

# School of Social Work

## **Purpose and Focus**

The objective of the Bachelor of Social Work degree is to prepare students for beginning level generalist social work practice.

## **Program/Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of the Bachelor of Social Work degree, B.S.W. students will:

1. Conduct generalist social work practice with client systems at micro, mezzo, and macro levels.
2. Promote economic and social justice for diverse populations, with an emphasis on urban communities.
3. Have a desire for lifelong learning and professional development.
4. Have the foundation knowledge to enter graduate studies.

## **Bachelor of Social Work Systematic Outcome Measures**

The School of Social Work assesses outcomes through course outcome measures, exit surveys, field evaluation, alumni surveys and successful completion of the Social Work Licensure Exam.

## **Accreditation**

Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities  
Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)

## **Undergraduate Major**

Social Work

## **Admission to the Major**

Minimum GPA: 2.50

**Admission Policies:** Students will be assigned a Pre-Social Work major (Pre-SWK) designation until they have completed the following pre-major requirements:

1. Pre-SWK core (13 credits total): SWK 101, 315, 410, one course in multicultural or international studies.
2. UNLV general education core courses (46-49 credits total)  
ENG 101 and 102 and literature .....(9 credits)  
U.S. and Nevada constitutions ..... (3-6 credits)  
Logic .....(3 credits)  
MATH 124 or higher .....(3 credits)  
Social Science: SOC 101, PSY 101, ANT 101 .....(9 credits)  
Fine Arts: Three-credit intro, survey, or appreciation course; approved Multicultural or International studies courses in fine arts may also be used. ....(6 credits)  
Sciences: BIOL 100 and one three-credit nonlab course .....(7 credits)  
Humanities: COM 101 and one three-credit course in Humanities; approved Multicultural or International studies courses in Humanities may also be used. ....(6 credits)

Students may declare PRE-SWK as a major at any time during their academic career; however, students **must apply for admission** to the major during the last semester of their sophomore year. Students are **admitted** to the Social Work program upon completion of a minimum of 60 credits of university

core, including Pre-SWK requirements as outlined above and have a minimum overall GPA of 2.50. Applications for admission are available in the Social Work office (CDC #10) and online.

## **School Policies**

**Field Practicum Requirements:** In order to enroll in field practicum (SWK 419 and SWK 429), a student must have senior standing (90 credits), have completed the required prerequisites, be admitted to the full major, and have completed an application for field placement in consultation with the field director. SWK 419 must be taken concurrently with SWK 420. SWK 429 must be taken concurrently with SWK 430 and SWK 481.

## **Advisement**

Students who declare social work as a major will be assigned a career advisor by the School of Social Work. Upon declaring social work as a major, a student must contact the Urban Affairs Student Advising Center for academic advising. Students are expected to schedule appointments with both the academic and B.S.W. program advisor at least once per semester in order to plan course scheduling and to monitor professional progress. Social work majors receive three advisors:

1. Career Advisor (Full-time social work faculty member)
2. B.S.W. Program advisor (B.S.W. coordinator)
3. Urban affairs Academic Advisor (academic advisor located in the Student Advising Center)

**Career Advisor:** Career Advisors are full-time social work faculty members who are available to answer questions that pertain to student life, career choices, graduate degree options, and social work licensing requirements. STUDENTS RECEIVE A CAREER ADVISOR ONCE THEY HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED INTO THE PROGRAM.

**B.S.W. Program Advisor:** The B.S.W. Program Advisor, known as the B.S.W. Coordinator, is a full-time social work faculty member who assists students in their overall acclimation into the B.S.W. program. The B.S.W. Coordinator helps students select social work courses and related electives. The B.S.W. Coordinator socializes students into the nature of required social work courses. The B.S.W. Coordinator is the point of contact for completing school and university petitions, appeals, independent study requests, and other B.S.W. paperwork. The B.S.W. Coordinator conducts monthly student information sessions and specialized workshops in coordination with the Advising Center. THE B.S.W. COORDINATOR IS AVAILABLE TO ALL STUDENTS IN THE MAJOR (SWK-PRE, SWK).

**Urban Affairs Academic Advisor:** Urban Affairs academic advisors are available to students throughout the course of their entire UNLV matriculation. Urban Affairs advisors are the primary point of contact in the selection of courses. Urban Affairs advisors maintain and record students' academic checklists, assist students in their preparation of B.S.W. application material (e.g., transcript review), review and certify transfer credits, and prepare graduation applications.

## Sequencing Policy

The School of Social Work is committed to designing and implementing a course plan that is best for the academic preparation of beginning generalist social workers. Students are, therefore, required to enroll in and complete courses as specified in the course-sequencing policy of the school. Students will not be permitted to take courses out of sequence. Thus, students may have to minimize or eliminate some personal and professional commitments in order to adequately complete the required sequence of courses.

Students who fail a social work core course must re-enroll in the course and obtain a passing grade prior to enrolling in subsequent courses. Students who receive an incomplete due to circumstances beyond their control (e.g., a documented serious illness or verified death of a family member) may be permitted to enroll in subsequent required courses while simultaneously completing the assignments necessary to resolve the incomplete course grade. Prior to enrollment, students with "medical incompletes" must first meet with their instructor and the B.S.W. Coordinator so that a comprehensive review of their situation can be made. Students who are permitted to proceed with classes yet do not complete the assignments required to resolve the incomplete grade will not be permitted to enroll in any subsequent classes until the incomplete is resolved.

## Sequencing of SWK 420 and 430

Co-enrollment in SWK 420 and 430 is not permitted. Those students who fail 420 cannot be granted permission to enroll in 430. The assumption is that a student who receives a failing grade is not ready to progress to the next level without first repeating the material not previously mastered.

Exceptions to this policy will be granted only to those students who receive a medical incomplete ("I") in SWK 420. Under special permission, these students may complete unfinished assignments while simultaneously enrolled in 430.

For students without a medical excuse, unfinished work from 420 must be submitted prior to the date established by the university as the "last day to withdraw from a class and receive a 100 percent refund." (This date is typically within the first week of the semester.) Students who do not meet the deadline will be withdrawn from their second senior block courses (SWK 429, 430, and 481).

## Courses for Social Work Majors

With the exception of social work electives and multicultural and international courses, SWK 401 through SWK 481 are for full social work majors only. Non-admitted students and pre-social work majors will not be permitted to enroll in these courses. (Pre-social work majors may receive an exception for SWK 425 if their request is submitted via a school petition.)

## Independent Study Policy

The School of Social Work supports students' desires to study one on one with an instructor of their choice when the proposed course is intended to satisfy an elective, ethnic studies, or foreign culture requirement. An independent study intended to fulfill a core school-required course is not permitted. Exceptions should be brought to the attention of the B.S.W. Coordinator via the petition process.

## Minimum Competency Policy

The School of Social Work is committed to ensuring that students graduating from our program possess and demonstrate the ability to fulfill their professional obligations to the client, the agency, the community, the society, and the profession of social work. Students are, therefore, required to earn a final semester grade of at least a C (not a C-) for all core social work courses (i.e., all department courses: SWK 101-481, SWK electives, and SWK Independent Study). Students who do not earn the minimum grade must repeat the course. In some courses, the lack of a C grade or better will prohibit students from sequencing into the next set of core classes.

## Recommended Courses That Meet General Education Core Requirements:

The Greenspun College of Urban Affairs strongly recommends that students address their General Education Core curriculum requirements through our college. The following classes offered in our college meet graduation requirements. Constitution: PUA 241; Humanities: COM 101, 211, 216; Social Sciences: CRJ 104, 270, 435, 436, 438, 469, MFT 150, 360; Life and Physical Science: ENV 101; Multicultural: COM 412, CRJ 428, 429, MFT 225, SWK 465; International: CRJ 407, 411, ENV 205, JOUR 475, SWK 493. In addition, incoming freshmen and transfer students under 30 credits are strongly encouraged to take COM 100 during their first year at UNLV. This course will provide an overview of the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs while offering helpful advice on what makes a successful college student.

## Degree Requirements

### Social Work

- 1) English Composition ..... 6 credits  
ENG 101 and 102
- 2) English Literature ..... 3 credits  
ENG 231 or 232
- 3) Constitutions ..... 3-6 credits
- 4) Mathematics ..... 3 credits  
MATH 124
- 5) Distribution Requirement (Social Science)  
Humanities and Fine Arts ..... 9 credits  
Life & Physical Sciences & Analytical Thinking.... 9 credits  
PHIL 102, and two courses from life & physical sciences category; at least one must be a lab.
- 6) Multicultural ..... (see notes)  
International ..... (see notes)
- 7) Degree Requirements:  
Social Work Major Requirements ..... 45 credits  
SWK 101, 315, 401, 410, 411L, 411S, 416, 419, 420, 425, 426, 429, 430, and 481

Additional Requirements..... 9 credits  
Prefer ECON 180 but will accept ECON 102 or 103, 104, 190, and two three-credit courses in Ethnic Studies (ETS).  
Note: Approved Multicultural, International Studies courses may satisfy the ETS requirement.

Social Work Electives ..... 6 credits  
Electives ..... 8 credits

Multicultural Requirement (may be used to simultaneously meet major requirements or other core requirements in Fine Arts, Humanities, or SWK ETS)..... 3 credits

International Requirement (may be used to simultaneously meet major requirements or other core requirements in Fine Arts, or SWK, ETS Humanities).....3 credits

Electives ..... 10 credits

Total: ..... 124 credits

**Notes:**

1. In satisfying the University General Education Core requirements, all social work majors must take social sciences (SOC 101, PSY 101, ANT 101), Mathematics (MATH 124, Sciences (BIOL 100), and Humanities (COM 101).
2. Every student must complete a three-credit Multicultural course and a three-credit International course. Courses satisfying other requirements may simultaneously satisfy the Multicultural and International requirements except one course cannot satisfy both the Multicultural and the International requirements. (See class schedule UNLV Webpage, and B.S.W. Student Handbooks).
3. In keeping with the Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) accreditation standards, academic credit for life experience and previous work experience is not given.

**Social Work**

**SWK 101  
Introduction to Social Welfare**

Introduction to the profession of social work within historical context. Emphasis on values, human diversity, social problems, and fields of practice. 3 credits.

**SWK 104  
Perspectives in Aging**

Designed to provide a conceptual and theoretical base for the study of aging. Similarities and differences between minority and majority aged groups examined. Prerequisite: SWK major. 3 credits.

**SWK 315  
Human Behavior and the Social Environment I**

Foundation for understanding human behavior at the levels of individuals, families, and micro-groups. Focus on the normal biol-psycho-socio development and functioning and the impact of social, cultural, and economic forces on individual, family, and group well-being. Introduction to individual, family and group dysfunction also presented. Prerequisites: SWK 101, SOC 101, PSY 101, ANT 101. 3 credits.

**SWK 401  
Social Policies and Services**

Focuses on the complex and dynamic nature of the development of social policies with particular attention to the process that occurs in the evolution of a social problem to implementation of social policy. Prerequisites: SWK 101, SWK 315, SWK 410 and full major standing only. 3 credits.

**SWK 402  
The Effects of War on Individuals and Communities**

Examines the effects that overwhelming and horrifying events in war have on the individual and their social environment. A variety of countries at war will be examined through film, literature, journal articles, and the internet to help understand the settings and real life outcomes of war. Prerequisites: Junior level status, PSC 101 or SOC 101. 3 credits.

**SWK 405  
Group Practice**

Studies the use of groups in social work practice. Includes historical development, group dynamics and theory, group process, the value base of social group work. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. 3 credits.

**SWK 410  
Social Work Methods I**

Communication theory and skills applied to social work with individuals, groups, communities, and agencies. Emphasis on self-assessment and diverse urban populations. Prerequisite: SWK 315. 3 credits.

**SWK 411L  
Experience in Human Service Agency**

Observation of agency structure, history, philosophy, goals, and service delivery system through participation in agency activity. Experience facilitates an introduction to the policies, programs, services, and client population of a social service agency. For full social work majors only. Prerequisite: SWK 410. 1 credit.

**SWK 411S  
Skills Lab II**

Instruction and practice in skills required for working with other professionals in and between social service agencies. Team work, mediation, negotiation, referral, and conflict management. Interactional skills lab focuses on basic skills required for working collegially and collaboratively in a social service agency. Corequisite: 411L. Prerequisite: SWK 410. 2 credits.

**SWK 416  
Social Work Research I**

Scientific approach to knowledge-building for social work practice. Ethical and diversity issues, basic concepts in research methodology, and steps needed to conduct a research project introduced. Sampling procedures and various research designs, including both quantitative and qualitative methods, with various exercises to provide practice. Prerequisite: For full social work majors only, MATH 124. 3 credits.

**SWK 418B  
Information and Referral**

Methods and processes in identifying social service resources in the community, client referral and follow-up. Lecture-discussion and field visit format. Prerequisites: Consent of instructor. 1 credit.

**SWK 418C  
Interviewing Techniques**

Practical experience in interviewing. Attention focuses on the purpose and relationship aspects of helping interview. Prerequisites: Consent of instructor. 1 credit.

**SWK 419****Field Practicum I**

Supervised social work practice experience consisting of 240 hours in a social service agency and attendance in weekly field seminar classes. Provides for an integration and application of social work values, knowledge, and skills from micro- to macro-levels of generalist practice. Corequisite: SWK 420. Prerequisites: For full social work majors only. SWK 101, SWK 315, SWK 401, SWK 410, SWK 411L, SWK 411S and consent of Field Director. 6 credits.

**SWK 420****Social Work Practice II**

Integration and application of intervention strategies for beginning social work practice. Organizing framework the generalist perspective, which utilizes the problem-solving and strengths approach. Primarily focuses on individuals, families, and groups. Prerequisite: For full social work majors only. Corequisites: SWK 419. 3 credits.

**SWK 422****AIDS: An Interdisciplinary Perspective**

*(Same as HED 422 and NURS 422.)* Interdisciplinary survey of various issues surrounding AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency) as viewed from several conceptual, professional, and experiential disciplines. Offers the most current cognitive information about AIDS and provides an affective awareness of major issues related to the disease. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. 3 credits.

**SWK 425****Human Behavior and the Social Environment II**

Provides foundational understanding of behavior and change at the level of organization, community, macro-level groups (e.g. task groups), and culture. Examines human behavior and change in macro systems and the impact of social and cultural forces on organizations, communities and macro-level groups. For full social work majors only. Prerequisite: SWK 315. 3 credits.

**SWK 426****Social Work Research II**

Introduces students to data analysis, descriptive and inferential statistics, computer skills and application of SPSS. Single-subject design and program evaluation included to teach students to systematically evaluate their own practice at all system levels. Exercises assigned to help students practice hands-on SPSS skills and interpret study results. Prerequisites: MATH 124, SWK 416. 3 credits.

**SWK 429****Field Practicum II**

Supervised social work practice experience consisting of 240 hours in a social service agency and attendance in weekly field seminar classes. Provides for an appropriate progression in the integration and application of social work values, knowledge, and skills from micro- to macro-levels of generalist practice. Corequisites: SWK 430, and 481. Prerequisites: SWK 419, 420, and consent of the field director. 6 credits.

**SWK 430****Social Work Practice III**

Integration and application of intervention strategies for beginning social work practice with groups, communities, and organizations. Corequisites: SWK 429, and 481. 3 credits.

**SWK 441****Social Work with the Elderly**

Examination of social work practice with the elderly based on critical analysis of theories of the aging process. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. 3 credits.

**SWK 460****Basic Concepts in Social Work Administration**

Concepts of organizational function, structure, and process applied to understanding how organizations constrain or facilitate the delivery of human services. Prerequisites: SWK 101, SWK 401, SWK 410, SWK 416. 3 credits.

**SWK 461****Seminar: Contemporary Issues in Social Welfare**

In-depth examination of current major issues in social programs and policies, and consideration of alternatives. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. 1-3 credits.

**SWK 462****Child Welfare Issues**

Study of public child welfare, history, policy, programming, services, and practice. For use in child abuse and neglect, child removal, permanency planning, termination of parental rights, reservation/reunification of families, supportive services to families, current interventive and service delivery systems, home-based preventive services, foster care and adoption. Prerequisite: Junior standing. 3 credits.

**SWK 470****Community Organization Practice**

Studies the use of community organization in social work practice. Includes historical development, community organization dynamics and theory, process, and the value base of community organization practice. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. 3 credits.

**SWK 471****Advanced Seminar: Special Problems**

Topic to be selected by instructor. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. 1-3 credits.

**SWK 472****Principles of Family Practice**

Seminar designed to study the principles, process, and skills required for helpers to assist family members in coping with dysfunction in the family unit. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. 3 credits.

**SWK 473****Transitions: Women and Men in the Middle Years**

Exploration of the period in the life span known as the "vital years" or "prime time." Understanding of the social, psychological, physical, and environmental changes that occur in women and men during the middle years. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. 3 credits.

**SWK 474****Grant Writing and Management**

Introduction to the grant-writing process. Designed for administrators, managers, supervisors, students, planners, and fund raisers. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. 3 credits.

**SWK 475****Treatment of Addictions**

(Same as CED 450.) Five elements covered include; classification of drugs, phases of treatment of addictions, basic individual and group treatment skills, contents of various treatment approaches, and the treatment guidelines regarding working with special populations, including women, adolescents, elderly, etc. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. 3 credits.

**SWK 478****Global Child Welfare**

Addresses the major challenges faced by children and their families globally and prepare the student for further study or action in specific areas of concern. Each content area (poverty, child labor, exploitation, etc.) will cover incidence, political, social and cultural interplay, current response, and recommended future strategy. Prerequisites: SWK 315, SWK 425. 3 credits.

**SWK 481****Capstone Seminar**

Capstone to the generalist educational program. Integration of the components of social work into an effective, comprehensive theory of generalist practice for the beginning practitioner. Corequisites: SWK 429, and 430. Prerequisites: SWK 419 and 420. 3 credits.

**SWK 493****Gandhian Welfare Philosophy and Nonviolent Culture**

(Same as PHIL 493.) Introduction to the chosen topics in Gandhian welfare philosophy. Ethical, moral, social, and political foundations of Gandhian thought explored and their applications to problem resolution strategies and peaceful change at different levels demonstrated. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. 3 credits.

**SWK 494****Eastern Conceptions and Social Work Practice**

Introduces Eastern conceptions, useful in social work practice. Broader knowledge of life, living, society, values, relationships, and behaviors extended. Applications sought for lasting and effective problem-solving and therapeutic processes. Prerequisite: Senior standing. 3 credits.

**SWK 499****Independent Study**

Intensive study in a specific area of student interest under the direction of a faculty member. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. 1-4 credits.

## Library Studies Program

This program is composed of six three-credit classes (at the 200 level) that are currently offered for persons who hold entry positions in public libraries or persons who are interested in learning how public or specialized libraries are organized and managed.

Formal admission to UNLV is not required. Persons from the community may enroll in these classes, as can students who are working toward a degree. (See course listings in this section.)

**LIB 203****Media Resources in Libraries**

Selection, acquisition, and organization of media resources to complement a print library collection, including identification of unique characteristics and contributions of media resources in libraries; issues in evaluation and selection of a collection of media resources; effective use of media resources in library programming; and issues in media resource collection development. 3 credits.

**LIB 204****Reference Services in Small Libraries**

Introduction to library reference covering materials and services in the small public library setting. Materials covered by category, including encyclopedias, directories, indexes, catalogs, and bibliographies. Both print and electronic reference resources covered. 3 credits.

**LIB 205****Administration of Libraries and Information Centers**

Introduction to the management of libraries and information centers, emphasizing the processes of planning, organizing, staffing, directing and controlling. Topics include: organizational environment and structure; personnel; motivation, job design, stress, teamwork, communication, decision-making, power and politics; leadership, planning and budgeting, evaluating organizational effectiveness, marketing and public relations. 3 credits.

**LIB 206****Materials Selection and Acquisition**

Introduction to the methods and objectives of evaluating and selecting library materials, reading skills and interests of library patrons and general bibliographic tools and their use. Includes analysis of information needs, policy formation, collection evaluation, acquisition of information resources, and theoretical and practical issues. 3 credits.

**LIB 207****Materials Cataloging and Classification**

Introduction to the objectives, techniques and procedures in classification, cataloging, and processing of books and other materials in libraries. Includes description of organization of information resources; interpretation of computer-based systems; application of Anglo-American Cataloging Rules; Sears and Library of Congress headings; and Dewey and Library of Congress systems. 3 credits.

**LIB 208****Computers in Libraries**

Computers and related technologies in the library setting; including description of various computer operating systems, use of software for word processing, spreadsheets, and databases; ability to import and export information between various software programs; and a study of various components of the Internet. 3 credits.