

BSW Program Objectives:

The undergraduate program in social work fosters the development of generalist social work skills and prepares students to enter the social work profession or a graduate program in social work. Students are introduced to the important elements of generalist practice, including the history of the profession, the knowledge, skills, roles, and fields of practice of social workers, and the ethical and theoretical foundations of the profession. Students are trained in systems theory and its importance in the context of the generalist helping model. Curriculum content focuses heavily on issues related to at-risk populations and diversity, and the means of promoting social and economic justice. Candidates for graduation from the undergraduate program in social work at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville will demonstrate:

1. An awareness of **critical thinking skills** through their understanding of theoretical frameworks and the relationship of these frameworks to intervention with individuals, families, groups and communities, and through the ability to use critical thinking skills in their evaluation of various sources of knowledge for practice.
2. The ability to engage in effective **written and oral communication** with diverse client and professional populations, and to appropriately use social work communication skills.
3. An awareness of **social work values and ethics**, and of how their personal values relate to those of the profession.
4. An understanding of the various historical and contemporary **forms of oppression and discrimination** which affect **social and economic justice for at-risk populations** including race, ethnic and religious minorities, women, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, and gays and lesbians. Students will also demonstrate means of countering such oppression and discrimination.
5. An understanding of the **history and evolution of the social work profession**, including current services provided by social workers, **social work fields of practice**, and the social service delivery system in the Southwestern Illinois region.
6. An understanding of selected **theories of human behavior** which explain individual, family, group, organizational and community behavior, and will also demonstrate that they can apply such theories to social work practice at all systems levels (micro, mezzo, and macro).
7. An understanding of the **knowledge and skills of generalist social work** and the ability to apply these skills within the context of the problem-solving model.
8. An understanding of the public social welfare system in the United States, important **social policies** that impact at-risk populations, methods of analyzing these policies, and means of intervening within the political system.

9. An understanding of the importance of qualitative and quantitative **research** in social work, as well as an awareness of developing research designs, ethical and diversity issues in research, engaging in agency evaluation research, and evaluating published social work research.
10. The ability to engage in generalist social work practice under supervision in **practica** settings.
11. A commitment to **life-long learning**.