The School of Social Service’s Bachelor of Science in Social Work (BSSW) Program prepares undergraduate students for beginning professional social work practice. In responding to the overall mission of Saint Louis University, the goal of the BSSW Program is:

To develop competent, knowledge-guided generalists
- who are prepared for entry into beginning social work practice
- who are identified with the values and ethics of the social work profession, especially regarding poor, diverse, and oppressed populations
- who are committed to the service of others, and
- who seek the promotion of a peaceful and just society

In pursuing this goal, the BSSW Program has established the following objectives.

**Competence for Beginning Professional Practice**

**BSSW graduates shall be able to:**

1. Demonstrate the professional use of self.

2. Apply the knowledge and skills of generalist social work practice to systems of all sizes

3. Apply knowledge of bio-psycho-social variables that affect individual development and behavior, and use theoretical frameworks to understand the interactions among individuals and between individuals and social systems (e.g., families, groups, organizations, and communities).

4. Evaluate research studies and apply findings to practice, and, under supervision, to evaluate their own practice interventions and those of other relevant systems.

5. Understand the history of the social work profession and its current structures and issues.

6. Apply critical thinking skills within the context of professional social work practice.

7. Use supervision appropriate to generalist practice.

8. Function within the structure of organizations and service delivery systems and, under supervision, seek necessary organizational change.

**Identification With Values and Ethics of the Social Work Profession, Especially Regarding Poor, Diverse, and Oppressed Populations**

**BSSW graduates shall be able to:**

9. Practice within the values and ethics of the social work profession and with an understanding of and respect for the positive value of diversity.

10. Demonstrate understanding of, respect for, and acceptance of the unique characteristics of diverse population (e.g., groups distinguished by race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, age, or national origin).

11. Use communication skills differentially with a variety of client populations, colleagues, and members of the community.

12. Demonstrate an understanding of, respect for, and acceptance of the role of spiritual values and religious beliefs in people’s lives.

**Commitment of Service to Others**

**BSSW graduates shall be able to:**

13. Analyze the impact of social policies on client systems, workers, and agencies.

14. Participate in community projects and organizations (e.g., serve on community boards, donate time and expertise to address public issues, contribute to social causes and the common good).

**Commitment to Promoting a Peaceful and Just Society**

**BSSW graduates shall be able to:**

15. Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and the strategies of change that advance social and economic justice.

158 - School of Social Service

Faculty:
Faye Y. Abram, Ph.D.
Rebecca A. Banks, L.C.S.W.
Marla Berg-Weger, Ph.D.
Julie M. Birkenmaier, M.S.W.
William C. Brennan, Ph.D.
Ellen M. Burkemper, Ph.D.
Cynthia A. Loveland Cook, Ph.D.
Donald M. Linhorst, Ph.D.
William H. Padberg, D.S.W.
Roy A. Ruckdeschel, Ph.D.
Jan Wilson, L.C.S.W.

Social Work Program (B.S.S.W.)

Curriculum Requirements (120 hours):

**English: 9 Hours**
ENG-A190 Advanced Strategies of Rhetoric and Research
ENG-A202-290 Literary Studies
ENG-A400 Business & Professional Writing

**History: 6 Hours**
HS-A111 Origins of the Modern World to 1600
HS-A112 Origins of the Modern World 1600-present

**Philosophy & Theology: 15 Hours**
PL-A105 Historical Introduction to Philosophy: Self and Reality
PL-A205 Ethics
TH-A100 Theological Foundations
TH-A200 level or higher Theology course
PL/TH-A300/400 level Philosophy/Theology course

**Mathematics: 3 Hours**
RM-I410 Introduction to Inferential Statistics
or
PSY-A205 Understanding Statistics
or
MFA167 Statistics and Computers

**Natural Sciences: 6 Hours**
BL-A XXX, A course which focuses on Human Biology & a science elective from Anatomy, Biology, Earth & Atmospheric Science, Chemistry, or Physics

**Fine Arts: 3 Hours**
Any course that the student may be eligible to take in Art, Art History, Music, or Theatre

**Foreign Language: 6 Hours**
Any foreign language through the 115 level

**Social Science Requirements: 18 Hours**
SC-A110 Introduction to Sociology
POL-A110 American Political System
ECN-B190 Principles of Economics
PSY-A101 General Psychology
PSY-A431 Personality Theory
PSY-A439 Abnormal Psychology

**Electives: 15 Hours**
Electives should be taken which will enhance the social work major

Social Work Courses: 39 Hours
SW-S100 Fields of Action in Social Work
SW-S225 Human Development Through the Life Cycle
SW-S226 Self in Society
SW-S302 The American Social Welfare System
SW-S327 Diversity Issues in Social Work Practice
SW-S340 Theory & Methods of Social Work Practice I
SW-S372 Introduction to Social Work Research
SW-S441 Theory and Methods of Social Work Practice II
SW-S442 Theory and Methods of Social Work Practice III
SW-S481 Social Work Practicum I
SW-S482 Social Work Practicum II
SW-S486 Integrative Practice Seminar I
SW-S487 Integrative Practice Seminar II / Professional Portfolio

Social Service students may take only elective courses on a pass/no pass option. They must register for this option and follow the conditions stated in this Bulletin for Pass/No Pass option. (SW-S481 and SW-S482 are the exception. These two courses are only Pass/No pass.)

Typical Course of Study

The following is intended as an illustrative model for completing the requirements for the BSSW degree. Other patterns are possible in keeping with a student’s particular needs and interests.

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