

Department of Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology
College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Published August 2014

Effective for students through Spring 2015

Social Work Program

Utah State University's Social Work Program offers a baccalaureate degree (BA/BS) in social work. The program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and meets requirements established by the State of Utah for licensure of social service workers.

The program's guiding educational philosophy is based on two broad traditions: generalist social work practice and (2) the Land-grant University heritage. The social work program provides a learning environment for those who seek to acquire knowledge and skills in order to bring about meaningful social change in individuals, groups, communities, and society. The program provides grounding in generalist social work knowledge, values and skills, such as critical thinking, clarification of personal values, awareness of diversity, professional use of self, and communication and interpersonal relationship skills. The program mission is to prepare social workers for generalist practice in a diverse society and to equip students with the knowledge and skills essential to the enhancement of the quality of life for all persons.

Program Goals

There are two fundamental goals that guide the Social Work Program:

1. To prepare students for employment as generalist social workers or for advanced education through instruction in a professional foundation curriculum and selected liberal arts education coursework.
2. To prepare leaders for responsible citizenship, a commitment to respect for all people, and the quest for social and economic justice, as informed by their application of generalist social work knowledge, values, and skills.

The program is based on a generalist conception of social work and a problem-solving, empowerment, and strengths model of practice. The social work curriculum stresses problem-solving at the interface of person and environment, which requires that students develop a repertoire of generalist practice skills. The program inculcates in students the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to promote human and community well-being utilizing a theoretical knowledge base. The program is committed to the quest for social and economic justice, and the enhancement of the quality of life for all persons, building a student's education on a base that includes a liberal arts perspective vital to the development of a social worker.

The program prepares students for advanced standing in graduate professional programs and to provide a foundation for continuing education. To accomplish this, the program facilitates the development of the profession's knowledge, values, and skills; incorporates a well-rounded liberal arts education; application of written and oral communication skills, and the ability to think critically.

The program endeavors to maintain a campus environment that fosters a sense of community and social responsibility. To accomplish this, the program provides opportunities for community service activities, professional development, and opportunities for scientific inquiry through the state-affiliated National Association of Social Workers student organization and the Social Work Phi Alpha Honor Society.

Code of Conduct

During academic and field training, students are required to abide by the Code of Ethics and standards of conduct specified by the NASW *Code of Ethics* and the Utah State Board of Social Work Examiners. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the Social Work program. A more complete discussion of Social Work program policies can be found at: <http://socialwork.usu.edu/SSC.aspx>

Academic Advisement

All students should contact the department peer advisor for assistance with course selection, program planning, and meeting graduation requirements. The peer advisor's email address and office hours can be located at: <http://socialwork.usu.edu/>.

University Studies Requirements for Social Work Major

Degree Works, which can be found through Banner, outlines all general education, depth, and social work program requirements.

Note: Approved University Studies courses and requirements are listed in the *General Catalog*. The most current listings are shown online at:

<http://www.usu.edu/generalcatalog/>

Social Work Major Requirements

Minimum GPA for Admission: Social Work Major 2.75, USU 2.5, Career 2.5.

Additional Matriculation Requirements: Students must apply for Advanced Standing in the Social Work major at the end of their sophomore year. Application requirements include: a C or better (C+ in SW 1010) in all prerequisite social work courses and specific University Studies courses, an essay, and a passing score (70% or higher) on the Advanced Placement Test (APT). At the end of the junior year, social work majors apply for the practicum, which requires a passing score (70% or higher) on the Generalist Practice Test (GPT) and a B- or better in all practice classes.

Minimum GPA for Graduation: 2.75, major; 2.0, USU; 2.0, Career.

Minimum Grade Accepted: C+ in SW 1010, B- in SW 3050, 4150, and 4160; C in remaining major courses.

Transfer of Credits: Students who wish to transfer credit from a CSWE-accredited social work program or from a school with which USU has an articulation agreement must submit that transfer credit application to the USU Admissions office. Classes that are 10+ years old cannot ordinarily substitute for a required class. Students cannot substitute life experience/work experience/service for academic credit.

Social Work Major

Students may declare Social Work as their major at any time. All course offerings in social work are open to all social work majors, with the exception of the practice courses (SW 3050, 4150, and 4160) and the field practicum courses (SW 4870 and 5870), which require admission to advanced standing. Social work students are expected to take courses in sequence in order to have the professional foundation knowledge required for each class. Maintenance of a high grade point average is important as students progress through the major and continue on to graduate school.

First Year	Credits
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 1010* Introduction to Social Welfare (F,Sp)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> ANTH 1010 (BSS) Cultural Anthropology (F,Sp)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> BIOL 1010 (BLS) Biology and the Citizen (F,Sp,Su)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> ENGL 1010 (CL1) Introduction to Writing: Academic Prose (F,Sp,Su)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> FCHD 1500 (BSS) Human Development Across the Lifespan (F,Sp)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> PSY 1010 (BSS) General Psychology (F,Sp,Su)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SOC 1010 (BSS) Introductory Sociology (F,Sp)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> STAT 1040 (QL)** Introduction to Statistics (F,Sp,Su)	3

*Students must take SW 1010 before taking SW 2100 and 2400.

**Students must complete STAT 1040 with a grade of C- or better as a prerequisite to SOC 3120.

Second Year	Credits
<input type="checkbox"/> ENGL 2010 (CL2) Intermediate Writing: Research Writing in a Persuasive Mode (F,Sp,Su)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 2100* Human Behavior in the Social Environment (Sp)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 2400* Social Work with Diverse Populations (Sp)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> One elective enrichment course	3

*SW 2100 and 2400 are *only* offered during spring semester each year.

Social Work Major

Procedures for Advanced Standing in the Social Work Major. In order to be considered for advanced standing, students must turn in a completed application form by March 1 of the academic year. Applications can be obtained in the Social Work Office, Main 239 or online. At the end of spring semester, when the criteria for advanced standing have been met, eligible students will be ranked according to their grade point average, personal statement, performance on the APT, and faculty

evaluation. The highest ranking students will be admitted to advanced standing, which will allow them to enroll in upper-division practice courses.

To be considered for advanced standing, students must meet the following minimum criteria:

1. Completion of the following courses with a C or better: ANTH 1010 (BSS), BIOL 1010 (BLS), ENGL 1010 (CL1) and 2010 (CL2), FCHD 1500 (BSS), PSY 1010 (BSS), SOC 1010 (BSS), and SW 2100 and 2400.
2. Completion of SW 1010 with a grade of C+ or better.
3. Junior status (61-90 credits) upon application.
4. Maintenance of a minimum overall GPA of 2.5 and a minimum GPA of 2.75 in social work classes.
5. No *Pass-D-Fail* grades in courses required for the major.

Students applying for advanced standing will be evaluated on the following:

1. Social Work GPA of 2.75 or higher and minimum overall GPA of 2.5.
2. Personal statement/self-assessment of commitment to and participation in extracurricular and volunteer activities, a discussion of career goals, interests, and aspirations congruent with NASW values and purposes.
3. Quality of written material.
4. A satisfactory score (70% or higher) on the APT.
5. Faculty evaluation of professional use of self in the classroom as indicated by participation and class attendance, and in program-associated activities.

Since Social Work is a professional program whose students should have the capacity to work with vulnerable populations, the program reserves the right to seek additional information, such as references from employers and others. **Students should also be aware that if there are any personal data, such as that included on the application for state licensure, which may indicate a potential threat to the public safety and welfare, a student may be denied advanced standing in the program.** Students turned down for advanced standing will be assisted in finding a more suitable major or may reapply during the following year.

Leave of Absence: After admission to Advanced Standing, students may request a leave of absence from the Social Work program. They must contact the program and reapply in March of the year preceding the requested reinstatement.

To maintain advanced standing and eligibility for graduation as a Social Work Major, a student (1) must obtain a B- or better in SW 3050, 4150, and 4160, (2) must have completed SW 1010 with a C+ or better, (3) must maintain a minimum overall GPA of 2.5 or better and a minimum 2.75 GPA in the social work major, (4) must receive a grade of C or better in all other courses required for the major, (5) must not repeat more than once any course required for the major, and (6) must not receive a Pass-D-Fail grade for any course required for the major.

Third Year	Credits
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 3050* Practice I (F)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 4100 (CI) Social Work Research (F)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 4150 Practice II (Sp)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 4160 Practice III (Sp)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SOC 3120 (QI)** Social Statistics I (F,Sp,Su)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Two elective enrichment courses	6

*Prior to taking SW3050, students must apply for advanced standing
 **C- or better in STAT1040 (Introduction to Statistics), plus 6 credits in Social Work and/or Sociology courses, are prerequisites for this course. SOC 3120 must be completed prior to graduation with a social work degree.

Fourth Year	Credits
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 4870 Beginning Field Practicum (F)	6
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 5350 (CI) Social Welfare Policy (F)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 5870 Advanced Field Practicum (Sp)	6

Required Elective Enrichment Courses

Nine credits of electives are needed to graduate with a degree in social work. At least two electives are to be taken in Social Work, and one upper-division elective (3000 or above) can be taken outside of Social Work.

	Credits
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 3350 Child Welfare	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 3360 Adolescents: Theories, Problems, and Issues	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 3450 School Social Work	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 3550 Social Gerontology	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 3650 Mental Health	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 3850 Spirituality & Social Work	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 4900* Topical Issue Seminar	3

Students are encouraged to tailor their electives toward their practicum choices.

Procedures for Admission to Field Practicum

The field practicum courses are SW 4870 (Beginning Field Practicum) and SW 5870 (Advanced Field Practicum). Students may register for SW 4870 only after completing all required coursework by the end of spring semester (as outlined in the third year required courses) and taking the GPT on which they must receive a satisfactory (70% or higher) score. Students may contact the practicum director, Dr. Diane Calloway-Graham with questions or concerns diane.calloway-graham@usu.edu.

The following are eligibility criteria for admission to the field practicum

1. Senior status (92-120 credits completed). Only those students who are candidates for the baccalaureate degree in social work may be admitted to the field practicum.
2. A grade of B- or better in SW 3050, 4150, and 4160.
3. No *Pass-D-Fail* grades received in courses required for the major.
4. Demonstration of appropriate professional, moral, and ethical character, and must abide by the NASW *Code of Ethics*.
5. Maintenance of an overall minimum GPA of 2.5 and a 2.75 minimum GPA in the social work major.
6. A satisfactory score (70% or higher) on the GPT.

Students should also be aware that if there are any personal data, such as that included on the application for state licensure, which indicates a potential threat to the public safety and welfare, and might affect a student's ability to pass a background check, a student may be denied continuation in the program. If a student is denied admission to the practicum, the faculty will review his or her file upon request. Students entering the practicum cannot ordinarily begin their placement earlier than the start of fall semester; this practice falls outside of the social work program's responsibility and any accrued hours will not count toward the practicum.

Social Work Student Organizations

The Social Work Program recognizes the importance of student opportunities to learn and socialize outside of the classroom. Students are encouraged to be become involved with the NASW student organization, as well as the USU Social Work Program Theta Gamma chapter of the Phi Alpha Honor Society. Information is available in Main 239.

Requirement Changes

Graduation requirements shown here are subject to change. Students should check with the social work program concerning possible changes.

Materials for Persons with Disabilities

This requirement sheet is available in digital format, recordings, or large print upon request to the USU Disability Resource Center.

For information contact:

Social Work Program

Social Work office (435) 797-1286;

<http://socialwork.usu.edu>

or

Dr. Terry Peak, Professor & Director

Main 239, 0730 Old Main Hill

Utah State University

Logan UT 84322-0730

Terry.peak@usu.edu

or

College of HaSS Advising Center;

Taggart Student Center 302

Utah State University

0107 Old Main Hill

Logan UT 84322-0107

(435) 797-3883;

e-mail: mary.leavitt@usu.edu; reid.furniss@usu.edu

website: http://www.usu.edu/hass_advising/chassstudents/sw/

Licensure

In the State of Utah, graduates with a bachelor's degree in Social Work are eligible to be licensed as social service workers upon graduation. Students may obtain further information on licensure from:

Department of Commerce
 Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing
 160 East 300 South, PO Box 146741
 Salt Lake City UT 84114-6741
 Tel. (801) 530-6628, Fax (801) 530-6511
<http://www.dopl.utah.gov>

Revised by the Social Work Program 5/2014