

Undergraduate Social Work

Degrees Available at SIUE

- Bachelor of Social Work

Social Work at SIUE

The undergraduate social work program focuses on the knowledge, values and skills needed for social work practice. Its primary purpose is to prepare graduates for entry-level direct practice in social work. The Department of Social Work prepares BSW students for advanced standing in MSW programs. The undergraduate program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

The social work program prepares generalist social workers for many types of practice, and offers opportunities to explore specific interests through the selection of electives and the field placement setting. The primary professional purpose of social work is to promote social functioning and enhance social development at all system levels. The social worker acts as a facilitator of change with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities; promotes improvement in social conditions; serves as an advocate for people who are subject to discrimination or social or economic injustice; and provides individuals access to needed resources and services. In addition to completing on-campus course work, social work students engage in field work in local social service agencies in several courses. This culminates in the senior field placement (SOCW 482 and 483), which requires a minimum of 400 hours of supervised social work practice in a local agency over two consecutive semesters.

What can I do with a degree in social work?

The bachelor's degree in social work qualifies graduates for practice in entry-level positions in a wide range of social service settings. Most graduates work in child welfare, family service, mental health or health agencies. The bachelor's degree from a CSWE-accredited program qualifies graduates to take the licensed social worker (LSW) examination, as stipulated by the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation. In addition, many graduate social work programs offer advanced standing to qualified students with a bachelor's degree in social work from a CSWE-accredited program.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the social work program is competitive. Students begin as a major during the fall semester of their junior year. Students apply the year before being admitted in the fall. Students who apply before the end of January will have priority consideration, but applications will be accepted after January 31 if the cohort is not filled. To be admitted to the BSW program, students must submit through the SIUE Office of Academic Advising the following information after two semesters of full-time college or university enrollment:

- An application to SIUE certifying their admission to the University
- An academic transcript certifying that the student has a GPA of 2.5 or better at the time of application for admission to the BSW program

In addition, students transferring to SIUE may apply for direct declaration when applying for admission to SIUE, but must go through the regular admission process described herein.

To be eligible for admission to the BSW program, applicants must submit the following materials to the Department of Social Work by the end of January of the spring semester that precedes their junior year fall enrollment:

- An application for the BSW program form which includes; a) general information about the student, and b) information related to prerequisites taken and c) GPA (minimum of 2.5)
- A 400-word statement that describes social work
- A signed statement that s/he has read and agrees to abide by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics and the SIUE Department of Social Work BSW Behavior Policy

Students applying for entry into the program must:

- Have a GPA of at least 2.5 and have completed the equivalent (30 hours) of two full-time semesters at any college or university

SIUE

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Social Work



Department Administration

Jill Schreiber, MSW, LCSW, PhD

Department Chair

Gerald O'Brien, MSW, PhD
BSW Program Director

Jayne Swanke, MSW, CADC, PhD
MSW Program Director

Kim Carter, MSW, PhD
Field Education Director

Kelly Lasiter
Office Support Specialist

Faculty and Instructors

Venessa Brown, MSW, PhD
Professor, SIUE Associate Athletics Director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Chief Diversity Officer, Intercollegiate Athletics
1994, Clark Atlanta University

Kim Carter, MSW, PhD
Associate Professor
2010, Washington University

Jennifer Erwin, MSW, JD, PhD
Assistant Professor
2018, University of Tennessee

Aidan Ferguson, LCSW, MS
Assistant Professor
2021, Florida State University

R. Lane Forsman, LMSW, PhD
Assistant Professor
2020, Florida State University

Ariel Jones, MSW, LCSW, PhD
Assistant Professor
2017, St. Louis University

Gerald O'Brien, MSW, PhD
Professor
1997, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Lauren Raczkowski, MSW, LSW
Instructor
2002, Eastern Mennonite University

Jill Schreiber, MSW, LCSW, PhD
Associate Professor
2013, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Jayne Swanke, MSW CADC, PhD
Associate Professor
2009, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Sample Curriculum for the Bachelor of Social Work

Fall Semester

Spring Semester

	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
Year 1	BIOL 111 Contemporary Biology (BLS) or BIOL 140 Human Biology (BLS) 3 ENG 101 English Composition I 3 PSYC 111 Introduction to Psychology (BSS, EH) 3 ACS 101 Public Speaking 3 QR 101 , MATH 150 or Higher 3 FST 101 Succeeding & Engaging at SIUE 1 Total Credits 16	ANTH 111B Human Culture & Comm (BSS, EGC, EUSC) 3 ENG 102 English Composition II 3 RA 101 Reasoning & Argumentation 3 POLS 112 American National Government (BSS) 3 Elective 2 Total Credits 14
Year 2	HIST 201 U.S. History & Constitution: 1877 - Present (BSS, EL) 3 PSYC 206 Social Psychology (BSS) 3 Breadth Physical Science (BPS) with a lab (EL) 4 Foreign Language 101 or BICS 4 Total Credits 14	SOC 111 Introduction to Sociology (BSS) or SOC 300 Social Problems (BSS) 3 Breadth Fine & Performing Arts (BFPA) 3 SOCW 202 Introduction to the Social Work Profession 3 Foreign Language 102/Elective 4 Total Credits 13
Year 3	ENG 201 Intermediate Composition (BHUM) 3 SOCW 211 Micro Skills of Counseling 4 SOCW 302 Human Behavior in Social Environments I 3 SOCW 390 Diversity and Issues of Social & Economic Justice 3 Elective 3 Total Credits 16	SOCW 301 Introduction to Social Welfare Policy 3 SOCW 303 Human Behavior in Social Environments II 3 SOCW 315 Social Work Practice I 3 SOCW 316 Social Work Practice II 3 SOCW Elective 3 Total Credits 15
Year 4	SOCW 400 Social Work Practice III 3 SOCW 476 Quantitative Research and Analysis 3 SOCW 482 Field Instruction I 4 SOCW Elective 3 Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) 3 Total Credits 16	SOCW 401 Social Welfare Policy Analysis 3 SOCW 475 Qualitative Research and Analysis 3 SOCW 483 Field Instruction II 4 SOCW Elective 3 SOCW Elective 3 Total Credits 16
		Total Hours 120

Transfer Students: To maximize your transfer experience, complete the **bold** course requirements pre-transfer and satisfy either the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) General Ed Core or receive an AA, AS or AAT (early childhood, special ed or math) degree from an IAI community college. If minor requirements are shown, discuss careful course selection with the academic advising contact listed. Visit siue.edu/transfer to find course equivalency guides.

Admission Requirements, Cont.

- Demonstrate written proficiency in English by completing English composition I and II with a grade of C or better
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate clearly and effectively by completing an applied communication studies course in interpersonal communication with a grade of C or better
- Read, sign and agree to abide by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics and the SIUE Department of Social Work Standards for Social Work Education

Application materials are reviewed for approval or denial by the BSW admissions committee, composed of the director of the BSW program and two members of the BSW curriculum policy and planning committee. Students who plan to enter the program are expected to attend an orientation session.

Decisions regarding admission to the major are made in March, and students admitted will be allowed to declare as social work majors. Should spaces within the program remain after this date, the program will continue to consider applications until spaces are filled.

Only students who have been admitted into the program will be enrolled in the first major semester courses (SOCW 202, SOCW 211, SOCW 390, and SOCW 302) in the fall term.

It is important that students become familiar with sequencing and required courses for this major as well as the required supporting courses offered which are listed in the undergraduate catalog and the BSW handbook.

Graduation Requirements

All undergraduate majors in social work are required to complete a senior assignment as part of the BSW program and the University's assessment process. The social work senior assignment is composed of two parts:

- Standardized social work exam
- Final evaluation of student achievement of learning objectives completed by their field instructors

Students must maintain a 2.5 GPA. Because of the importance of field performance in ensuring competent graduates, students must receive a C or better in all field courses.

Contact Information

Social Work
 College of Arts and Sciences
 Phone: 618-650-5758
 Email: BSWProgram@siue.edu