

Social Work

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Social work program website

Social Work Major Checklist

Social Work Program Mission

The Social Work Program prepares graduates for beginning professional employment in social service agencies and/or the successful pursuit of graduate social work education. Students are educated to apply the generalist approach and humanitarian values toward the promotion of social and economic justice, the resolution of human problems, and improvement in quality of life for all people. The curriculum is built on a liberal arts foundation and supported by required social work courses and supervised field education within a small college environment.

Academic Program

The MacMurray Social Work Program prepares students for these challenges by combining a talented faculty, a rigorous course of study and outstanding field practicum opportunities with the many advantages of a small college environment. Students completing the program earn and Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree.

Generalist social work practice is grounded in the profession's core values and ethics with an emphasis on human diversity, the ecological systems perspective, and changing social conditions. The Social Work Program defines the generalist method as: the application of multidimensional theory, skills, and knowledge to assess and intervene in each level of the social system. In the course of their studies, students will develop the analytical and interpersonal skills to confront social problems, relieve human suffering and engage in political action.

To prepare generalist social work practitioners, the program begins with a firm liberal arts foundation and base in the social sciences. The program then provides a practice sequence to facilitate students in utilizing their social science foundation to actually assess and plan effective intervention at all social levels - individual, family, groups, organizations, and communities. Finally, the program combines academic study with supervised field experiences so that students have hands-on experience prior to graduation. This program prepares students to work with a diversity of populations.

History and Accreditation

The Social Work Program is housed in the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences of MacMurray College. It is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The program has been continually accredited since 1995. Accreditation ensures that the program meets or exceeds the curriculum standards, quality of instruction, faculty qualifications, integrity, and level of professional competencies required by the Commission.

Additional Opportunities

Students may enhance their qualifications with a minor in a related area – criminal justice, psychology, history (pre-law), art (art therapy), or language. Spanish is in high demand due to the increasing need for bilingual services. Students may also elect a minor in Deaf Studies.

Social Work majors earning the Bachelor of Social Work degree must complete the following courses: Sociology 201, Psychology 201, 221; Political Science 203, History 202, and any two of the following: Psychology 242, 246, or 305; Biology 110, or Spanish 100. Students complete 42 hours of required academic work in the major (Social Work 203, 225, 226, 300, 304, 312, 314, 316, 345, 495), including 12 credit hours in field practicum (Social Work 475 and 476).

Academic Requirements

1. Admission to MacMurray.
2. Minimum 2.50 cumulative college grade point average at MacMurray.
3. A grade of C or better in all prerequisite and required social work courses.
4. Conformity with the College policy on academic honesty.
5. Fulfillment of all Portfolio requirements.

Courses

SCWK 201. CRISIS INTERVENTION. (3) This course explores methods and models for dealing with people experiencing a life crisis. This course will examine various types of crisis experiences and apply crisis intervention methods to their resolution. Students will be expected to complete 10 hours of volunteer service in an agency that provides crisis services. Prerequisite: Sociology 201.

SCWK 203. INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL WELFARE. (3) For pre-Social Work majors. Traces the historical development of the social work profession and social welfare as an institution in the U.S., emphasizing changing social responses to human need. No prerequisite.

SCWK 225. HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT I. (3) Human behavior is studied as it develops from conception through young adulthood. Phases of the life cycle are viewed from a biological, psychological, and sociological perspective. Ramifications for social work practice are presented. An ecological systems theory of human behavior provides a theoretical foundation for further understanding of the reciprocal relationships between human behavior and the social environment. Prerequisites: Social Work 203, Psychology 201, and Sociology 201.

SCWK 226. HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT II. (3) Human behavior as it develops in the last half of the life cycle (middle adulthood, later adulthood, and death and dying). These phases of the life cycle are viewed from a biological, psychological, sociological, and social perspective. Ramifications for social work practice are presented. An ecological systems theory of human behavior will provide a theoretical foundation for further course work. Prerequisite: Social Work 225.

SCWK 229. INTRODUCTION TO GERONTOLOGY. (3) An overview of all aspects of the aging process, provision of services for the elderly, family relations, and the dynamics of death and dying. No prerequisite.

SCWK 300. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND DIVERSITY. (3) Students will explore the global interconnections of oppression, theories of justice, and strategies to promote human and civil rights. The course will take into account how social and economic justice practices can be applied to organizations, institutions, and society to ensure that basic human rights are distributed equitably and without prejudice. Exploration of personal values and attitudes regarding diverse groups will be encouraged. Prerequisites: Sociology 201 and Political Science 203, or permission of instructor.

SCWK 304. SOCIAL WELFARE POLICIES AND SERVICES. (3) The identification of social problems, the decision making process about which problems to address, legislative process, policy structure and program development are studied. How the agency organizational structure, theory, budget planning, grant and proposal writing attract legislated funds for specific programs, and the effect agency politics has on program service delivery are considered. Prerequisites: Social Work 203, Sociology 300, and Political Science 203.

SCWK 309. CHILD WELFARE SERVICES. (3) Designed to provide a student with an overview of child welfare services from a historical, theoretical and practice perspective, and to help each student develop basic competencies for entry into the field of child welfare. Each service is considered from point of view of etiology, rationale of services, the provision of services and how the consumer and other stakeholders view the service. Services are examined from the perspectives of diverse populations. Students within the generalist perspective will learn how to assess, plan, implement, evaluate, terminate, and follow-up with diverse children and families in need of services, as well as how to develop resources, make referrals, and ensure child safety. Prerequisites: Social Work 203, 225, and 226.

SCWK 311. SUBSTANCE USE AND ABUSE: THEORY, PRACTICE, AND PREVENTION.

(3) Understanding alcohol and drug abuse from biological, sociological, psychological, and cultural perspectives. Students will examine the causes and consequences of alcohol/drug abuse, diagnostic issues, intervention, treatment, aftercare, and prevention, as well as their own personal values and attitudes toward alcohol/drug use. The impact of alcohol/drug abuse on families, special groups (e.g., women, elderly, minority populations) and the larger societal context will be addressed. Students will also be introduced to psychotropic medications, their therapeutic uses, side effects, and potential risk. No prerequisite.

SCWK 312. PRACTICE I: WORKING WITH INDIVIDUALS. (3) Using the generalist approach, students learn and practice the values, knowledge, and skills of interviewing, the data gathering necessary for effective treatment planning, goal setting, and problem solving. Students practice assessment, learn to develop detailed intervention plans and write contracts. The student will learn how to evaluate the effectiveness of the interventions, revise the plan and how and when to terminate with the client. The course emphasizes, through case examples, the application of the generalist method to diverse populations. Prerequisites: Social Work 203, 225, and 226.

SCWK 314. GENERALIST PRACTICE II: WORKING WITH GROUPS AND FAMILY.

(3) Within the context of the generalist approach, students learn and put into practice the values, knowledge, and skills of forming both treatment and task groups with all segments of society. Students learn to assess group dynamics and develop intervention, which may include individual, group, family, and community change. Students learn to evaluate change within group members, in the group, and in the larger environment. Students learn to use the feedback from evaluation to modify plans and to terminate with the group. Group skills with diverse populations are interwoven throughout the course.

Within the generalist approach, students will learn and practice the values, knowledge, and skills of helping individual family members and families as a whole clarify issues and pursue desired changes. Students will practice data gathering and assessing families, helping them develop plans which may include individual, group, family, and community interventions. Students will learn to evaluate the implementation of the plan, modify interventions as needed, and terminate when appropriate. The application of these skills to diverse families is explored. Prerequisite: Social Work 312.

SCWK 316. PRACTICE III: WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS.

(3) Within the context of the generalist approach, students will learn and practice the values, skills and knowledge necessary for fostering change within organizations and communities. Students will practice gathering data about organizations and communities, assess and help communities develop plans for change, implement changes, monitor and evaluate change. Based on feedback, plans will be modified as needed. Diversity issues within the community are discussed. Prerequisite: Social Work 314.

SCWK 330. SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH CHILDREN. (3) Dynamics, services and intervention methods in children's issues including parent-child conflict, family problems, child

development, abuse and neglect, teenage pregnancy, drug abuse, and other specific childhood issues, such as ageism, are explored. Prerequisite: Sociology 201.

SCWK 345. METHODS OF SOCIAL RESEARCH. (3) An introduction to research. Topics include research design, formulation of hypotheses, construction of measurement instruments, administration of questionnaires, data analysis, interpretation of results and report writing, with an emphasis on single subject research. Prerequisites: Sociology 201, Psychology 221. Same as Sociology 345.

SCWK 350. RURAL SOCIAL WORK: CARING FOR THE RURAL COMMUNITY. (3) Explores the social, cultural and technological characteristics of living in rural America. The course emphasizes the application of social work values and methods in providing human services in rural environments. Topics include rural poverty, rural people and special populations, strengths and problems of rural communities, and rural communities in transition. No prerequisite.

SCWK 475. FIELD PRACTICUM I. (6) Supervised field instruction and practice in a social work direct service setting. This course requires 200 hours in the practicum setting and participation in the weekly Seminar Class in field instruction. Field instruction gives students the opportunity to integrate classroom theory and social work practice. This course provides instruction and practice in a variety of social work methods with individuals, groups, and families. Prerequisites: Social Work 312 and 314.

SCWK 476. FIELD PRACTICUM II. (6) Supervised field instruction and practice in a social work organization, community, or other mezzo or macro setting with approval of the Director of Field Instruction. This course requires 200 hours in the practicum setting and participation in the weekly Seminar Class in field instruction. Field instruction gives students the opportunity to integrate classroom theory and social work practice. This course provides instruction and practice in a variety of social work methods with organizations and communities. Prerequisites: Social Work 312 and 316.

SCWK 495. PROFESSIONAL SEMINAR IN SOCIAL WORK. (3) Focuses on integrating emerging practice, policy, research, environmental issues and ethical decision-making. Designed to address ethical decision making and other topics which will aid the student in integration of classroom and field experiences toward the goal of entry-level social work. Prerequisites: all required Social Work courses.