
SOCIAL WORK

FACULTY

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DEGREE PROGRAMS

- BA in Social Work
- BS in Social Work

UNDERGRADUATE MINOR

- Social Welfare

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

The Department of Social Work offers an undergraduate program leading to the Bachelor of Arts or the Bachelor of Science degree. A minor in social welfare is also available. The curriculum is designed to prepare students for beginning generalist professional practice in social work and other human service fields. Students learn current social work methods, skills, theories, values, and ethics for practice with various populations and, most especially, with the region's diverse and vulnerable populations. The program builds on a liberal arts perspective, providing students with a foundation for critical thinking, effective communication, and ethical behavior that will be of daily importance to them in professional practice.

Career opportunities are vast and varied and include child protective services, juvenile justice, and mental health workers; domestic abuse, family court and probation officers; residential counselor, patient advocate; and welfare department social worker. Social work majors also complete the program well prepared for graduate study and may be eligible for consideration for advanced standing at some graduate schools of social work.

The college's social work department is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, allowing graduates to apply for social work licensure in Massachusetts at the Licensed Social Worker (LSW) level after completing their bachelor's degree.

The program integrates theory with field experience through required courses held in conjunction with a variety of community social service agencies. The Introduction to Social Welfare course acquaints students with the field as they participate in community service in a social service agency. In Junior Year Fieldwork Practice, students spend a minimum of 90 hours during one semester at an agency learning how it functions and about the professional roles of social workers. This course lays the foundation for the senior year Field Experience course. The field experience meets from September through May and entails a minimum of 400 hours under the supervision of a professional social worker at the Master of Social Work level. Each of these courses is explained in detail in the "Course Description" section of this catalog.

SOCIAL WORK MAJOR

- SW 250 Introduction to Social Welfare
- SW 270 Social Work Issues of Diversity and Oppression
- SW 320 Human Behavior and Social Environment I
- SW 321 Human Behavior and Social Environment II
- SW 330 Generalist Practice I
- SW 350 Social Welfare Policy
- SW 398 Junior Year Fieldwork Practice
- SW 431 Generalist Practice II
- SW 432 Generalist Practice III
- SW 440 Research Methods in Social Work
- SW 498 Field Experience in Social Work

Required cognates:

- PY 100 Introductory Psychology
- SO 102 Introduction to Sociology
- One additional psychology course
- One semester in a human biology course

Recommended Social Work Electives:

- SW 150 Introduction to Social Work
- SW/WS 304 The Psychosocial Development of Women
- SW 305 Child Welfare
- SW 328 Women and Social Services
- SW 333 Social Work with the Aged and Their Families
- SW 334 Intervention with Family Systems
- SW 399 Special Topics in Social Work

SW 400	Social Services in the Health Care Field
SW/HE 403	Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Delivery of Health Services
SW 415	Social Services in Alcohol and Substance Abuse
SW 435	School Social Work - History, Theory and Issues
SW 437	Social Work with Multicultural and Multiethnic Families
SW 446	Social Work Practice with Groups
SW 499	Directed Study in Social Work

General Education Requirements (GER)

A minimum of 120 earned hours is required for graduation. These earned hours include General Education Requirements as specified in the Undergraduate Academic Programs section of this catalog. For additional graduation requirements, see the Undergraduate Academic Policies section of this catalog.

SOCIAL WELFARE MINOR

This minor seeks to acquaint students in majors, concentrations, and preprofessional programs that interface with social work (e.g., sociology, psychology, anthropology, health, education, counseling, business, pre-law, pre-medicine, recreation) with the evolution of the social welfare structure in the United States (SW 250), the policies that result in social welfare programs (SW 350) and populations at particular risk (SW 270).

Required courses:

- SW 250 Introduction to Social Welfare
- SW 270 Social Work Issues of Diversity and Oppression
- SW 330 Generalist Practice I
- SW 350 Social Welfare Policy

Six additional credits in social work elective courses with the exceptions of SW 398 and SW 498.

ADMISSION TO THE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

Admission Requirements:

To be formerly admitted to the social work program, a student must:

1. Meet with an assigned social work adviser.
2. Complete a minimum of 36 hours of General Education Requirements that includes EN 101 Writing I and EN 102 Writing II, CC 130 Human Communication Skills, SO 102 Introduction to Sociology, PY 100 Introductory Psychology, a human biology course and, if possible, ML 102.
3. Have completed 60 hours of coursework with a minimum G.P.A. of 2.5. Students with a G.P.A. between 2.0 and 2.5 may petition the Social Work Program Admissions Committee that they be accepted into the major due to special circumstances. If the decision of the committee is favorable, such students will be granted **conditional acceptance** to the program only.
4. Have completed SW 250 and SW 270 with a social work course G.P.A. (including cognates) of 2.7 and no social work course grades below C. Students falling slightly below these standards will have their grade performance reviewed by the Social Work Program Admission Committee.
5. Demonstrate competency in oral and written communication since such skills are fundamental to and utilized in everyday social work practice. Students must have completed EN 101 Writing I, EN 102 Writing II and CC 130 Human Communications with a minimum grade of C+ in each course. A grade of C or C- in one of these courses may be accepted if the student agrees to consult the Writing Center and give proof that basic skill problems in a given area are identified and addressed.
6. Complete an application for admission to the social work program. This application includes basic biographical data, information on employment and volunteer experiences, and a two to four page self-evaluation of the student's interest, readiness and suitability for a career in social work. The purposes of the self-evaluation is to reflect the applicant's commitment to the goals and purposes of social work. The application is available through the student's assigned faculty adviser in the Department of Social Work. The application should be reviewed by the student's adviser and an additional social work faculty member.
7. Submit a current copy of his/her transcript that provides an up-to-date indication of cumulative and social work G.P.As.
8. Be successfully reviewed by the social work faculty. All information obtained through the admission process will be held in confidence. Knowingly making a false oral or written statement during the admission process could result in denial of admission to the program.

9. Sign a statement indicating that he/she has read and will follow the National Association of Social Worker's Code of Ethics. This code is printed in the Encyclopedia of Social Work and is available through the NASW Web site (www.naswdc.org).

Applicants are notified in writing by the Social Work Program Admissions Committee about the outcome of the admission process.

Only social work courses from four-year colleges accredited by the Council on Social Work Education will be granted equivalency credit with the possible exception of SW 250. Transfer students must provide evidence that these courses sufficiently correspond with the goals and objectives specified in courses within the Department of Social Work curriculum. Performance evaluations of any field work courses completed are also required. The only other course exception would be below-300 level required social work course offered on an off-campus site by a Bridgewater State College social work faculty person or other CSWE qualified social work faculty, provided the course is fully duplicative of the same course in the Department of Social Work's curriculum as determined through the official articulated agreement by the faculty after review.

An official transcript of past college work must be presented to a social work faculty adviser before permission can be granted to take required social work courses. The transcript must give evidence of a G.P.A. of 2.5 and satisfactory completion of equivalent GER and cognate courses that underpin the major. ML 102 must be taken when first entering Bridgewater State College if not beforehand.

Admission to Junior Field Placement

Students are eligible for admission to SW 398, the junior year field work experience, after being formally admitted into the social work program. They should have either completed SW 320 and SW 330 or plan to take these courses concurrently with SW 398. **A G.P.A. of 2.7 in social work courses and 2.5 overall must be achieved prior to admission to SW 398.** Students must also complete the department's Junior Prospective Intern Data Form and the Practicum/Internship Form required by the School of Arts and Sciences.

The social work faculty's field education coordinator discusses the placement with the student and arranges for an agency contact. The student then meets with the agency supervisor to discuss the placement, mutual

expectations and available learning opportunities. A final decision is reached by the field education coordinator after consultation with the student and the agency supervisor. Suggested readings and preplacement contacts are worked out on an individual basis.

Admission to Senior Field Placement

A student is eligible for placement in SW 498, the 400+ clock hour senior year field work experience, after being formally admitted into the social work program and after completing SW 320, SW 330 and SW 398 or being in the process of completing SW 398. In the spring semester each student applying for senior field placement is required to make an appointment with the field coordinator to discuss options and procedures. Applications are due no later than February 15 for placement in the following fall. Placements are from September to May and are not available during the summer.

All applications for field placement are reviewed by the Social Work Field Education Review Committee. The needs, strengths and interests of the students, as well as availability of agency and program placement resources, are discussed. Additionally, each applicant is interviewed by the social work field coordinator. Issues of concern that may have been identified during the applicant's program admission interview, if needed, are to be addressed with the applicant. Goals for the student and possible agency options are explored. A particular setting will be recommended on the basis of these variables.

The field education coordinator discusses the placement with the student and arranges for an agency contact. The student then meets with the agency supervisor to discuss the placement, mutual expectations and available learning opportunities. A final decision is reached by the field education coordinator after consultation with the student and the agency supervisor. Suggested readings and preplacement contacts are worked out on an individual basis.

It is recommended that each student join the National Association of Social Workers during the semester prior to field placement.

Retention in the Social Work Major

Students must remain in full compliance with all regulations, requirements, policies and procedures of the Department of Social Work, the college and the Council on Social Work Education. Students may be terminated

from the social work program if, in the professional judgement of the social work faculty, violations of professional and/or ethical codes have occurred. These violations are discussed in detail in the department's admission, termination and appeals policies and procedures. Dismissal from two field placements due to unacceptable performance will result in the termination of the student from the social work program. All students wishing to pursue a major in social work are strongly urged to obtain a copy of this document from the Department of Social Work. Coursework with a grade lower than C- must be repeated prior to graduation.

GRADUATE PROGRAM

Social work courses at the 400 level (except SW 498 and SW 499) may be taken for graduate credit in order to meet elective requirements in other graduate programs with the faculty adviser's approval.