

# Social Work

College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Social Work

[siue.edu/social-work](http://siue.edu/social-work)

## Social Work at SIUE

The undergraduate social work program focuses on the knowledge, values and skills needed for social work practice and prepares generalist social workers for many types of practice. Students have the opportunity to explore their specific interests through electives and field placement settings. Graduates of the BSW program will also be well prepared to continue their education and earn a graduate degree in social work.

The primary professional purpose of social work is to promote social functioning and enhance social development at all system levels. In practice, social workers:

- Act as a facilitator of change with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities
- Promote improvement in social conditions
- Serve as an advocate for people who are subject to discrimination or social or economic injustice
- Provide individuals access to needed resources and services

In addition to completing on-campus coursework, our 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.

### Accreditation

The social work program at SIUE is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

## Degrees Available at SIUE

Bachelor of Social Work

### 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. Career options include but are not limited to:

- Child welfare
- Family service

- Mental health
- Health agencies

**Since our program is CSWE accredited, graduates are qualified to take the licensed social worker (LSW) examination.** 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 by January 31 will have priority consideration, but applications will be accepted through March or until the cohort is full.

To be eligible for admission to the BSW program, applicants (from SIUE or who are transferring in) must submit the following materials to the Department of Social Work by the January 31 of the spring semester that precedes their junior year fall enrollment. Applications will be accepted after this date should the cohort not be filled:

- 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 they have read and agree 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 at least two full-time semesters at any college or university

# Sample Curriculum for the Bachelor of Social Work

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

**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](http://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
- Completion of SOCW 202 or another introduction to social work course (note that an outside Introduction to Social Work can qualify a student for admission to the program, but all students must complete SOCW 202 in order to graduate with a BSW)

Application materials are reviewed for approval or denial by Social Work faculty, including the Director of the BSW program and members of the BSW committee. Students who plan to enter the program are expected to attend an orientation session.

Decisions regarding admission to the major are made in February or early 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 (Social Work Educational Assessment Project or SWEAP exam)
- Final evaluation of student achievement of learning objectives completed by their field instructors

Students must maintain a 2.5 GPA. Students must receive a C or better in all required social work courses.

Students who receive a D or F in a required social work course are only allowed to repeat it once, and must attain a C or better.

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## Contact Information

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