Advocates for Positive Social Change

The Bachelor’s of Social Work Program

at the University of Georgia

The BSW Program @ UGA

Our Bachelor’s of Social Work (BSW) program prepares entry level professional social work practitioners to have the knowledge and skills to work towards alleviating social injustice, poverty, oppression, and discrimination. We train students to be advocates for positive social change.

What is Social Work?

Social Work is a profession dedicated to ENHANCING HUMAN CAPACITY to SOLVE SOCIAL PROBLEMS in order to CREATE a HUMANE & JUST SOCIETY. The profession is committed to SOCIAL JUSTICE in the service of EMPOWERING individuals, families and communities to meet their needs, and requires KNOWLEDGE of human development and behavior, of social, economic and cultural institutions, and of the INTERACTION of all these factors. Social workers help people solve and COPE WITH PROBLEMS in their everyday lives.

Program Highlights

 Field Education & Experience
 Seniors receive supervised intern experience in generalist social work practice while working 20 hours per week at a local social service agency

 “Advanced Standing” >> Fast-track to a Master’s Degree
 Students who graduate from our BSW Program can receive their MSW with one additional year of schooling (11 months)

 Practical & Theoretical Training...
 ...to positively impact the functioning of individuals, families, groups, communities, and organizations
 ...to analyze social policies to alleviate poverty, oppression, and social injustice, as well as advocate for human rights.
 ...to apply an ecological perspective, with a commitment to social justice and grounded in scientific research

Employment Statistics

Median Income: $42,200 (bls.gov, 2012)

Job outlook: Overall employment of social workers is projected to grow 19% from 2012 to 2022, faster than the average for all occupations.

Jobs in Social Work

• Activities Director
• Adoption Case Manager
• Advisor
• Behavior Specialist
• Care Coordinator
• Case Manager
• Child and Family Therapist
• Clinician
• Community Assistant
• Community Developer
• Community Educator
• Counselor
• Crisis Referral Specialist
• Curriculum & Consulting Specialist
• DFCS Social Service Specialist
• Director of Children’s Services
• Forensic Social Worker
• Foster Care Social Worker
• Fundraising Chair
• Grants Manager
• Homeless Advocate
• Investigator
• Juvenile Probation Officer
• Medical Social Worker
• Non-Residential Director
• Oncology Social Worker
• Outpatient Therapist
• Outreach Coordinator
• Patient Services Manager
• Preventive Case Planner
• Program Services Coordinator
• Project Coordinator
• Research Associate
• Residential Manager
• School Social Worker
• Social Service Technician
• Social Services Case Manager
• Social Services Provider
• Social Services Specialist
• Social Work Contractor
• Social Work Officer
• Social Worker
• Staff Representative
• Substance Abuse Counselor
• Therapeutic Day Treatment Specialist
• Therapist

Advanced Standing // Fast-track to a Master’s Degree

By completing our BSW Professional Program, students have the opportunity to achieve an “Advanced Standing” status which may be applied to a future Master of Social Work (MSW) degree. As part of our BSW program, students complete 40 credits of 5000-level courses that equate to one year of graduate school. Advanced Standing means that students who graduate from our BSW program can then receive their MSW with only one additional year (11 months) of schooling. In less than 5 years, students are able to earn their BSW and MSW.

To qualify for Advanced Standing, students must successfully complete their BSW with a minimum GPA of 3.2. Advanced Standing status is valid for 5 years after graduation.
BSW Program Requirements and Sequencing

University Requirements
- Cumulative GPA of 2.0+, Overall GPA of 2.5+
- Cultural Diversity course
- Federal & Georgia Constitution (POLS 1101)*
- US & Georgia History (HIST 2111 or 2111)*
- FYOS Seminar
- Physical Education

Core Requirements
- **Area I**: ENGL 1101 (3)
  ENGL 1102 (3) or 1103 (3)
  MATH 1101+ (3)
- **Area II**: BIOL 1103* + lab (4)
  Physical science (non-lab) (3)
- **Area III**: STAT 2000* (4)
- **Area IV**: World Language & Culture 1*
  World Language & Culture 2*
  World Language & Culture 3*
  Humanities and Arts
- **Area V**: Satisfied by University and BSW requirements*
- **Area VI**: PSYC 1101* (3)
  SOCI 1101* (3) or SOCI 2600 (3)
  STAT 2000* (4)
  SOWK 2154 (3) – The Profession of Social Work
  SOWK 2154S (1) – Service Learning in Social Work
  SOWK 2155 (3) – Communication in the Helping Process
  SOWK 2156 (3) – Social Work with Diverse Populations

Major Requirements
- **Foreign Language** >> All BSW students must complete a foreign language of their choosing through the 3rd semester of that language, typically the 2001 level (e.g., a sequence of SPAN 1001, SPAN 1002, and SPAN 2001)*. Any foreign language may be applied, including American Sign Language (ASL). However, ASL will not satisfy the core Area IV requirements.

- **Upper-Division Pre-requisites** >> All 2000-level SOWK courses must be completed or in progress when applying for the BSW Professional Program. **Students may not take any 5000-level SOWK courses until SOWK 2154, SOWK 2154S, SOWK 2155, and SOWK 2156 are completed.**

- **Typical Course Sequencing** >> Students typically finish their lower-division social work courses during the spring of their 2nd year or fall of their 3rd year, at which point they apply to begin the 5000-level Professional Program the following semester.
  - **Pre-Professional Courses**
    BIOL 1103* + lab (4)
    PSYC 2101 (3) or PSYC 3230 (3)
  - **Professional Program**
    SOWK 5340 (3) – Human Behavior in the Social Environment
    SOWK 5524 (3) – General Practice of Social Work I

  Students must complete SOWK 5340 and SOWK 5524 prior to beginning their senior coursework. This typically occurs during a student's third year.

- **Senior Coursework**
  - **Fall**
    SOWK 5326 (3) - Foundations of Social Work Research
    SOWK 5534 (3) - General Practice of Social Work II
    SOWK 5757 (3) - Current Issues in Social Work I
    SOWK 5835 (5) - Practicum in Social Work I
    SOWK 5836 (2) - Seminar in Generalist Social Work Practice I
    SOWK 5850 (1) - Capstone Project
  - **Spring**
    SOWK 5544 (3) - General Practice of Social Work III
    SOWK 5701 (3) - Social Welfare Policy and Services
    SOWK 5767 (3) - Current Issues in Social Work II
    SOWK 5845 (5) - Practicum in Social Work II
    SOWK 5846 (2) - Seminar in Generalist Social Work Practice II
    SOWK 5851 (1) - Capstone Project

* denotes courses that satisfy more than one requirement.

BSW Professional Program
- **Professional Degree**
  - Our BSW program provides students with a professional degree. Through our classroom and hands-on field training, students graduate as professional social workers and are equipped for most entry-level social work positions.

- **Field Education & Experience**
  - Seniors receive supervised intern experience in generalist social work practice while working 20 hours per week at a local social service agency.

- **Capstone Project**
  - Seniors must complete a year-long applied, experiential, collaborative, and community-engaged Capstone project.
  - Students will work collaboratively in small groups to design and implement community-based social justice projects that emphasize social justice and service.
  - Students will develop a creative means of presenting their capstone project and will present at the BSW Capstone Symposium in late spring of their senior year.

- **Graduate-Level Coursework**
  - The final 40-credit hours of our BSW program consist of all 5000-level, graduate equivalent courses.

In a gentle way, you can shake the world.

MOHATMA GHANDI

Social Workers...

Feed the hungry
Shelter the homeless
PROTECT THE CHILDREN
Advocate for the infirm
Counsel the distressed
Empower the victims
Research best practices
Inform government
Protect the vulnerable

Challenge discrimination
PROMOTE POSITIVE CHANGE
Give a voice to the voiceless

...change the world!

Contact an advisor at ugabe@uga.edu