

Department of Social Work

College of Education and Human Studies

Faculty

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Theresa L. Blakley (2003). Associate Professor of Social Work. B.S., Sam Houston State University; M.S.W. and Ph.D., Barry University, A.C.S.W., L.C.S.W.

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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 empower 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.

Curriculum

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: As required by the university but to require inclusion of PSY 213 (prerequisite) and recommendation of BIO 121 from Science group A and MAT 114 for the Mathematics requirements. Social Work majors are exempt from the COM 112 or 235 requirement; those skills are covered in the major.

B.S.W. Specific Core (18 hours): SOC 211, Language (3 hours), Language or Culture (3 hours, see ICS Major), 9 hours of advisor-approved electives from at least 2 disciplines outside Social Work. For the student seeking the B.S.W. as a 2nd bachelors, the following are considered prerequisites from the core: PSY 213, SOC 211, Language (3 hours) and Language or Culture (3 hours).

I. Social Work Major—51 hours

- A. SW 200, 300, 301, 310, 335—do not require admission to the program
- B. SW 305, 315, 400, 401, 402, 421, 423, 490
- C. SW Elective—6 hours

II. Licensure as a School Social Worker

- A. Complete major and core requirements as detailed above
- B. SW 340 and complete SW 490 in a school setting.

III. Tennessee Public Child Welfare Certification

- A. Complete major and core requirements as detailed above
- B. Complete SW 338 and 348
- C. Complete SW 490 with the TN Department of Children's Services

IV. The Bachelor of Social Work is also available as an Adult Studies Program

See the Department of Continuing Studies for details.

Admission Requirements to the Social Work Program

A student may declare a major in Social Work upon admission to the university. Prior to the junior 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.
- One faculty reference, one personal reference.
- Have at least 2.25 CUM GPA.
- Complete SW 200 and 310 with at least a grade of “C.” These may be taken in the first semester after admission

to the program, though it is advisable to complete them prior to program admission.

- Complete the General and B.S.W. Specific Core preferably prior to program admission.
- 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.

Assessment of Majors

Students must complete SW 490 with a minimum of 424 clock hours in an approved social service agency during Spring of their senior year. Students must have a minimum 2.5 SW GPA to enroll in SW 490 and 423. For graduation, SW 490 must be completed with a passing grade and 423 with a B or higher. SW 423 helps the student integrate and evaluate all the knowledge, values and skills covered in previous coursework.

Senior SW majors must complete a senior capstone portfolio containing personal assessment statements and examples of work completed in the program.

Seniors will take the Area Concentration Achievement Test in Social Work (ACAT) in SW 490. Examination results are used to compare performance with national norms and to assess strengths and weaknesses in the program.

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.

The *Social Work Program Student Handbook*, available in the office of the Director, describes all aspects of the program including an introduction to the profession, Union's program objectives and goals, curriculum, admission and termination/probation policies, transfer policies specific to CSWE accredited and non-accredited schools, grievance procedures, student organizations, and student rights and responsibilities. The Handbook details, in full, the circumstances under which the student may be placed on probation or terminated from the program, if, in the professional judgment of the Social Work faculty, violations of professional or ethical codes have occurred or in the event of unacceptable academic achievement.

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 organization, **Social Work Reaches Out**, 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 3.4 and a GPA of 3.7 in social work courses may be con-

sidered for membership. Students become eligible to be invited for membership at the end of their Junior year in the Social Work Program.

Student Awards

Outstanding Social Work Graduate. This award is given to the graduating senior with high academic achievement, outstanding performances in Field Practicum, and faculty and peer recommendation.

Phoenix Award. This award is given to the student who has demonstrated excellence in scholarship, skill in practice, and strength in adversity.

Course Offerings in Social Work (SW)

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

200. Introduction to Social Welfare (3) F, S

A study of the history of social welfare and the constructed policies and practices that address societal problems, such as poverty and vulnerable populations.

201. Community Social Service Experience (3) F

Corequisite: Professional Liability Insurance.

An opportunity for students considering a social work major to be exposed to the principles of social work within a community social service agency. A total of 40 minimum clock hours is spent in an agency in addition to the seminar class.

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

Reciprocal credit: SOC 225. See SOC 225 for description.

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

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

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.

305. Psychopathology (3) F

A study of mental health in light of dynamic ethno-cultural, spiritual, and bio-psycho-social factors impacting client systems and how this knowledge is integrated into practice paradigms.

307. Faith-Based Social Services (3) F—Odd Years

An exploration of the biblical and theological basis for faith-based social services, various models, and recent related government initiatives and policies.

310. Social and Economic Justice (3) F, 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.

315. Foundations for Social Work Practice (3) F

Prerequisite: SW Program Admission. Corequisite: SW 300 and Professional Liability Insurance.

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 description.

324. Social Deviance (3) S

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SOC 324. See SOC 324 for description.

325. Families Across Cultures (3) F

Reciprocal credit: SOC 325. See SOC 325 for 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.

338. Children and Families at Risk (3) S

Characteristics and needs of families at risk and policies and programs that address those needs, with attention to risk patterns of abuse, substance use and abuse, mental illness and poverty.

340. Social Work Services in Schools (3) F—Even Years

Pre/Corequisite: SW 200

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.

348. Child Welfare Practice (3) F

Prerequisite: SW 338

Development of knowledge and skills for culturally competent practice with families at risk. Completion of this and BSW leads to a Tennessee Public Child Welfare Certification.

370. Gender and Sexuality (3) S

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

400. Populations-at-Risk (3) F

Prerequisites: SW Program Admission and SW 301, 310 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.

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

Prerequisites: SW Program Admission, SW 315, Professional Liability Insurance.

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

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

Prerequisites: SW Program Admission, SW 401, Professional Liability Insurance.

The last of the practice sequence continues to use the theoretical framework introduced in SW 315 and 401. Practice methods for work with organizations, communities and governments. 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.

419. Social Diversity and Inequality (3) S

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

420. Death and Dying (3) S—Even Years

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

421. Research and Statistical Methods in Social Work (3) F

An introduction to the processes of quantitative and qualitative methods to build knowledge for practice; the use of statistics in social work research and evaluation of service delivery; and the development, use and communication of empirically based knowledge.

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 (1-9)

Prerequisites: Admission; SW GPA 2.5 or higher. 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:

179-279-379-479. External Domestic Study Programs (1-3) As Needed

All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to registering.

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

295-6-7. 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.