SOCIAL WORK

Human Sciences and Services 253
715-836-4435
Department Website (https://www.uwec.edu/academics/college-education-human-sciences/departments-programs/social-work)

The mission of the baccalaureate social work program at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire is to prepare students to engage in ethical, competent, evidence-informed generalist practice. Graduates will be committed to diversity, social and economic justice, the promotion of community well-being, and the interdependence of local and global issues. The goals of the Social Work Program are:

1. to prepare entry-level generalist social workers grounded in liberal arts educations and the person in the environment construct;
2. to prepare entry-level generalist social workers for practice in a multicultural society within the context of professional values and ethics in public and private social service agencies, especially in those services which meet the needs of diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities;
3. to prepare students to integrate research-informed practice and practice-informed research and to think critically and apply ethical principles in practice;
4. to prepare students for and instill in them a commitment to lifelong learning and the recognition, support and advancement of the profession; and
5. to prepare students for practice with diverse populations and for effective participation in community affairs in a global society through the promotion of social and economic justice.

The bachelor’s degree in social work (B.S.W.) is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Graduates of the program are eligible for examination for certification or licensure at the baccalaureate level. Graduates receive advanced standing in many Master of Social Work (MSW) programs.

Honor Societies and Student Organizations

As members of the university community, social work students have an opportunity to participate in many student organizations, including the Association of Student Social Workers (ASSW). In addition to providing important chances for identification and socialization with the profession of social work, ASSW selects student representatives to participate actively in faculty committees. Other professional organizations open to students are the Council on Social Work Education, the National Association of Social Workers, and the Wisconsin Social Service Association. The Eta Upsilon Chapter of Phi Alpha, a National Social Work Honor Society, offers recognition to individuals who meet the following criteria:

1. admitted into the social work program.
2. overall total GPA of 3.0.
3. 3.25 GPA in all social work prefix courses.

Caregiver Law

All individuals involved in experiential education courses for credit in the Social Work Department must complete the background check process and are responsible for the associated processing fees. Students must complete these forms at registration or the beginning of the course or show evidence of a recently completed (within one year) criminal history report. This applies to the following courses: SW 315, SW 395 (Building Bridges section), and SW 481.

Students are also advised that past or future serious crimes that are substantially related to the duties of the position may limit or inhibit the student from securing service-learning opportunities, or internship placements, or both. In addition, the student may become ineligible to receive certification or licensure as a social worker.

Admission to Social Work Program

The Social Work Program operates under a selective admissions policy. The policy is based on the need to maintain a program of excellence in the classroom and to assure availability of quality internship placements. The Department of Social Work reserves the right to admit a limited number of students each semester. Meeting the minimum standards does not guarantee a student will be admitted to the major.

Social Work is a professional discipline on the baccalaureate level, and, thus, admissions and retention processes are implemented and strictly followed. Students are evaluated on a regular basis. Students interested in earning a Bachelor of Social Work Degree must first be admitted to the Social Work major. Enrollment in selected upper division social work courses is restricted to students who have been formally admitted to the major. This formal application to the major is the first step in meeting requirements for graduation with a B.S.W. degree. A second review of continued eligibility occurs with application for admission to internship (SW 481). Students with any concerns regarding eligibility are urged to consult their academic adviser. Students will be asked to sign a statement that they have read and agreed to abide by the National Association of Social Workers’ Code of Ethics. Students may appeal a denial of admission to the major or internship by following procedures outlined in the Social Work Student Handbook or the Social Work Internship Manual, as applicable.

Application Process and Procedures

1. Students seeking admission are required to complete an application form available from the department office. At the point of admission:
   a. Students must have accumulated 30 credits
   b. The university service learning requirement must have been completed.
   c. A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required in the following courses: SW 100, SW 290, and PSYC 100. Each course must be completed with a grade of C or above.
   d. A minimum total GPA of 2.5 is required, which includes courses transferred from other colleges and universities.
   e. Demonstrated acceptable skill in writing and speaking.
   f. Students will show knowledge of social work and a commitment to social work values as demonstrated by the submission of a single-spaced essay up to two pages that addresses how your values and experiences have informed your decision to select social work as a major.
   g. Completion of the following cohort advising sessions: “Introduction to the Major”, “Writing Like a Social Worker”, and “Special Topics”.
   h. Students must be in good academic standing in the semester in which they apply.
   i. Any student who withdraws from the social work major at UW-Eau Claire or who does not take classes at UW-Eau Claire for two or more sequential semesters must reapply for admission into the program.
   j. Students may repeat a grade below C in SW 100 and/or SW 290 according to University guidelines. Repeat of course(s) must be
completed (not current) for any such courses before application for admission will be processed.

**Admission to Social Work Internship**

*Criteria for admission into Internship:* The Social Work Field Director will determine eligibility for internships on the basis of the following criteria. A student must have

1. completed SW 100; SW 220, SW 290, SW 320, SW 323, SW 335, SW 383, SW 405, and SW 471 with a grade of C or above. This includes courses that are transferred in as equivalent to any of these courses;
2. earned a minimum GPA of 2.50 in SW 100 and all courses with an SW prefix;
3. earned a total GPA of 2.50;
4. completed a criminal background application within one year of the planned internship;
5. participated in the Internship Orientation Sessions prior to registration;
6. been accepted by an agency approved for field instruction by the Department of Social Work;

**Graduation Requirements**

To graduate with the Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.) degree, students must have

1. a GPA of 2.50 in SW 100 and in all courses with the SW prefix;
2. achieved completion of SW 100 and all required SW courses, including transfer courses, with a grade of C or above;
3. demonstrated competencies suitable for the profession; and
4. completed all program requirements.

**Faculty**

Leah Olson-McBride, Chair

Mary Nienow

Joshua Potter-Efron

Lisa Quinn-Lee

Jamie Tester

**Majors**

- Comprehensive Major: Social Work, Liberal Arts - B.S.W.

**Minors**

- Minor: Gerontology, Liberal Arts

**Certificates**

- Certificate: Social Work, Gerontology

**SW 100 Introduction to Social Welfare (3 crs)**

*Coordinating Department: Social Work.*

Introduces institutions, values, political perspectives influencing and structuring the well-being of people.

Attributes: GE V University Wide, LE-I1 Integration, LE-R2 Global Perspectives

Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

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**SW 220 Interpersonal Skills (3 crs)**

Prerequisite: SW 100 and SW 290. Admission to social work program required. Consent: Department Consent Required

Knowledge about self and interaction with others. Impact of culture on communications. Development of sensitivity to cultural diversity. Integration of knowledge, values, ethics, and skills with a professional sense of self.

Grading Basis: No Auditors
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

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**SW 290 Human Rights and Global Justice (3 crs)**

Prerequisite: SW 100

Human Rights and Global Justice provides a basic understanding of universal human rights and global justice. Social issues will be explored from a variety of perspectives, and field visits to local agencies/programs are required.

Attributes: LE-R2 Global Perspectives, LE-R3 Civic and Environmental Issues, Service-Learning, Full 30 Hours, Field Trip(s) Required
Grading Basis: A-F Grades Only
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 2
Lab/Studio Hours: 1

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**SW 291 Special Topics (1-3 crs)**

Issues of current interest in the field of social work.

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**SW 309 Community-based Corrections (3 crs)**

Social work in prevention and treatment of crime and delinquency. Traditional and emerging community-based programs considered.

Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

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**SW 315 Aging and the Aged (3 crs)**

*Criminal background check required.*

The process of aging, its problems, effects on society, needs of the aged, and social services to the aged.

Attributes: Special Course Fee Required
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

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**SW 320 Generalist Social Work Practice with Individuals (3 crs)**

Prerequisite: SW 335. Admission to Social Work program required. Introduction to basic theories and methods of social work practice. Applied laboratory dimension focuses on professional communication skills with individuals (interviewing and writing). Linkages made to practice with families, groups, and communities.

Grading Basis: No Auditors
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 2
Lab/Studio Hours: 2
SW 323 Methods of Social Work Research (3 crs)
Prerequisite: SW 100, SW 220, SW 290. Admission to social work program required.
Critical reading, evaluation of practice, and conducting basic social work research.

Attributes: LE-S3 Creativity
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

SW 335 Human Behavior and the Social Environment (3 crs)
Prerequisite: SW 100, SW 220, SW 290. Admission to social work program required.
Consent: Department Consent Required
Interactions between persons and their social environments. Impact of functioning of communities, groups, families, and individuals on each other. Emphasis on dynamics of discrimination and oppression, and effects of race and racism, poverty, gender, sexual orientation.

Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

SW 360 Death and Bereavement (3 crs)
Prerequisite: SOC 101 or PSYC 100 or consent of instructor. Minimum sophomore standing.

Credit may not be earned in both SW 360/SW 560 and NRSG 360/NRSG 560. No credit if taken after SOC 318, PSYC 339 or SW 350.

Through the study of current theory and research, this interdisciplinary course is designed to facilitate student understanding of death and bereavement from a lifespan, family, and cultural perspective.

Attributes: Wellness Theory, GE V University Wide, Undergraduate/Graduate Offering, Field Trip(s) Required
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

SW 383 Social Welfare Policies and Programs (3 crs)
Prerequisite: SW 100, SW 220, SW 290, SW 335. Admission to social work program required.
Structure and content of social welfare policies; models of policy analysis; policy development; ethics. Emphasis on oppression, discrimination, and the social values of adequacy, equity, and social and economic justice, especially for oppressed and at-risk populations.

Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

SW 385 Child Welfare (3 crs)
Service systems for dependent, neglected, abused, or delinquent children.

Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

SW 395 Directed Studies (1-3 crs)
Consent: Department Consent Required

A maximum of nine credits earned in Directed Studies, Independent Studies and Instructional Assistant may count toward the major. Section 10 --Building Bridges--special course fee required for criminal background check.

Social work study approved by supervising instructor and department chair.
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits
Grading Basis: No Auditors

SW 399 Independent Study - Juniors (1-3 crs)
Prerequisite: Limited to social work majors. Minimum resident and total GPA of 3.00.
Consent: Department Consent Required

A maximum of nine credits earned in Directed Studies, Independent Studies and Instructional Assistant may count toward the major.

Intensive study culminating in a paper suitable for publication.
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits
Grading Basis: No Auditors

SW 402 Instructional Assistant in Social Work (1-3 crs)
Prerequisite: SW GPA of 2.5 or higher
Consent: Department Consent Required

Completion of the course in which assisting with a minimum grade of C.

Qualified students, selected and supervised by faculty members, facilitate teaching and learning in a specific course. Instructional assistants enhance their knowledge of social work, and their ability to communicate that knowledge and facilitate group process.
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits

SW 405 Culturally Competent SW Practice (3 crs)
Prerequisite: SW 320. Admission to social work program required.
Understanding different minority groups of color with special focus on social services, programs, and ethnic-sensitive practice issues.

Attributes: Cultural Diversity 3 cr., Undergraduate/Graduate Offering
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

SW 424 Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (3 crs)
Diagnosis, causal theories, current treatment methods, prognosis, and prevention related to the field of alcohol and other drug abuse.

Attributes: Wellness Theory
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0
SW 471 Generalist Social Work Practice with Families/Groups (3 crs)
Prerequisite: SW 320. Admission to social work program required.
Knowledge, skills, values, and ethics related to social work practice with diverse, oppressed, and at-risk families and treatment groups. Applied laboratory dimension focuses on professional communication and assessment skills with families and groups.

Lecture/Discussion Hours: 2
Lab/Studio Hours: 2

SW 472 Generalist Social Work Practice with Communities/Organizations (3 crs)
Prerequisite: SW 320
Knowledge, skills, values, and ethics related to social work practice in task groups, communities, organizations, and society. Emphasis on diversity, social and economic justice, and empowerment, especially for oppressed and at-risk groups, organizations, and communities.

Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

SW 481 Social Work Internship (6-12 crs)
Consent: Department Consent Required
- Course may be taken for 6 to 12 credits. Six credit sections must be sequential.
- Acceptance as specified under criteria for admission into the internship (see internship admission requirements), criminal background check required.
- Transportation required at some placements.

Placement in social welfare agency for professional social work practice experience for one or two semesters. This course is the capstone experience wherein students integrate and apply learning to the work setting.

Attributes: LE-I1 Integration, Service-Learning, Full 30 Hours, Internship
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits

SW 482 Social Work Internship - International (12 crs)
Prerequisite: SW 323, SW 383, SW 405, and SW 471, and SW GPA of 2.50 or higher.
Consent: Department Consent Required
- Acceptance as specified under criteria for admission into the internship (see internship admission requirements), criminal background check required.
- Transportation to the internship site arranged by the student.

Placement in an international social welfare agency for professional social work practice experience for one semester. This course is the capstone experience where students integrate and apply learning to the work setting.

Attributes: Service-Learning, Full 30 Hours, Internship, Special Course Fee Required

SW 489 Social Work in Mental Health Settings (3 crs)
This course will provide basic knowledge and skills necessary to practice effective and competent bachelor level social work in a variety of settings with people challenged by a mental illness.

Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits
Grading Basis: A-F Grades Only
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

SW 491 Special Topics (1-3 crs)
Selected social work issues of current interest that affect practice.
Attributes: Undergraduate/Graduate Offering
Repeat: Course may be repeated

SW 499 Independent Study - Seniors (1-3 crs)
Prerequisite: Limited to social work majors. Minimum resident and total GPA of 3.00.
Consent: Department Consent Required
- A maximum of nine credits earned in Directed Studies, Independent Studies and Instructional Assistant may count toward the major.

Intensive study culminating in a paper suitable for publication.
Repeat: Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits

SW 560 Death and Bereavement (3 crs)
Prerequisite: SOC 101 or PSYC 100 or consent of instructor.
- Cross-listed with SW 360 and NRSG 360/NRSG 560. Credit may only be earned in one of these courses. No credit if taken after SOC 318, PSYC 339 or SW 350.

Through the study of current theory and research, this interdisciplinary course is designed to facilitate student understanding of death and bereavement from a lifespan, family, and cultural perspective.

Attributes: Field Trip(s) Required
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

SW 605 Culturally Competent SW Practice (3 crs)
Prerequisite: SW 320
- Cross-listed with SW 405. Credit may not be earned in both courses.

Understanding different minority groups of color with special focus on social services, programs, and ethnic-sensitive practice issues.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

SW 624 Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (3 crs)
- Cross-listed with SW 424. Credit may not be earned in both courses.

Diagnosis, causal theories, current treatment methods, prognosis, and prevention related to the field of alcohol and other drug abuse.

Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

SW 691 Special Topics (1-3 crs)
- Cross-listed with SW 491.

Selected social work issues of current interest that affect practice.
Repeat: Course may be repeated
Grading Basis: No S/U Grade Option