School of Social Work

The School of Social Work’s Bachelor of Science in Social Work (BSSW) Program prepares undergraduate students for beginning professional social work practice. The BSSW degree provides generalist practice skills and is considered the first professional social work degree. BSSW graduates are eligible for membership in the principal professional organization, the National Association of Social Workers. In addition to preparing students for generalist social work practice, the BSSW program is intended to provide an excellent foundation for those who wish to pursue graduate education in social work or in other graduate programs.

The BSSW program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). CSWE accreditation is important for at least three reasons. First, it promotes a high quality, comprehensive social work education. Second, some states, including Missouri, offer professional licensure to graduates of CSWE-accredited undergraduate programs. Third, many Master of Social Work (MSW) programs grant advanced standing (i.e. waiver of introductory social work courses) to graduates of CSWE-accredited undergraduate social work programs. For example, the Saint Louis University MSW program usually waives the first 18 credit hours for students who receive advanced standing, so students have to take 39 credit hours rather than the full 57 credits for the MSW degree and may then be able to complete both the BSSW and MSW degrees in five years.

Emphases of the BSSW Program
The BSSW Program at Saint Louis University has two areas of emphasis.

**Skilled Practitioners** - The program is dedicated to ensuring that graduates are skilled practitioners. To accomplish this, the program includes five classes devoted specifically to social work practice skills. These courses address all levels of social work practice, as well as social work practice with diverse and oppressed populations. Students ground the skills they learn in the classroom through their application in a social service agency. During their senior year, BSSW students complete 16 to 20 hours per week of field practicum under the supervision of an experienced MSW-level social worker. Students can choose their placement from over 400 agencies in the St. Louis area that have contracts with the School of Social Work.

**Commitment to Social Justice** - The BSSW Program’s commitment to social justice is reflective of the social work profession as a whole, as well as the Jesuit and University mission. Social work students are introduced to the concept of social justice in their first social work course and further discuss it throughout the social work curriculum. Students’ commitment to social justice is enhanced through work of the School of Social Work’s Center for Social Justice Education and Research. This Center promotes social justice through the funding of student projects, including field practica that emphasize social justice; collaborative research projects involving students, faculty, and community agencies; and educational workshops and conferences.

Careers in Social Work
Social workers have many career opportunities. Some social workers chose to do direct practice with individuals, families, or groups. Others are program directors and administrators in social service agencies. Still others work as legislative advocates, engage in neighborhood and community practice, or conduct research. The following is a small sample of the areas in which social workers may be employed: aging and gerontology, substance abuse treatment, child welfare, family practice, mental illness and development disabilities, health care, international social work, juvenile justice and adult corrections, occupational social work, and school social work. Some social work jobs in these areas require an MSW degree, while many have entry-level positions for graduates with a BSSW degree.

Dual Degrees, Second Majors and Minors
Many social work students choose to obtain a dual degree, a second major, a minor, or a certificate to enhance their social work education. Some of the most common ones include International Studies, Theology, Psychology, Criminal Justice, Spanish, Urban Affairs, Women's Studies, Business Certificate, African American Studies, and the Micah House Certificate in Urban Social Analysis.
Admission to the BSSW Program
Incoming freshmen, students changing their majors, and transfer students can identify social work as their intended major. As a professional school, the School of Social Work employs an additional and separate process for formal admission to the social work major. Formal admission to the social work major typically occurs at the end of the sophomore year.

5-Year Program (BSSW and MSW in 5 Years)
BSSW students interested in pursuing their MSW at Saint Louis University have the opportunity to complete their BSSW and MSW degrees in five years. BSSW students who receive a grade of "B" or better in their undergraduate social work courses receive 18 credit hours of graduate credit ("advanced standing") for those courses. Additionally, with careful planning, students can take up to 9 graduate credit hours (3 courses) during their senior year. Students then graduate with a total of 27 credit hours toward their MSW. Students would need to complete only 30 credit hours. Students could begin taking courses either during the summer or fall following their May graduation. All courses could be completed within three semesters (Summer, Fall, and Spring; or Fall, Spring, and Summer). Students considering this option will need to carefully plan their schedules with their undergraduate social work faculty advisor to accomplish this.

Evening BSSW Program for Working Adults
The School of Social Work has partnered with the School for Professional Studies to offer a BSSW degree during the evening and weekend hours for working adults. Students initially enroll in the School for Professional Studies and take their core courses (57 credits), elective courses (24 credits), and introductory social work courses (6 credits). After both social work courses and a minimum of 60 credit hours are completed, students apply to the School of Social Work as a social work major. After being accepted into the School of Social Work and completing 90 credit hours, students then transfer to the School of Social Work to complete their junior and senior social work courses.

School of Social Work Faculty:
Faye Y. Abram, Ph.D.
James Allen, Ph.D.
Rebecca A. Banks, M.S.W.
Dorothy Becvar, Ph.D.
Marla Berg-Weger, Ph.D.
Julie M. Birkenmaier, Ph.D.
William C. Brennan, Ph.D.
Ellen M. Burkemper, Ph.D.
Cynthia A. Loveland Cook, Ph.D.
Jami Curley, Ph.D.
Pamela Huggins, M.S.W.
Donald M. Linhorst, Ph.D.
Michael Mancini, Ph.D.
Roy A. Ruckdeschel, Ph.D.
John J. Stretch, Ph.D.
Susan S. Tebb, Ph.D.
Sabrina Watson Tyuse, Ph.D.
Stephen Wernet, Ph.D.
Jan Wilson, Ph.D.

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

Curriculum Requirements (120 hours):

English & Communication: 9 Hours
ENGL 190 Advanced Strategies of Rhetoric and Research
ENGL 202-290 Literary Studies
CMM 120 Public Speaking

History: 6 Hours
HIST 112 Origins of the Modern World 1600-present
HIST 261 History of the United States Since 1865
Philosophy & Theology: 12 Hours  
PHIL 105 Historical Introduction to Philosophy: Self and Reality  
PHIL 205 Ethics  
THEO 100 Theological Foundations  
THEO 200 level or higher Theology course  

Mathematics: 3 Hours  
RMET 410 Introduction to Inferential Statistics (recommended) or an approved statistics course offer through the Mathematics Department  

Natural Sciences: 3 Hours  
BIOL XXX, Recommend a course in human biology, although will accept environmental science or other science courses  

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 freshmen level  

Social Science Requirements: 15 Hours  
SOC 110 Introduction to Sociology  
POLS 110 American Political System  
ECON 190 Principles of Economics  
PSY 101 General Psychology  
PSY 439 Abnormal Psychology  

Electives: 24 Hours  
Electives should be taken which will enhance the social work major  

Required Social Work Courses: 39 Hours  
SWRK 100 Introduction to Social Work  
SWRK 227 Human Behavior and the Social Environment  
SWRK 302 The American Social Welfare System  
SWRK 327 Diversity and Anti-Oppression Practice  
SWRK 351 Social Work Practice I: Communication Skills  
SWRK 352 Social Work Practice II: Individuals and Families  
SWRK 372 Introduction to Social Work Research  
SWRK 451 Social Work Practice III: Groups  
SWRK 452 Social Work Practice IV: Organizations and Communities  
SWRK 481 Social Work Practicum I  
SWRK 482 Social Work Practicum II  
SWRK 486 Integrative Practice Seminar I  
SWRK 487 Integrative Practice Seminar II  

Social Work Elective Courses  
Selected MSW elective courses available at the 700 and 800 levels are available to senior and in some cases junior social work students for BSSW credit. Each semester a list of elective courses is made available to students. Below is a partial list of those BSSW/MSW elective courses.  
SWRK 701 Social Justice: Human Liberation and Community Building  
SWRK 703 International Social Work: Experiencing Community Among the Poor in Mexico  
SWRK 703 International Social Work: The Ghana Experience  
SWRK 717 Foundations of Peacemaking  
SWRK 729 Corrections and Social Work  
SWRK 744 Substance Abuse Treatment with Individuals and Families  
SWRK 764 Children and Families in Social Service Systems  
SWRK 786 End of Life Care and Social Work  
SWRK 790 Feminist Approaches to Social Work Practice: Not for Women Only  
SWRK 898 Interprofessional Care of Medically Underserved Populations  

Pass/No Pass Option  
Social Work students may not take any Social Work courses as Pass/No Pass, with the exception of SWRK481 and SWRK482 that are offered as Pass/No Pass courses only.
Students wishing to take non-Social Work courses as Pass/No Pass must register for this option and follow the conditions stated in this Bulletin for the Pass/No Pass option.

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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Minor in Social Work

Minimum of 18 credit hours

Required courses:
- SWRK 100 Introduction to Social Work
- SWRK 227 Human Behavior and the Social Environment
- SWRK 351 Social Work Practice I: Communication Skills

Select three of the following courses:
- SWRK 302 American Welfare System
- SWRK 327 Diversity and Anti-Oppression Practice
- SWRK 352 Social Work Practice II: Individuals and Families
- SWRK 372 Introduction to Social Work Research

An MSW elective course available to seniors with approval of the instructor

Students considering pursuing an MSW degree will not be able to obtain Advanced Standing toward the MSW degree with a minor in social work. Only students with a Bachelor of Science in Social Work degree can obtain Advanced Standing.
Additional Information
Please contact the Director of the BSSW Program for additional information (Tegeler Hall, 200 East, 314-977-2712).