The School of Social Service'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 to graduates of CSWE-accredited undergraduate social work programs. For example, the Saint Louis University MSW program waives the first 18 credit hours for students who receive advanced standing, so students have to take 36 credit hours rather than 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 classes 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 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 Service.

Commitment to Social Justice
- The BSSW Program's commitment to social justice is reflected in both the social work profession as a whole as well as the local and University mission. Social work students are introduced to the concept of social justice in their first social work practice course and further discuss it throughout the social work curriculum. Students' commitment to social justice is enhanced through work of the School of Social Service's Center for Social Justice Education and Research. This Center promotes social justice through the funding of student projects, including field practice that emphasizes social justice collaborative research projects involving students, faculty, and community partners.

Careers in Social Work

Social workers have many career opportunities. Some social workers choose 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, social work, 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.

Second Majors and Minors

Many social work students choose to obtain a second major, a minor, or a certificate to enhance their social work degree. Saint Louis University has collaborative programs in Psychology, 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. Qualified students are then admitted to the social work major. Admission to the social work major typically occurs at the end of the sophomore year. 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 advanced standing can earn a total of 57 credits in their undergraduate social work courses, allowing them to begin taking courses and completing requirements for the MSW degree in their first year. BSSW students who do not receive advanced standing must complete all 57 credits in their undergraduate social work courses.

The 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 advanced standing in their undergraduate social work courses can begin taking courses and completing requirements for the MSW degree in their first year. BSSW students who do not receive advanced standing must complete all 57 credits in their undergraduate social work courses. 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 graduate social work advisor to accomplish this.
School of Social Work Program (B.S.S.W.)

Curriculum Requirements (120 hours):

English & Communication: 9 Hours
ENGL 200-201 Literary Studies
CMM 120 Public Speaking

History: 6 Hours
HIST 111 Origins of the Modern World to 1600
HIST 112 Origins of the Modern World 1600-present

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
or
MATH 167 Statistics and Computers

Natural Sciences: 3 Hours
BIOL 100, A course which focuses on Human Biology

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

Required Social Work Courses: 42 Hours
SWRK 100 Fields of Action in Social Work
SWRK 225 Human Development Through the Life Cycle
SWRK 226 Self in Society
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 407 Child Welfare
SWRK 703 International Social Work: Experiencing Community Among the Poor in Mexico
SWRK 708 International Social Work: The Ghana Experience
SWRK 710 Social Work Practice II: Individuals and Families
SWRK 714 Substance Abuse Interventions
SWRK 808 Intergenerational Care of Practically Underserved Populations
SWRK 790 Feminist Approaches to Social Work Practice

Pass/No Pass Option
Social Service students may not take any Social Work courses as Pass/No Pass, with the exception of SWRK 481 and SWRK 482 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.

Fall Semester

SOCIAL SCIENCE
SOC 110 Introduction to Sociology
POLS 110 American Political System
ECON 190 Principles of Economics
PSY 101 General Psychology
PSY 439 Abnormal Psychology

ENGLISH & COMMUNICATION
ENGL 200-201 Literary Studies
CMM 120 Public Speaking

HISTORY
HIST 111 Origins of the Modern World to 1600
HIST 112 Origins of the Modern World 1600-present

PHILOSOPHY & THEOLOGY
PHIL 105 Historical Introduction to Philosophy: Self and Reality
PHIL 205 Ethics
THEO 100 Theological Foundations
THEO 200 level or higher Theology course

MATHEMATICS
RMET 410 Introduction to Inferential Statistics
or
MATH 167 Statistics and Computers

NATURAL SCIENCES
BIOL 100, A course which focuses on Human Biology

FINE ARTS
Any course that the student may be eligible to take in Art, Art History, Music, or Theatre.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE
Any foreign language through the 115 level.

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SWRK 100 Fields of Action in Social Work
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SWRK 226 Self in Society
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 407 Child Welfare
SWRK 703 International Social Work: Experiencing Community Among the Poor in Mexico
SWRK 708 International Social Work: The Ghana Experience
SWRK 710 Social Work Practice II: Individuals and Families
SWRK 714 Substance Abuse Interventions
SWRK 808 Intergenerational Care of Practically Underserved Populations
SWRK 790 Feminist Approaches to Social Work Practice

Spring Semester

SOCIAL SCIENCE
SOC 110 Introduction to Sociology
POLS 110 American Political System
ECON 190 Principles of Economics
PSY 101 General Psychology
PSY 439 Abnormal Psychology

ENGLISH & COMMUNICATION
ENGL 200-201 Literary Studies
CMM 120 Public Speaking

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