SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
Social Work
+ College for Public Health and Social Justice

Degree(s)
+ Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in social work
+ Accelerated five-year Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in social work and Master of social work (M.S.W.)
+ Minor in social work

Program Overview
Take your passion for social justice and your desire to serve and turn it into a profession. A degree in social work gives students the skills to improve the quality of life for individuals or communities faced with difficulties such as poverty, serious illness or disability.

Social workers seek to correct social injustices by helping their clients overcome obstacles in their lives. As a part of the newly-formed College for Public Health and Social Justice, Saint Louis University’s social work major is unique as students also learn the foundations of the global health care field, a growing area for social work employment.

SLU’s social work major teaches practical social service; graduates use the skills they learn here to bring about real social change.

Additional degree options include:
+ Accelerated program: High achieving students may apply to this selective program during their junior year of study. This accelerated program allows students to earn a B.S. in social work in four years and a Master of social work (M.S.W.) with just one additional year of study.
+ Honors courses: For students interested in the stimulating academic experiences and intellectual challenges provided by the University Honors Program, which offers honors-level social work courses in addition to honors core courses.
+ Minor: For those pursuing other majors who are also interested in social work, a minor in social work will give students an understanding of the profession and the core values of the field.

About the Faculty
Classes for the social work major are taught by the same faculty as Saint Louis University’s Master of social work program. Our faculty are internationally recognized as leaders in community engagement and have diverse research interests, including community development and organizing, diversity issues in social work practice and international social work.

Curriculum
The social work curriculum contains 39 credit hours of core courses covering topics such as human behavior and the social environment, social work practice and the American social welfare system. The core curriculum also includes three courses devoted to practical social work knowledge. During their senior year, students spend two–three days a week in a social service agency of their choice, supervised by an experienced social worker.

Science, math and humanities courses and electives fill out the remainder of the 120 credit hours required for the major, allowing students to pursue a minor and enjoy the full scope of a liberal arts education.

For students interested in a global education, SLU has a wide variety of programs, including a campus located in Madrid, Spain, where students can study abroad while earning SLU credit. Students in the social work major can also enroll in a two-week experiential course in Ghana, Mexico or India, which features concentrated study, lectures and interactions with the people of the respective country.

SLU has a strong service-learning component. Students embody SLU’s Jesuit mission by using the knowledge they gain in the classroom to serve others. Students can volunteer at organizations around St. Louis, and SLU collaborates with more than 250 social service agencies where students can explore different types of social work with guidance from seasoned professionals.

On campus, students can take part in University-wide service activities such as Make a Difference Day, immersion trips and spring break mission trips. Students can also participate in any of SLU’s diverse student organizations.

Contact
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Graduate Programs
+ Master of Social Work (M.S.W.)
For a full listing of graduate programs, visit graduate.slu.edu.

Learn More For course listings and more information about our faculty, visit socialwork.slu.edu.

Revised April 2015
Admission Requirements

Freshman: All applications are thoroughly reviewed with the highest degree of individual care and consideration to all credentials that are submitted. Solid academic performance in college preparatory course work is a primary concern in reviewing a freshman applicant’s file. College admission test scores (ACT or SAT) are used as an additional indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University and are used as qualifiers for certain University scholarship programs. To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be graduating from an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer: Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED. An official high school transcript and official test scores are required only of those students who have attempted fewer than 24 transferable semester hours (or 30 quarter hours) of college credit. Those having completed 24 hours or more of college credit need only submit a transcript from previously attended college(s). In reviewing a transfer applicant’s file, the office of admission holistically examines the student’s academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University.

Internships and Careers

Social work graduates from Saint Louis University can look forward to careers in a wide variety of settings. U.S. Labor Department projections indicate a steady demand in social work jobs in the years ahead. Most social workers specialize in an area of practice, including but not limited to:
+ Clinical work
+ Child welfare or family services
+ Mental health
+ Schools
+ Policy making and advocacy

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

+ Scholarships: awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
+ Financial Aid: provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For more information, visit the student financial services office online at finaid.slu.edu.