

Social Work Program

School of Education and Human Studies

Mission Statement

Social Work is about helping people—children, families, older adults, and whole communities. The social work program prepares students for entry level professional positions in a diversity of public and private settings, including child advocacy and welfare, children and youth counseling, school social work, medical social work, church social work, missions, foster care and adoptions, geriatric social work, and mental health. The program prepares students to help people, particularly those who are vulnerable, to achieve a better “fit” with their world and to help the world to be more responsive to the needs of people. The program emphasizes the importance of a liberal arts foundation and of Christian and social work values that promote social and economic justice.

The major also emphasizes preparation for graduate study. Graduates from the BSW program are eligible to apply for advanced standing in graduate programs leading to a master’s in social work degree, MSW.

Program Leadership

Mary Anne Poe (1996). Associate Professor of Social Work and Social Work Program Director. B.A., Vanderbilt University; M.S.S.W., University of Louisville; M.Div., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, A.C.S.W. Certification.

Roslyn Wilson (1995). Associate Professor of Social Work and Social Work Field Director. B.S., Tennessee State University; M.S.S.W., University of Tennessee.

Profile of the Social Work Program

192 A student majoring in Social Work will receive the Bachelor of Social Work degree. The student must take the General Core requirements and B.S.W. specific requirements as outlined below:

General Core Requirements: (44 hours)

CLU 111, 112; ENG 111, 112, 201, 202; ART 210; HIS 101, 102; Science Group A; BIO 121; MAT 114; PEWS 100, PEWS Activity; CHR 111, 112; PSY 213.

B.S.W. Specific Requirements: (21 hours)

CSC 105, SOC 211, PSC 211, PSY 317, SW 421 or SOC 422, and 6 hours Modern Foreign Language

I. Social Work Major—45 hours

- A. SW 200, 201, 310—do not require admission to the program
- B. SW 300, 301, 315, 335
- C. SW 400, 401, 402, 423, 490
- D. SW Elective—3 hours

II. Teacher Licensure in School Social Work

- A. Complete major and core requirements as detailed above
- B. Complete Human Studies Minor, modified for SW licensure
 1. EDU 150; PSY 213, 317, 318; SOC 211; SE 225—17 hours
 2. SW 340—3 hours
 3. Elective in EDU, SE, PSY, SOC or SW—1 hour
- C. Admission to SW Program and completion of requirements as specified by the Tennessee Department of Education. SW 490 will take place in a school setting.

Admission Requirements to the Social Work Program

A student may declare a major in Social Work upon admission to the university. During the spring semester of the student's sophomore year, the student makes an application for entry into the program. The following are requirements for admission to the program in the sophomore year:

- Complete an application form.
- Two faculty references, one personal reference.
- Have at least 2.25 CUM GPA, with at least a "C" in: ENG 111, 112; BIO 121; PSC 211; SOC 211; PSY 213; CSC 105; MAT 114; SW 310.
- Complete SW 200 and SW 201 with at least a grade of "C." These two courses may be taken in the first semester after admission to the program, though it is advisable to complete these two courses prior to admission to the program.
- Pass all courses listed as General Core and B.S.W. specific core. It is advisable that students complete all core requirements prior to admission to the program.
- Complete an interview with the Social Work Program Admissions Committee. Knowingly making a false oral or written statement during the admission process can result in denial of admission to the program. The Social Work Program Admissions Committee may require outside evaluations, assessments, and/or opinions of professionals as is deemed necessary.
- Possess these personal qualities: Self-awareness, empathy, objectivity, appreciation of diversity, professional commitment, and a liberal arts base of knowledge.
- Sign a statement indicating that he/she has read and will follow the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers.

Transfer Students

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Students transferring from CSWE accredited social work programs will be able to transfer credit for Social Work classes as approved by the Registrar of the university and the Social Work faculty. Students transferring from non-accredited social work programs will be evaluated individually. The course syllabus, course objectives, outline, learning activities, theoretical frameworks, and bibliographies for the course will be evaluated by Social Work faculty for acceptable comparison to the courses in this program. A recommendation regarding transfer of those credit hours will then be made to the Registrar's office. Field Practicum courses may not be transferred from an unaccredited program. Academic credit for life or work experience will not be awarded.

Progression in the Social Work Program

- After admission to the Program, the student will enroll in classes according to the prescribed sequence.
- Students must complete a minimum of 424 clock hours in an approved social service agency during the Spring semester of their senior year, after successful completion of the required prerequisite courses and completing an application for Field Practicum. Students take SW 423 with the Field Practicum and no other courses. Social Work Field Practicum must be completed with a passing grade and at least a "B" earned in Senior Seminar in order to be eligible for graduation.
- Graduation requirements follow the guidelines of Union University.
- Termination/Probation Process: A student may be placed on probation or terminated from Union University's Social Work Program if, in the professional judgment of the Social Work faculty, violations of professional and/or ethical codes have occurred. Any decision regarding probation/termination will be made by consensus of the entire full-time Social Work faculty and will follow the process outlined

in the Social Work Program Manual for Students. An appeals process and a grievance procedure that complies with the University's grievance procedure is also detailed in the Program Manual.

General Information

The Social Work Program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, 1725 Duke Street, Suite 500, Alexandria, VA 22314-3457.

The Director of the Social Work Program is responsible for overall administration of the Program. The director is available during office hours to answer questions regarding the program, employment opportunities, professional associations and licensures, and other questions related to the social work profession.

The Social Work Field Director has primary responsibility for the field education component of the Program including implementation of field processes and procedures and maintaining effective working relationships with sites, field instructors, and students.

Agency Field Instructors supplement the educational program in social work by providing supervision to senior students who are completing 424 hours of field work in an approved agency. These instructors provide on-the-job instruction and supervision, hold weekly conferences with the student, and assist in the evaluation of student performance and learning.

A student who is completing agency field experiences as part of the requirements in social work practice courses will be required to purchase Professional Liability Insurance. The annual fee, approximately \$25.00, will be charged to the student's account during the semester in which he/she is registered for these courses.

A student handbook, available in the office of the Director of the Social Work Program, describes all aspects of the program.

194 Social Work Agency Agreements

All social work majors are required to obtain professional social work field experience in a local community agency. Numerous local social service agencies provide the setting for this practicum. The *Social Work Field Placement Manual* clarifies expectations regarding this experience and identifies the cooperating agencies. It may be obtained from the Social Work faculty.

Student Organizations

The **Student Association of Social Workers (SASW)** is for majors in social work and those interested in social work. The organization assists in developing professional social work identity and provides an opportunity to be involved in volunteer community social service. Service opportunities include child mentoring and advocacy, nursing home activities, community organizing, and resource development. The organization gives students regular opportunity to interact with others having similar interests.

Phi Alpha, National Honor Society for Social Work Students, Eta Phi Chapter, fosters high standards of education for social workers and invites into membership those who have attained excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work. Social Work majors with an overall GPA of 3.2 and a GPA of 3.6 in social work courses are invited to become members. Students become eligible for membership at the end of their Junior year in the Social Work Program.

Student Awards

Academic Excellence Medals. This award is given to the graduating major who has the highest academic average in the discipline, provided the average in the subject is not less than 3.5 and provided the student has completed, before Awards Day, a minimum of 15 hours in the discipline at Union University in courses for which precise grades are computed (as distinguished from courses graded pass or fail).

Course Offerings in Social Work (SW)

() Hours Credit; F-Fall; W-Winter; S-Spring; Su-Summer

200. Introduction to Social Work (3) F, S, Su

Prerequisite or Corequisite: ENG 112.

The profession of social work and the institution of social welfare will be surveyed in terms of their evolution in America. Emphasis will be on social work knowledge and values, the professional education needed, practice methods, the variety of social services available, and occupational settings of the social work profession.

201. Community Social Service Experience (3) F, W, Su

Pre/Corequisite: SW 200; Professional Liability Insurance.

An opportunity for the major to be exposed to the principles of social work within a community social service agency. A minimum of 4 clock hours/week, for a total of 40 minimum clock hours, is spent in the agency. Participation in a seminar class, where experiences will be processed and material addressed on how to become a helper, is required. An evaluation will be completed by the agency supervisor at the end of the semester.

300. Human Behavior and the Social Environment I (3) F

Prerequisite: SW Program Admission.

An exploration of the theories and knowledge of human bio-psycho-social-spiritual-cultural development from birth through young adulthood in the context of the range of social systems in which individuals live: families, groups, organizations, and communities. The impact of social and economic forces on human development will be explored with special attention to evaluating theory and its application to issues of human diversity.

301. Human Behavior and the Social Environment II (3) S

Prerequisites: SW Program Admission and SW 300.

This course continues to make use of the people-in-systems theoretical orientation and related concepts as human development and diversity are studied from adulthood to old age.

310. Social and Economic Justice (3) W, S

Prerequisite: CHR 111 or 112. Reciprocal credit: SOC 310.

Dynamics and consequences of injustice including oppression, poverty and discrimination with particular attention to biblical and theological teachings about justice. Strategies to alleviate poverty and for intervention in all forms of human oppression and discrimination will be examined to provide students with skill to promote change and advance the causes of social and economic justice.

313. Relationships, Marriage and Families (3) F, S, Su

Reciprocal credit: SOC 313.

See SOC 313 for course description.

315. Foundations for Social Work Practice (3) F

Prerequisite: SW Program Admission. Corequisite: SW 300.

Various processes, skills and the theoretical practice framework utilized in generalist social work practice will be examined. Beginning skills in assessment, interviewing and problem-solving for working with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities will be introduced within the context of social work values, knowledge and with appreciation for human diversity.

321. Social Gerontology (3) F

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SOC 321.
See SOC 321 for course description.

324. Social Deviance (3) S

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SW 324.
See SOC 320 for course description.

335. Social Policy (3) S

Social welfare policy, both historically and currently, focusing on its major elements and basic structure, as well as providing a basis for evaluation of social welfare policies, programs, and services.

340. Social Work Services in Schools (3)

Knowledge and skills for effective social work practice in a school setting. The school social worker provides a link between school, student, home, and community, primarily using case management and advocacy skills.

370. Gender and Society (3) S

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SOC 370.
See SOC 370 for course description.

400. Populations-at-Risk (3) F

Prerequisites: SW Program Admission and SW 301, 310, 335 and 401.

Patterns, dynamics, and consequences of discrimination, economic deprivation, and oppression will be presented. The curriculum includes content on people of color, gay and lesbian persons, those distinguished by age, ethnicity, culture, class, and physical and mental ability. Course content includes strategies for micro, mezzo, and macro interventions designed to empower these groups and individuals.

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401. Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups (3) S

Prerequisite: SW Program Admission, SW 315, 421; PSY 317.

A continuation of SW 315 with further development of skills for working with individuals, families and groups using various approaches.

402. Social Work Practice with Organizations, Communities, and Government (3) F

Prerequisite: SW Program Admission and SW 335, 401

The last of the practice sequence continues to use the theoretical framework introduced in SW 315 and 401. Practice methods for work with organizations and communities will be explored. Knowledge, values and skills for building professional relationships and working to enhance human well-being by organizational and community development through assessment, problem-solving and advocacy strategies will be examined.

405. Families Across Cultures (3) F

Reciprocal credit: SOC 400.
See SOC 400 for course description.

419. Social Diversity and Inequality (3) F, S

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SOC 419.
See SOC 419 for course description.

420. Death and Dying (3) S—Even Years

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SOC 420.
See SOC 420 for course description.

421. Research Methods in Social Work (3) F

Prerequisites: MAT 114.

An introduction to the basic research methods and techniques of social research as applied to the social problems and human situations that a generalist social worker will encounter. Emphasis will be placed on problem formulation, development of research design, instrument construction, data collection and analysis, and report writing.

423. Senior Seminar in Social Work Practice (3) S

Prerequisites: Admission to SW Field Practicum. Corequisite: SW 490.

Students review various social work processes, including ecological systems theory, contact and contract phases of social work intervention, social work values and ethics, and interventive roles and methods. Class presentations and a case study paper are required. Field Practicum experiences are processed as they relate to classroom content.

490. Social Work Field Practicum (9) S

Prerequisites: Admission. Corequisite: SW 423; Professional Liability Insurance.

Professional field experience in a faculty-approved community agency; public or private, with supervision by an on-site approved field instructor. Students must meet with the field instructor for one hour/week in a face-to-face supervisory conference to discuss cases and student progress. The student will complete a minimum of 424 clock hours in the agency, documented on a weekly log and a journal. The application for field placement must be submitted for approval of the Social Work Field Director no later than mid-term of the preceding Fall semester. Pass/Fail.

Available in each departmental prefix:

180-280-380-480. Study Abroad Programs (1-4) As Needed

All courses and their application must be defined and approved prior to travel.

195-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) On Demand

Lower-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

395-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) On Demand

Upper-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

495-6-7. Independent Study (1-4) On Demand

Individual research under the guidance of a faculty member(s).

498-9. Seminar (1-3) F On Demand

To be used at the discretion of the department for majors only.