

Social Work Program

School of Education and Human Studies

Mission Statement

Social Work is about helping people—children, families, older adults, and whole communities. The social work program prepares students for entry level professional positions in a diversity of public and private settings, including child advocacy and welfare, children and youth counseling, school social work, medical social work, church social work, missions, foster care and adoptions, geriatric social work, and mental health. The program prepares students to help people, particularly those who are vulnerable, to achieve a better “fit” with their world and to help the world to be more responsive to the needs of people. The program emphasizes the importance of a liberal arts foundation and of Christian and social work values that promote social and economic justice.

The major also emphasizes preparation for graduate study. Graduates from the BSW program are eligible to apply for advanced standing in graduate programs leading to a master’s in social work degree, MSW.

Program Leadership

Mary Anne Poe (1996). Associate Professor of Social Work and Social Work Program Director. B.A., Vanderbilt University; M.S.S.W., University of Louisville; M.Div., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, A.C.S.W. Certification.

Roslyn Wilson (1995). Associate Professor of Social Work and Social Work Field Director. B.S., Tennessee State University; M.S.S.W., University of Tennessee.

Profile of the Social Work Program

192 A student majoring in Social Work will receive the Bachelor of Social Work degree. The student must take the General Core requirements and B.S.W. specific requirements as outlined below:

General Core Requirements: (44 hours)

CLU 111, 112; ENG 111, 112, 201, 202; ART 210; HIS 101, 102; Science Group A; BIO 121; MAT 114; PEWS 100, PEWS Activity; CHR 111, 112; PSY 213.

B.S.W. Specific Requirements: (21 hours)

CSC 105, SOC 211, PSC 211, PSY 317, SW 421 or SOC 422, and 6 hours Modern Foreign Language

I. Social Work Major—45 hours

- A. SW 200, 201, 310—do not require admission to the program
- B. SW 300, 301, 315, 335
- C. SW 400, 401, 402, 423, 490
- D. SW Elective—3 hours

II. Teacher Licensure in School Social Work

- A. Complete major and core requirements as detailed above
- B. Complete Human Studies Minor, modified for SW licensure
 1. EDU 150; PSY 213, 317, 318; SOC 211; SE 225—17 hours
 2. SW 340—3 hours
 3. Elective in EDU, SE, PSY, SOC or SW—1 hour
- C. Admission to SW Program and completion of requirements as specified by the Tennessee Department of Education. SW 490 will take place in a school setting.

in the Social Work Program Manual for Students. An appeals process and a grievance procedure that complies with the University's grievance procedure is also detailed in the Program Manual.

General Information

The Social Work Program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, 1725 Duke Street, Suite 500, Alexandria, VA 22314-3457.

The Director of the Social Work Program is responsible for overall administration of the Program. The director is available during office hours to answer questions regarding the program, employment opportunities, professional associations and licensures, and other questions related to the social work profession.

The Social Work Field Director has primary responsibility for the field education component of the Program including implementation of field processes and procedures and maintaining effective working relationships with sites, field instructors, and students.

Agency Field Instructors supplement the educational program in social work by providing supervision to senior students who are completing 424 hours of field work in an approved agency. These instructors provide on-the-job instruction and supervision, hold weekly conferences with the student, and assist in the evaluation of student performance and learning.

A student who is completing agency field experiences as part of the requirements in social work practice courses will be required to purchase Professional Liability Insurance. The annual fee, approximately \$25.00, will be charged to the student's account during the semester in which he/she is registered for these courses.

A student handbook, available in the office of the Director of the Social Work Program, describes all aspects of the program.

194 Social Work Agency Agreements

All social work majors are required to obtain professional social work field experience in a local community agency. Numerous local social service agencies provide the setting for this practicum. The *Social Work Field Placement Manual* clarifies expectations regarding this experience and identifies the cooperating agencies. It may be obtained from the Social Work faculty.

Student Organizations

The **Student Association of Social Workers (SASW)** is for majors in social work and those interested in social work. The organization assists in developing professional social work identity and provides an opportunity to be involved in volunteer community social service. Service opportunities include child mentoring and advocacy, nursing home activities, community organizing, and resource development. The organization gives students regular opportunity to interact with others having similar interests.

Phi Alpha, National Honor Society for Social Work Students, Eta Phi Chapter, fosters high standards of education for social workers and invites into membership those who have attained excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work. Social Work majors with an overall GPA of 3.2 and a GPA of 3.6 in social work courses are invited to become members. Students become eligible for membership at the end of their Junior year in the Social Work Program.

Student Awards

Academic Excellence Medals. This award is given to the graduating major who has the highest academic average in the discipline, provided the average in the subject is not less than 3.5 and provided the student has completed, before Awards Day, a minimum of 15 hours in the discipline at Union University in courses for which precise grades are computed (as distinguished from courses graded pass or fail).

321. Social Gerontology (3) F

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SOC 321.

See SOC 321 for course description.

324. Social Deviance (3) S

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SW 324.

See SOC 320 for course description.

335. Social Policy (3) S

Social welfare policy, both historically and currently, focusing on its major elements and basic structure, as well as providing a basis for evaluation of social welfare policies, programs, and services.

340. Social Work Services in Schools (3)

Knowledge and skills for effective social work practice in a school setting. The school social worker provides a link between school, student, home, and community, primarily using case management and advocacy skills.

370. Gender and Society (3) S

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SOC 370.

See SOC 370 for course description.

400. Populations-at-Risk (3) F

Prerequisites: SW Program Admission and SW 301, 310, 335 and 401.

Patterns, dynamics, and consequences of discrimination, economic deprivation, and oppression will be presented. The curriculum includes content on people of color, gay and lesbian persons, those distinguished by age, ethnicity, culture, class, and physical and mental ability. Course content includes strategies for micro, mezzo, and macro interventions designed to empower these groups and individuals.

401. Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups (3) S

Prerequisite: SW Program Admission, SW 315, 421; PSY 317.

A continuation of SW 315 with further development of skills for working with individuals, families and groups using various approaches.

402. Social Work Practice with Organizations, Communities, and Government (3) F

Prerequisite: SW Program Admission and SW 335, 401

The last of the practice sequence continues to use the theoretical framework introduced in SW 315 and 401. Practice methods for work with organizations and communities will be explored. Knowledge, values and skills for building professional relationships and working to enhance human well-being by organizational and community development through assessment, problem-solving and advocacy strategies will be examined.

405. Families Across Cultures (3) F

Reciprocal credit: SOC 400.

See SOC 400 for course description.

419. Social Diversity and Inequality (3) F, S

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SOC 419.

See SOC 419 for course description.

420. Death and Dying (3) S—Even Years

Prerequisite: SOC 211. Reciprocal credit: SOC 420.

See SOC 420 for course description.

421. Research Methods in Social Work (3) F

Prerequisites: MAT 114.

An introduction to the basic research methods and techniques of social research as applied to the social problems and human situations that a generalist social worker will encounter. Emphasis will be placed on problem formulation, development of research design, instrument construction, data collection and analysis, and report writing.

423. Senior Seminar in Social Work Practice (3) S

Prerequisites: Admission to SW Field Practicum. Corequisite: SW 490.

Students review various social work processes, including ecological systems theory, contact and contract phases of social work intervention, social work values and ethics, and interventive roles and methods. Class presentations and a case study paper are required. Field Practicum experiences are processed as they relate to classroom content.

490. Social Work Field Practicum (9) S

Prerequisites: Admission. Corequisite: SW 423; Professional Liability Insurance.

Professional field experience in a faculty-approved community agency; public or pri-