent with a minimum grade of B.
• Successful completion of ENG 112 and MAT 107 or course equivalents.

Admission is competitive, with a GPA of 2.75 being the minimum considered for acceptance. Qualified applicants may not be accepted because enrollment caps are based on Department of Social Work resources. Applications are accepted once a year.

GPA, as well as other pre-admission criteria, will be used as a way of evaluating students for acceptance into the social work program. These may include, but are not limited to, completion of prerequisite courses, personal essay, and an evaluation of the student's program plan for completion of remaining university requirements. Consistent with SCSU admission requirements, preference is given to those candidates who, in the judgment of Social Work Department faculty, present through academic and personal qualifications the greatest potential for program success. Those students who meet eligibility criteria at the time of the priority admission deadline will be accepted provisionally so long as those criteria continue to be met at the end of the spring semester.

After a determination is made concerning the student's readiness to enter the program, an email of acceptance is sent to the student. Each student is then assigned to a faculty adviser and a planned program is established.

**Standards for Continuation in and Graduation from the Program**

Continuation in and graduation from the program are dependent upon satisfactory academic and professional performance. The minimum criteria for continuation includes a GPA of 2.5 overall, a GPA of 2.75 in social work courses, satisfactory field education practica evaluations, and a minimum of a "C" grade in field practice seminars.

If, in the professional judgment of the faculty, a student demonstrates practices that are harmful to clients, unethical, or unprofessional behavior, he or she will be placed on probation or requested to withdraw from the program.

The social work program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.
The department offers the following:

Social Work, B.S.
SOCIAL WORK, B.S.

This program has a separate admission process. Please consult the admission and graduation requirements for this program for more information.

Overall GPA of 2.5 Required  
120 Overall Credits Required

LIBERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AND WRITING REQUIREMENTS

Liberal Education Program

45 Credits Required

Students must complete a comprehensive three-tiered Liberal Education Program (LEP). View all requirements of the tiers on the Liberal Education Program.

While the choice of courses that fulfill the requirements is generally left up to students, some departments require that students select specific courses to complement their major. This major has specific Tier requirements/restrictions for the following:

Tier 1 – Quantitative Reasoning:  
MAT 107 – Elementary Statistics

Writing Requirements (“W-Courses”)

Three W-courses are required. These may not be taken until after a student has passed ENG 112 — Writing Arguments. W-courses may count toward LEP, major, or cognate requirements, as well as free electives. Course sections that meet this requirement are designated by section numbers ending in “W”.

Transfer students who enter with 60 to 89 credits are required to pass two W-courses, while transfer students who enter with 90 credits or more must pass one W-course.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

45 Credits Required  
GPA of 2.75 in Social Work courses Required

SWK 200 - Social Welfare and Social Services in America  
SWK 320 — Human Behavior and the Social Environment I  
SWK 321 — Human Behavior and the Social Environment II  
SWK 330 — Social Welfare Institutions and Policies I  
SWK 350 — Social Work Research Methods  
SWK 376 — Methods of Intervention I
SWK 377 — Methods of Intervention II
SWK 378 — Methods of Intervention III
SWK 390 — Social Work Interviewing Skills
SWK 430 — Social Welfare Institutions and Policies II
SWK 490 — Field Practice Seminar I (6 credits) ('C' or better)
SWK 491 — Field Practice Seminar II (6 credits) ('C' or better)

Select one (required elective):

- SWK 380 — Children and Families in Child Welfare: A Practice Perspective
- SWK 381 — Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Practice with Adults
- SWK 382 — Gerontological Social Work Practice with Elders and Families

Non-Course Requirements
400-hour internship

COGNATE REQUIREMENTS

18 Credits Required

To fulfill the 18 credits of cognate requirements, students can choose (in consultation with their adviser) to pursue any minor in the university or select six (6) courses from the list below:

- Any Sociology class (including SOC transfer electives)
- Any Anthropology class
- Any Psychology class (including PSY transfer electives)
- Any Women's Studies class
- Any Public Health class
- Any class from this list:
  - COM 150 — World of Communication
  - COM 210 — Human Communication
  - COM 225 — Interpersonal Communication
  - COM 300 — Organizational Communication
  - COM 302 — Relational Communication
  - COM 370 — Interpersonal Conflict and Communication
  - COM 375 — Family Communication
  - COM 387 — Communication Theory
  - COM 410 — Crisis and Communication
  - COM 440 — Cultural Influences on Communication
  - ENG 317 — Cross-Cultural Literatures and Contexts
  - ENG 383 — American Women Writers
  - ENG 423 — Contemporary African-American Novelists
  - ENG 462 — Gay and Lesbian Film and Literature
  - EXS 380 — Sport Psychology
  - GEO 200 — Human Geography
  - GEO 305 — Environmental Economic Geography
  - GEO 405 — Environmental Justice
  - HON 494 — Honors Thesis Proposal
• HON 495 — Honors Thesis
• JRN 240 — Race and the News
• LIT 382 — Contemporary Latin American Literature
• MGT 418 — Negotiations and Conflict Resolution
• PHI 207 — The Religious Dimension of Human Existence
• PHI 220 — Ethics: Know Thyself
• PHI 242 — Death and the Meaning of Life
• PHI 310 — Women, Philosophy, and Science
• PHI 325 — Bio-Ethics of the Life Sciences
• PHI 327 — Moral Problems in the Law
• PHI 355 — Philosophy of Religion
• PHI 375 — Philosophies of Political and Social Change
• PSC 150 — Thinking about Politics
• PSC 200 — Political Change and Conflict
• PSC 214 — Everyday Politics of Speaking
• REC 307 — Disabilities in Society
• REC 311 — Introduction to Child Life Therapy
• REC 312 — Therapeutic Play
• REC 390 — Grant Writing
• SED 225 — Intro to Exceptionalities
• SED 235 — Early Child Special Ed. for the Exceptional Individual
• SED 481 — Teaching Exceptional Students (Elementary)
• SED 482 — Teaching Exceptional Students (Secondary)
• SED 498 — Global Students in Special Ed. (Guatemala)
• SHE 301 — Drug Education
• SHE 302 — Mental Health Education

Note: Some cognates have prerequisite requirements that need to be met prior to enrolling in the course. Additional courses may be selected with the approval of the adviser.

FREE ELECTIVES

Remaining credits to reach Overall Credits Required (listed above).
COURSES

SWK 200 - Social Welfare and Social Services in America
Addresses the social structures, policies, values, tensions, and collaborations associated with social work practice. Knowledge regarding the relationships between institutions, context, interactions, and activities of social workers is presented for a range of practice settings. Particular attention is paid to the tensions and competing interests between social services and social change. The course includes 30 hours of community service in a social service organization. Required for social work majors and an elective for others who think they might be interested in a career in the helping professions.
Last Offered: Spring 2020
3 credits

SWK 320 - Human Behavior and the Social Environment I
Application of a social systems framework to identify and understand the relationships between such variables as race, culture, ethnicity, sex, and class, and their impact on human behavior.
Prerequisite(s): SWK major.
Last Offered: Fall 2019
3 credits

SWK 321 - Human Behavior and the Social Environment II
Study of families, groups, communities, and organizations from social systems framework, and how they interact with variables such as race, culture, ethnicity, sex, and class.
Prerequisite(s): SWK major.
Last Offered: Spring 2020
3 credits

SWK 330 - Social Welfare Institutions and Policies I
Theoretical and philosophical foundations of the social work profession focusing on the social, cultural, political, economic, and historical factors of social welfare services in the United States. The community survey method is used in applying these concepts.
Prerequisite(s): SWK major.
Last Offered: Fall 2018
3 credits

SWK 350 - Social Work Research Methods
Introduction to the methods for conducting practice evaluation in social work. Written class projects based on agency practice are required.
Prerequisite(s): SWK major.
Last Offered: Fall 2019
3 credits

SWK 376 - Methods of Intervention I
Theories, principles, tasks, and skills of the generic helping process in social work practice. Introduces the student to the engagement, assessment, planning, intervention, and interviewing processes as applied to individuals and families.
Prerequisite(s): SWK major.
Last Offered: Fall 2019
3 credits

SWK 377 - Methods of Intervention II
Group processes and structures; generic method applied to groups as client, target and action systems; professional teamwork; phases of group development and worker roles, tasks and direct/indirect interventions.
Prerequisite(s): SWK major.
Last Offered: Fall 2019
3 credits
SWK 378 - Methods of Intervention III
Analysis of methods and skills underlying generalist social work practice in larger settings, focusing on organizations and communities. Emphasis is on the development of beginning competence in interventive methods with formal/informal organizations and communities.
Prerequisite(s): SWK major.
Last Offered: Spring 2020
3 credits

SWK 380 - Children and Families in Child Welfare: A Practice and Perspective
Presents a family-focused, child-centered model for helping families at risk. Examines the complex interplay of policy and law as they affect practice and service delivery. Utilizes knowledge from ecological approaches, cultural competency, principles of family continuity, and the historic values of the social work profession.
Prerequisite(s): SWK major.
Last Offered: Spring 2020
3 credits

SWK 381 - Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Practice with Adults
Explores innovative community care approaches as well as emerging trends for working with persons with severe and prolonged mental disorder and substance abuse/addictions in the field of community mental health. Focuses on social work intervention using psychosocial rehabilitation approaches for individuals and families seeking services from public mental health agencies, emphasizing evidence-based best practices, and client-centered, recovery-oriented approaches.
Prerequisite(s): SWK major.
Last Offered: Spring 2020
3 credits

SWK 382 - Gerontological Social Work Practice with Elders and Families
Provides a theoretical understanding of growing older, including concepts related to social theories of aging, the biological and physiological context of aging, health status, social context of aging, including family and social supports, racial/ethnic aging, and societal context of aging, including social and health care policies. Focuses on specific skills of intervention for gerontological social work practice.
Prerequisite(s): SWK major.
Last Offered: Spring 2020
3 credits

SWK 390 - Social Work Interviewing Skills
A study of the communication skills used in the professional helping process. Focus is on the deliberate selection and application of interpersonal skills for relationship building, assessment, planning, intervention, evaluation, and termination. Students practice and evaluate their skills using specific client/worker situations in order to develop a beginning competency level.
Prerequisite(s): SWK major.
Last Offered: Spring 2020
3 credits

SWK 398 - Advanced Special Topics
Topics vary.
Last Offered: Spring 2020
3 to 6 credits

SWK 430 - Social Welfare Institutions and Policies II
Study of social welfare policies and programs as a means to bring about social change.
Prerequisite(s): SWK major.
Last Offered: Spring 2020
3 credits
SWK 490 - Field Practice: Seminar I

The student assumes progressive responsibility for professional practice and is expected to function at a higher level of professional competence and more autonomously. Concurrent with 16 hours of weekly field practice in a social agency.
Prerequisite(s): SWK major.
Last Offered: Fall 2019
6 credits

SWK 491 - Field Practice Seminar II

Concurrent with 16 hours of weekly field practice in the SWK 490 social agency.
Prerequisite(s): SWK major and SWK 490.
Last Offered: Spring 2020
6 credits

SWK 499 - Independent Study

No Description Available
Prerequisite(s): Departmental permission.
Last Offered: Summer 2016
1 to 3 credits