College of Social Work

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http://www.csw.utk.edu/

SOCIAL WORK MAJOR

Social work is a helping profession which focuses on providing skilled intervention in the prevention and amelioration of individual and societal problems. It is a challenging and rewarding career involving the application of knowledge, skills, and professional values to assist individuals, families, groups, and communities in reaching their potential. The primary mission of the undergraduate social work program is to develop generalist social workers who are strategic thinkers, life-long learners, and opinion shapers. It is the purpose of the college to provide an education which enhances individual and career development and fosters involvement on behalf of social and economic justice.

The program prepares students for social work careers in such diverse areas as schools, youth programs, family service agencies, nursing homes, courts, mental health, and welfare agencies. The degree provides graduates a competitive advantage in many jobs, the possibility of up to one year’s standing in some master’s degree programs in social work, and the potential to be licensed in a number of states throughout the nation.

The social work curriculum builds on a strong liberal arts base. The humanities and the social and behavioral sciences are emphasized to help students understand human diversity and the transactions between people and their environment. The curriculum combines classroom experience and agency-based field placements. Courses provide a knowledge base in social work practice theory, human behavior, social welfare policy, and research. Educationally directed field placements, which consist of over 600 clock hours of supervised field instruction in agency settings throughout greater Knoxville, provide extensive and challenging opportunities for students to apply the lessons of the classroom to the needs of society. The program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

The undergraduate social work program (Bachelor of Science in Social Work) started in 1982 in the College of Liberal Arts. It was granted initial accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education in January 1983, and reaffirmation was given in 1992 and 2001. The program was transferred to the College of Social Work in September 1985. The three programs, Bachelor of Science in Social Work, Master of Science in Social Work, and Doctor of Philosophy, in the college represent the full continuum of social work education.
Facilities
The College of Social Work is housed in Henson Hall, located on the corner of Cumberland Avenue and Volunteer Boulevard on the UT Knoxville campus. This building houses the administrative and faculty offices, along with classrooms for the BSSW, MSSW and PhD programs. Video and computer resources are available to facilitate instruction.

Graduate Program
The College of Social Work offers a fully accredited two year graduate professional degree at the master’s level (MSSW). The college also offers a graduate program leading to a Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work (PhD). Information concerning graduate programs is given in the College of Social Work Bulletin and also in the Graduate Catalog. Master’s degree programs are offered on the campus in Knoxville and in Nashville and Memphis. The PhD program is offered in Knoxville.

Grading Policy
The satisfactory/no credit option is not permitted in the major. The minimum acceptable grade for all social work courses is a C. Courses, other than field, in which a D or F is achieved may be repeated once. Field courses must be completed with a C or better, and may not be repeated.

A student receiving an incomplete (I) in any social work course must remove the incomplete before enrollment in subsequent field practice.

Course Load
The maximum credit hours per semester allowed for any student is 19. Special permission is needed for any overload.

Progression Requirements
Students admitted to the university may request a faculty advisor from the College of Social Work. Students in the college must move through Initial and Full Progression. The following factors identify progression criteria for all social work students.

Initial Progression**
1. Successful completion of Social Work 200 and 250 with a grade of C or better.
2. Cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above.
3. Successful completion of a minimum of 60 semester hours. Initial progression must be completed prior to enrollment in any 300-level social work courses.
4. Favorable review of the student’s application for entry into the junior level social work courses by the faculty admissions committee. The application requires an essay discussing the student’s interest in and preliminary understanding of the profession.
5. Completion of 50 clock hours in community service at one public/private social service agency. The community service is to take place after enrollment in a higher education institution and in the twenty-four month period prior to application for initial progression.

** Initial progression is also determined by the number of available field practice slots in social service agencies and classroom space. If the number of students who fulfill the above criteria exceeds the number of students that can be accommodated, students will be selected on the basis of cumulative GPA for courses completed, the grades received in Social Work 200, 250, evaluation of community service, and writing skills demonstrated in the application essay.

Full Progression
1. Successful completion of junior level social work courses with a grade of C or better.
2. Cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above.
3. Successful completion of a minimum of 90 semester hours. Full progression must be completed prior to enrollment in 400-level social work courses.
4. Favorable approval by the Bachelor of Science Social Work faculty prior to entry into senior-level classes. This process will include a review of the student’s performance in junior field practice.

Full progression is based on the recognition that social work has an intensive field component in which students demonstrate aptitude and ability to work with other people. While review is ongoing, full progression provides an additional opportunity to review the students’ potential for entry-level practice.

Requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Social Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
<th>Hours Credit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English 101, 102*</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign Language (Intermediate Level)*</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics 113*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology 101-102*</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Work 200</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology 110*</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Studies 210*</td>
<td>3</td>
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** Total 120

1 Foreign Language (Intermediate Level)*
2 Meets University General Education requirement.
3 Educational Interpreting 223 American Sign Language I and 226 American Sign Language II will fulfill the Foreign Language requirement but will not meet the General Education requirement.
4 One course selected from Women’s Studies 220, 310, 320, 330, 332, 340, 375, 382, 425, 434, 453, 483.
5 One course selected from Classics 253; English 201, 202, 221, 222, 231, 232, 233, 235, 251, 252, 253, 254.
6 One course selected from Philosophy 110, 111, 242, 244, 245, 246, 290.
7 One of the following sequences may be selected: Africana Studies 235-236; Asian Studies 101-102; History 241-242; History 261-262; Latin American Studies 251-252; Medieval Studies 201-202; Religious Studies 101-102.
8 One course selected from Anthropology 313, 316, 319; Classics 381, 382; English 302; Geography 372, 373, 379; German 363; History 320, 360, 361, 374, 375; Philosophy 326; Political Science 350, 361; Religious Studies 332, 386; French 432; Sociology 442, 446; Women’s Studies 360.
9 One course selected from Anthropology 313; English 441; Geography 363, 365; History 439, 444, 449; Political Science 315; Religious Studies 351.

Intercollegiate/Interdisciplinary Minor in Gerontology
An intercollegiate/interdisciplinary undergraduate minor in gerontology is available. See Department of Instructional Technology, Health, and Educational Studies in the College of Education, health, and Human Sciences for required courses.