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.

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.

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 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.

Faculty

Leah Olson-McBride, Chair
Joshua Potter-Efron
Lisa Quinn-Lee

Jamie Tester-Morfoot
Alisha Woodford

Majors


Minors

- Minor: Gerontology, Liberal Arts (http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/education-human-sciences/social-work/gerontology-minor/)

Certificates


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

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

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

SW 291 Special Topics (1-3 crs)

Issues of current interest in the field of social work.
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

SW 315 Aging and the Aged (3 crs)
The process of aging, its problems, effects on society, needs of the aged, and social services to the aged.

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

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: Admission to social work program required.
Critical reading, evaluation of practice, and conducting basic social work research.

Attributes: LE-53 Creativity
Lecture/Discussion Hours: 3
Lab/Studio Hours: 0

SW 335 Human Behavior and the Social Environment (3 crs)
Prerequisite: SW 100, SW 290. Admission to social work program required.
Permission to take SW 335 prior to admission to the social work program may be granted in limited instances. Contact department chair.

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 NRSG/SW 360.

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: 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 388 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 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, Field Trip(s) Required
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 a 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, Capstone Course, 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 490 Mental Health and Substance Abuse (3 crs)
This course will provide basic knowledge and skills necessary to practice effective generalist social work practice for those with mental health concerns and substance use.
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 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