

# SOCIAL WORK, B.S.W.

**Faculty** Larry Livingston, Martin Martsch, Sandra Mills, Michael Townsend, Don Yohe (emeritus)

**Associated Faculty** Rachell Anderson, Carol Rankin

**Adjunct Faculty** Jan Whitt

## **Degree offered:** Bachelor of Social Work

The bachelor's degree in social work is a nationally accredited degree (Council on Social Work Education) that gives students the education and skills necessary to provide direct services to clients in a wide variety of human service agencies. Generalist practice, as it is called in social work, encompasses all client groups and all levels of service, from individuals to national social policy. This is a professional program involving a great deal of time and commitment. In addition, professional preparation requires each student to look at his/her own development of values, attitudes, knowledge, and skills.

The program at UIS is dedicated to the achievement of social justice and human rights for all citizens.

**Contact:** Information about the social work program is available at (217) 206-6687. Information can also be requested at [swk@uis.edu](mailto:swk@uis.edu).

## **ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

An application process is required for admission to the

program. Students must first be admitted to UIS and then make separate application to the social work program. Acceptance is based on a combination of previous academic record, personal development, and motivation for service in the field. The admission process can be initiated any time during the year, but UIS acceptance and all program application requirements must be completed and on file in the program office by March 1 for priority fall admission. The admission process may include a personal interview with the applicant and a writing sample.

The curricular sequence begins in the summer or fall of each year. A student who wishes to begin studies in the spring should consult with the program director. He/she may be granted permission to enroll before program acceptance, but this does not constitute admission to the program or to UIS. Students so enrolled are not eligible for financial assistance.

Because the professional preparation requirements of the social work curriculum are extensive, the program urges prospective students to begin this preparation before starting at UIS. A broad knowledge

background in the social sciences is essential. Therefore, the program requires preparatory work in general psychology, sociology/anthropology, biology, political science, and statistics. Students should contact the social work program office for details.

## **ADVISING**

Majors will be assigned faculty advisers at the time of admission. A student may elect to change that adviser, but the new adviser must be a faculty member in the social work program. Students should consult their advisers each semester before registration.

## **SKILL DEVELOPMENT**

The provision of social work services requires a number of personal and professional skills. In SWK 311 students begin the process of assessing their skills and building and developing their maximum academic potentials. This includes the ability to express their ideas both orally and in writing. Students who are having difficulty with these basic requirements may be placed on program probation until the issue is resolved.

## UIS REQUIREMENTS

Every social work student will complete eight hours of field work. At least four additional hours must be completed in either liberal studies colloquia or public affairs colloquia to meet UIS requirements. Forty-eight upper-division hours are required for graduation.

## FIELD WORK

One essential aspect of professional preparation is the integration of knowledge and skills. This is accomplished primarily through the field work course. This is an intensive 400-hour experience in a social agency, where a student, under supervision, learns to assess and improve his or her own direct service skills. The field work supervisor should be a person holding a degree in social work. Field work may be taken in one semester, called a block placement. This requires at least 25 hours per week for one semester. Field work may also be taken concurrently. This requires a minimum of 12 hours per week for two semesters. All BSW core courses must be completed and graded before starting field work. Students on academic probation are ineligible for field work.

## CLOSURE PROCEDURES

A student must earn a grade of C or better in every so-

cial work core course to continue in the curriculum and to graduate. If a lower grade is earned, a student may repeat a course or courses, but only once. Credit/no credit is not available in core courses except field work. Students must also complete requirements for assessment in the major. Students will be encouraged to complete their degrees within five years. A student should apply in writing for a leave of absence if he or she will be out more than one semester.

Students must file graduation contracts with their advisers at the beginning of their final semester and must participate in campus exit assessments. All students are urged to consult with their advisers before registering for their last semester to ensure that both UIS and program requirements have been met.

## Suggested Course Sequence

### First Semester

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| SWK 311 Introduction to Social Work              | 4 Hrs. |
| SWK 410 Human Behavior in the Social Environment | 4 Hrs. |
| SWK 411 Social Work Practice I                   | 4 Hrs. |

### Second Semester

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| SWK 420 Social Welfare Policy and Services | 4 Hrs. |
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|---|--------|
| SWK 421 Culture, Diversity, and Social Work | 4 Hrs. |
| SWK 422 Social Work Practice II             | 4 Hrs. |
| <i>Third Semester</i>                       |        |
| SWK 430 Social Work Research Methods        | 4 Hrs. |
| SWK 433 Social Work Practice III            | 4 Hrs. |
| SWK 434 Senior Seminar                      | 4 Hrs. |
| <i>Fourth Semester</i>                      |        |
| SWK 450 Field Work                          | 8 Hrs. |

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

### Core Curriculum

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| SWK 311 Introduction to Social Work              | 4 Hrs.        |
| SWK 410 Human Behavior in the Social Environment | 4 Hrs.        |
| SWK 411 Social Work Practice I                   | 4 Hrs.        |
| SWK 420 Social Welfare Policy and Services       | 4 Hrs.        |
| SWK 421 Culture, Diversity, and Social Work      | 4 Hrs.        |
| SWK 422 Social Work Practice II                  | 4 Hrs.        |
| SWK 430 Social Work Research Methods             | 4 Hrs.        |
| SWK 433 Social Work Practice III                 | 4 Hrs.        |
| SWK 434 Senior Seminar                           | 4 Hrs.        |
| SWK 450 Field Work                               | <u>8 Hrs.</u> |
| Total Core                                       | 44 Hrs.       |

## Other Requirements

|                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| PAC or LSC (UIS requirement) | 4 Hrs.         |
| Electives                    | <u>12 Hrs.</u> |
| Total                        | 60 Hrs.        |

Core courses must be taken in the proper sequential order after the prerequisites are completed.

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### Core Courses

#### **SWK 311 Introduction to Social Work (4 Hrs.)**

Survey of the history and development of social work in terms of its major components: values; philosophy and ethics; clientele; individual, group, and community; helping concepts; levels of professional competence; the use of self; professional communication skills; major issues and problems; and professional roles. Students will evaluate themselves relative to their choice of the social work profession.

#### **SWK 410 Human Behavior in the Social Environment (4 Hrs.)**

Survey of human development of human beings from birth to death in terms of biological, psychological, and social influences. The major schools of thought regarding the person in his/her environment will be covered. Prerequisites: SWK 311, or concurrent enrollment.

#### **SWK 411 Social Work Practice I (4 Hrs.)**

Examination of social work generalist skills for the pur-

pose of developing beginning practice competency in the differential use of self, self awareness, assessment, and the use of relationship. Coverage of case management issues, preparation of documents, and techniques for overcoming barriers to helping will be covered. Initiating and terminating helping relationships and intervention within diverse problem contexts will be examined. Includes lab experience. Open to social work majors only. Prerequisites: SWK 311, or concurrent enrollment.

#### **SWK 420 Social Welfare Policy and Services (4 Hrs.)**

Survey of the history and development of the American social welfare system, major programs, and structures for delivering public and voluntary social services. Issues, professional social work roles, and the role of supervision and administration will be examined. Principles of economics will be reviewed. Prerequisites: SWK 311, or concurrent enrollment.

#### **SWK 421 Culture, Diversity, and Social Work (4 Hrs.)**

Examination of the concepts of race, ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, and disability in terms of causes and effects in the generation of social problems and the roles of social workers. Particular emphasis on personal and cultural attitudes towards diversity. Prerequisites: SWK 311, or permission of instructor. See WMS 421.

#### **SWK 422 Social Work Practice II (4 Hrs.)**

Examination of generalist practice related to group and family intervention. The course does not assume the same skills for groups and families, but there are some similarities. Students examine these similarities and differences and assessment skills to determine which approach is

preferable. Group dynamics that occur in other settings will be briefly examined. Self-awareness of one's own family history will be expected. Includes lab experience. Open to social work majors only. Prerequisites: SWK 311, SWK 411.

#### **SWK 430 Social Work Research Methods (4 Hrs.)**

Survey of basic statistical formulae, data analysis, research designs, interviewing, and research project implementation. The relevance of social research to the provision of human services will be covered. Open to social work majors only. Prerequisites: SWK 311.

#### **SWK 433 Social Work Practice III (4 Hrs.)**

Survey of the basic concepts and skills involved in macro-level social work practice. The focus will be on developing the basic skills required to engage in political advocacy and community organization practice. Social and economic justice issues will be emphasized. Understanding appropriate interventions will be based in part on a systems perspective of events. Includes community experience. Open to social work majors only. Prerequisites: SWK 311, 410, 411, 420, and 422.

#### **SWK 434 Senior Seminar (4 Hrs.)**

Analysis of the professional social work code of ethics in relation to the practice areas covered by the B.S.W. core and the general concept of ethics. Differential practice and operational issues and unified professional perspectives regarding problems, solutions, and values will be covered. Prerequisites: SWK 311, 410, 411, 420, and 422.

#### **SWK 450 Field Work (8 Hrs./400 contact Hrs.) (2 to 8 Hrs.)**

Direct services in an approved social service organiza-

tion, under the supervision of an approved field work supervisor, in conjunction with a field work seminar. The focus will be on social work methods and generalist practice. There will be continuous emphasis on the application of knowledge to practice. Prerequisites: All SWK core course work and admission to field experience.

## General Courses

### **SWK 360 Social Work Practicum (1 to 4 Hrs.)**

Introductory practice course for students new to the field of social work. The course is based on practice of basic skills in a community agency. Approximately 40 hours earns one credit hour. This course must be taken in conjunction with a particular class and general direction is provided by the instructor of that class. Open only to SWK majors. Will not count as field work. Four hours maximum may be earned.

### **SWK 414 Child Welfare: Issues and Practice (4 Hrs.)**

History and philosophy of the development of child welfare services in the United States and the state of Illinois. Provides a foundation of information and values concerning children and families that can lead to effective service planning and policy development.

### **SWK 423 Counseling Women (4 Hrs.)**

Specialized biological, psychological, and social issues that affect women. Exploration of theoretical assumptions, counseling practices, and process variables that may apply differently to or affect women in counseling

therapy. Identification of skills facilitative to women in general and to particular subgroups of women. Prerequisite: SWK 411 or HDC 501. See HDC 423 and WMS 423.

### **SWK 425 Social Work and Substance Abuse (4 Hrs.)**

Introduction to the field of alcoholism and substance abuse. Topics include definitions; the physiological, psychological, and sociological aspects of addiction; treatment issues; and prevention and education programs.

### **SWK 431 The Unwanted Child (4 Hrs.)**

Basic problems of abuse, desertion, and neglect; study of typical solutions to these problems. Emphasis on policy issues relating to vulnerable children.

### **SWK 432 Sociology of Families (4 Hrs.)**

Contemporary U.S. families in historical and cross-cultural contexts. Emphasizes varied family forms, work/family roles, political and policy questions, and selected public issues such as heterosexuality, inequality, and abuse. See SOA 432 and WMS 432.

### **SWK 438 Children and the Law (4 Hrs.)**

Designed for the human services professional who deals with children and their families. Examines laws affecting the lives of children from birth to adulthood.

### **SWK 446 Family Law (4 Hrs.)**

*Course available online; may also be available on campus. Refer to the current course schedule for further information.*

Law that affects the family. Topics include divorce, do-

mestic violence, illegitimacy, adoption, child support and custody, parental control, abuse and neglect laws, issues affecting the elderly, domestic law reform, and the impact of the women's rights movement. See SOA 454, HDC 446, LES 446, WMS 446.

### **SWK 454 The History of the Family (4 Hrs.)**

The modern family in comparative and historical perspective. Selected themes — changing patterns of household, intimacy gender — explored historically to understand their present importance. See HIS 454 and WMS 454.

### **SWK 461 Violence Against Women and Children (4 Hrs.)**

Explores the two most common crimes against women and children: sexual assault and abuse and domestic violence. Examines nature and frequency of these assaults, legal definitions and treatment, victim and survivor experiences, criminal justice and social service responses, offender characteristics, victim services and treatment, and local community resources. See CRJ 422 and WMS 422.

### **SWK 462 Minority Women: Issues and Perspectives (4 Hrs.)**

The experience of American women of color is at the center of this course. Interdisciplinary consideration of the intersection of race, class, and gender in the lives of women past and present. See AAS 403, HIS 453, WMS 403.