

# School of Applied Social Sciences

## Division of Social Work

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### Degree Offered

*Bachelor of Social Work*

### Nature of Program

The Division of Social Work provides a comprehensive program of professional education in social work, including degree programs at the baccalaureate and master's levels, and a range of part-time and continuing education opportunities.

Our programs are fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, which makes graduates eligible to seek licensure as social workers in West Virginia and other states, depending on individual state laws. The degree programs offered by the Division of Social Work allow students the opportunity to prepare for entry-level professional practice at the baccalaureate level and to specialize at the advanced (graduate) level of study. The baccalaureate program prepares social workers for generalist practice and is a recognized national leader in the development of baccalaureate-level curriculum to support this educational goal.

Social work, one of the oldest human-service professions, is based upon the social and behavioral sciences used to understand and to help individuals, groups, families, and communities. Social work is a profession concerned with helping people accomplish life goals and realize their full potential. Four major purposes of social work are:

- To enhance the problem-solving, coping, and developmental capacities of people.
- To promote the effective and humane operation of the systems that provide people with resources and services.
- To link people with systems that provide them with resources, services, and opportunities.
- To develop and improve social policy.

In carrying out these purposes, social workers seek to solve problems associated with financial need, social and cultural deprivation, racial injustice, gender inequalities, physical and mental health, disadvantaged children, troubled youth, disturbed family relationships, and aging. Therefore, social workers are needed in a variety of service agencies, both private and public: schools, hospitals, correctional institutions, residential treatment settings, adoption agencies, industry, community service organizations, prisons, the courts, veteran's bureaus, nursing homes, children's services, and public welfare agencies. Because the social work arena is so broad, students will find it easy to discover a career path in social work that meets your interests and career goals.

Job opportunities for B.S.W. graduates are expected to continue increasing in the coming years. Given the positive national reputation of our B.S.W. program, our graduates often find themselves actively sought by employers.

### Undergraduate Program Objectives

The objectives of the B.S.W. program are derived from the philosophy and goals of the Division of Social Work and the mission of the University, the objectives of the social work profession, and the needs of people in our society.

### B.S.W. Program Goals And Objectives

1. Prepare undergraduate students for competent entry-level generalist practice, with an emphasis on rural and small-town settings, through a curriculum including liberal arts, social work foundations, and professional social work knowledge and skills.
  - a. Apply critical thinking skills within the context of professional social work practice.
  - b. Understand and interpret the history of the social work profession and its contemporary structures and issues.

- c. Apply the knowledge and skills of generalist social work practice with human and social systems of all sizes.
  - d. Use theoretical frameworks supported by empirical evidence to understand individual development and behavior across the life span and the interactions among individuals and between individuals and families, groups, organizations, and communities.
  - e. Analyze, formulate, and influence social policies.
  - f. Evaluate research studies, apply research findings to practice, and evaluate their own practice interventions.
  - g. Use communication skills differentially across client populations, colleagues, and communities.
  - h. Use supervision and consultation appropriate to social work practice.
  - i. Function within the structure of organizations and service delivery systems and seek necessary organizational change.
  - j. Acquire a working knowledge of service delivery to rural and small-town populations.
2. Prepare students to engage in effective, responsible, and creative practice within the value base and ethical standards of the social work profession;
    - a. Understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards and principles, and practice accordingly.
    - b. Internalize the profession's value base and gain skill in its application to resolving ethical dilemmas.
    - c. Gain recognition of how one's own personal values can impact service delivery and reconcile value conflicts that will prevent effective service provision.
  3. Prepare students for practice with diverse, and at-risk populations and to further social and economic justice;
    - a. Practice without discrimination and with respect, knowledge, and skills related to clients' age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation.
    - b. Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and apply strategies of advocacy and social change that advance social and economic justice.
  4. Enrich the liberal arts curriculum of West Virginia University by providing opportunities for the undergraduate student body in general to increase their sensitivity, knowledge, and understanding of human needs, social problems, social welfare issues, and approaches and alternatives toward resolving social problems;
    - a. Provide undergraduate courses available to non-social work majors that contribute to student understanding of human diversity, social problems, social welfare programs and alternatives for the resolution of problems.
    - b. Provide extra-curricular programming available to the general student body that contributes to understanding of human diversity, social problems, social welfare programs, and alternatives for the resolution of problems.
  5. Provide a foundation for continuing professional development.
    - a. Recognize the need for and commit to participate in activities that foster ongoing, post-graduation professional growth and development.
    - b. Provide a sound educational foundation for the student who may be appropriately interested in future graduate-level education within the Division of Social Work, in other graduate social work programs, or in other allied graduate programs of study.
    - c. Encourage participation in continuing social work education to lay the foundation for a career-long learning and professional growth.

## **The 2 + 2 Program**

WVU and several colleges have entered into a joint commitment to increase the college-going rate within the state of WV and throughout the country, as well as the number of social workers within the state, through a special 2+2 arrangement that will lead to a bachelor of social work degree from WVU. Current affiliation agreements for the 2 + 2 program include Pierpont Community and Technical College, WV Northern Community

College and Bermuda College. For students from these colleges to enjoy the benefits of the 2+2 program they must be ready to enter the major when they matriculate to WVU. Although historically students from these other colleges have always had the opportunity to gain entrance to the B.S.W. program at WVU, the benefits of a more formalized linkage with these colleges are numerous. For example, brochures on the 2+2 program, *The WVU-B.S.W. Connection*, are available on students' home campuses, and designated faculty on those campuses work closely with WVU's B.S.W. program director to ensure a strong linkage between those campuses and WVU, which ensures students will have a smoother transition to WVU. Furthermore, expectations for entry and completion of the degree are now more clear to students, so the B.S.W. degree can be completed in a more timely manner. Students in the 2+2 program must meet the admissions standards for WVU and the B.S.W. program and must follow the B.S.W. program's policies for transfer students.

## **Admissions**

Students interested in pursuing a degree in social work are identified as pre-majors until they are admitted into the program through a formal admission process, at which time they become social work majors. Our pre-majors enjoy the benefits of advisement by an academic counselor in the Division of Social Work who provides information about careers in social work and assists in planning students' academic program and registering students for their coursework every semester. As an incoming freshman, you become a pre-major in social work by indicating your interests in pursuing a degree in social work when you submit your initial application to WVU's Office of Admissions and Records.

In order for social work pre-majors at WVU, its branch campuses, or in the 2+2 program to enter the social work major, they must meet the B.S.W. program's admission criteria, complete a formal application for admission, and have their application approved by the Division of Social Work B.S.W. Admission Committee. The admissions process is competitive and students are selectively admitted to the program for their final two years of education, which includes the upper-division courses in social work.

Social work requires the ability to establish positive, supportive, and nonjudgmental interpersonal relationships. The ultimate test of a student's interpersonal skills is in relationship to clients. However, observed positive relationships with faculty and students serve as indicators of potential for future professional development and suitability for practice in the field. Social work is a profession whose members are expected to adhere to the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics and to conduct themselves in a professional manner. Therefore, the criteria for admission to the major, as well as for continuation in the program, include academic standards of a scholastic and cognitive nature, as well as of an affective and professional nature. To be eligible for admission to the major, you must meet the following minimum criteria:

- Have a 2.25 GPA on a four-point scale. (Note: the GPA will be calculated to include any substantial amount of coursework transferred to WVU from other institutions.)
- Complete 100 hours of appropriate human service activity (paid or volunteer) by the time of application for admission and receive a supportive or generally positive reference from the supervisor(s), as documented on the B.S.W. program's form.
- Complete 58 credit hours by the conclusion of the semester during which application to the program is made.
- Earn a C or better in SOWK 147 and 151 by the time of application for admission. (Students applying to the program through the 2+2 arrangement or as transfers from another institution can replace the SOWK 147 course with another minority course approved by the B.S.W. program director. When they matriculate to WVU, they must take SOWK 147, along with their first semester of upper-division social work courses.)
- Successfully complete the General Education Curriculum Objectives by the conclusion of the semester during which application to the program is made.
- Demonstrate college-level writing skills.
- Show motivation to pursue a career in the field of social work.
- Show potential for commitment to the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics.

- Possess a basic level of communication and interpersonal skills, which provide a sufficient foundation for building professional interactional skills.
- Show potential for professional development, such as responsiveness to feedback and willingness to address areas that might interfere with effectiveness as a future helper.
- In general, be sensitive to and respect human diversity, with a basic capacity for nonjudgmental behavior toward individuals whose values, beliefs, and lifestyles may be different from the student's own.
- Be reliable in carrying responsibilities as demonstrated in classes and volunteer experience (punctual, dependable, observes assignment deadlines, meets attendance expectations, etc.)
- Show a basic level of self-awareness in assessing strengths and weaknesses as these might impact carrying out professional responsibilities.

Students who present an overall GPA of 3.0 or above and meet the other admission criteria are guaranteed admission to the program. A certain number of slots are set aside for students from each 2+2 program campus who meet the minimum 2.25 GPA. Other students who meet the minimum GPA and all other admission criteria are admitted on a space-available basis. Applications for admission are reviewed once a year. Beginning every January, applications are reviewed for entry to the major the following fall semester.

As part of the division and the B.S.W program's academic standards, students may be denied admission to the major or continuance in the program for conduct that violates the code of ethics of the National Association of Social Workers. Students shall be provided appropriate safeguards for appealing such decisions and shall be provided with an opportunity to demonstrate that the conduct in question has been modified to the point of being in compliance with the ethics code. Should the student not be able to make the necessary modifications in conduct, he or she shall be counseled out of the program in accordance with established University policy as set forth in WVU's student handbook, *The Mountie*. Procedures for terminating a student from the program follow the school's academic performance review policy.

## **Transfer Students**

If you are a transfer student, including 2+2 students, and you wish to enter the social work pre-major or major, you must contact WVU's Office of Admissions and Records, and the B.S.W. program director, no later than the semester before you intend to matriculate to WVU. For entry to the B.S.W. program, you must meet all requirements that apply to pre-major status. If your plan is to matriculate to WVU in the fall semester as a social work major, you should contact WVU's Office of Admissions and Records the prior December and complete your application to the B.S.W. program for admission to the major in January.

Upper-division social work courses taken at other institutions do not automatically transfer to WVU and meet our program's requirements. To gain approval for these courses you must have earned a B or better in the course(s) and you must submit course syllabi and other appropriate course materials to the B.S.W. program director. Courses that are not approved count as electives. The lower-division social work courses taught on 2+2 campuses have received approval via the formal agreement with the program.

## **Requirements for the Degree**

The undergraduate social work program consists of a foundation in the liberal arts, a minimum of 38 upper-division hours and six lower-division hours in social work, a minimum of nine upper-division hours in required social and behavioral sciences courses, and an additional requirement of nine upper-division social science hours with at least three hours in each of the fields of sociology, psychology, and political science. All social work students are required to take three additional hours of coursework dealing with racial or other minority groups selected from a list of courses designated by the undergraduate social work program. A total of 128 hours is required for the degree. Of these, 58 credit hours must be in upper-division coursework. You are encouraged to consult with your advisor regarding the selection of electives appropriate for your career interest.

To establish a social work major and to qualify for graduation, you must have been enrolled for at least two semesters and have accumulated a minimum of 30 hours as an upper-division student in the social work program, or under its guidelines. Also, you must fulfill the following: complete all required social work courses—in their proper sequence—with grades of C or higher, maintain an overall GPA of 2.0 or above, and maintain a GPA of 2.0 or better in all upper-division social science courses specifically required of the social work major.

Students who are unable to meet the performance standards for social work courses are permitted to repeat a course one time. If the student is unsuccessful in the second attempt, he or she must leave the program. If a student is unsuccessful in either SOWK 494 or 491, both courses must be repeated and successfully completed to meet graduation requirements. The specific curriculum requirements for graduation are as follows.

<b>University General Education Curriculum</b>	<b>Hrs.</b>
GEC.....	41–43
SOWK 147 (Minority content).....	3
<b>Subtotal</b> .....	<b>44–46</b>

You must also take a writing skills course in social work, currently SOWK 494. As a social work student, you are required to take the following courses: PSYC 101, POLS 101 or 102, and SOCA 101 and 107. In science, you must take BIOL 101 and 103.

	<b>Hrs.</b>
Additional minority requirement .....	3
Social and Behavioral Science Required Courses	
SOCA 221 <i>The Family</i> .....	3
POLS 220 <i>State and Local Government</i> .....	3
Additional social and behavioral science requirements (nine hours total with three hours each in psychology, sociology, or political science.) .....	9
<b>Subtotal</b> .....	<b>18</b>

### **Required Social Work Courses**

Lower Division	
SOWK 151 <i>Introduction to Social Work</i> .....	3
Upper Division	
SOWK 300 <i>Social Welfare Policy and Services 1</i> .....	3
SOWK 310 <i>Social Welfare Policy and Services 2</i> .....	3
SOWK 319 <i>Skills Lab 1</i> .....	1
SOWK 320 <i>Social Work Methods 1</i> .....	3
SOWK 322 <i>Social Work Methods 2</i> .....	3
SOWK 324 <i>Social Work Methods 3</i> .....	3
SOWK 330 <i>Human Behavior/Social Environment 1</i> .....	3
SOWK 350 <i>Human Behavior/Social Environment 2</i> .....	3
SOWK 360 <i>Social Work Research and Statistics</i> .....	3
SOWK 491 <i>Field Practicum</i> .....	12
SOWK 493 <i>SPTP electives</i> .....	6
SOWK 494 <i>Social Work Senior Seminar</i> .....	3
<b>Subtotal</b> .....	<b>49</b>
General Electives .....	13–14
<b>Grand Total</b> .....	<b>128</b>

### **Typical Study Load**

Students with grade point averages under 3.0 are only rarely permitted to carry more than 18 credit hours. If your grade point average is 3.0 or above and you want to carry 19 to 21 hours, you must petition the chair of the Division of Social Work through your advisor. Students are not permitted to carry more than 21 credit hours in a semester.

## Field Instruction Requirements

Field instruction, which occurs during your senior year, after all other coursework has been completed, is a key component of your total educational experience in the undergraduate social work program. During the field practicum (SOWK 491) you will have the opportunity to demonstrate through actual social work service-providing activities your ability to utilize and apply the knowledge, values, and skills you have acquired while at WVU or as a result of other life experiences.

To enter the field practicum, you must meet the following criteria:

- Senior rank (at least 89 hours completed).
- A 2.0 overall grade point average.
- Completion of all social work courses with grades of C or better.

Field placement activities are usually carried out for one semester as a modified block system, but part-time students may be interested in a two-semester placement called a concurrent system. The block system requires students to spend four full work days in placement over the course of one complete semester (63 days). The concurrent system requires students to spend two full work days in placement over the course of two semesters. A minimum of 441 clock hours of field placement work must be completed during the field practicum. While in field placement, students participate in SOWK 494 *Social Work Senior Seminar*, which provides educational support for the practicum.

After consultation with your advisor, and with the approval of the B.S.W. program director and field instruction coordinator, you will be assigned to an approved field placement setting. Field placement assignments are in social welfare organizations and agencies in Monongalia or surrounding counties. These organizations have met the criteria for participation in our field instruction program.

To successfully complete requirements for graduation, students must demonstrate, through educationally focused field experience activities, those competencies (i.e., combination of social work knowledge, values, and skills) which have been identified as suitable and necessary for entry into professional social work practice.

**Note:** Academic credit is not given for life experience. Previous work experience cannot be used in lieu of field experience, or other course requirements.

## Advising

All social work pre-majors and majors are advised in the Division of Social Work.

## Non-Majors in Social Work Courses

If you are a candidate for a Board of Regents Bachelor of Arts Degree (B.O.R.B.A.) with an interest in a career in social work, you will be permitted to take any of the undergraduate social work courses except the practicum on a space available basis or with instructor's consent. B.O.R.B.A. candidates must meet the same requirements for sequencing and performance standards in social work courses as social work majors. Other non-majors are also permitted to take selected social work courses on a space-available basis, which do not include our methods, skills lab, and practice courses.

## School of Applied Social Sciences Division of Sociology and Anthropology

Melissa Latimer, Chair

### Degree Offered

*Bachelor of Arts*

*Majors: Sociology and Anthropology, Criminology and Investigations*

### Nature of Program

Sociology and anthropology courses constitute an important part of a liberal education. They foster an awareness of the structure of human societies and of the social processes which operate in all groups, organizations, and institutions. The student is exposed to the methods of inquiry and to the special knowledge and insights of sociology and anthropology. Courses in the division also are intended to facilitate the application of sociological and