

SOCIAL WORK, BSW

Undergraduates in the Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work receive a liberal arts education in the social and behavioral sciences and their application to human problems that prepares them to be informed citizens involved in human services or social welfare problems and policies. Students take courses in a variety of social sciences to enable them to view social welfare in its broad social, economic, and political contexts. The Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree prepares students as beginning-level professional social workers.

Social work's special contribution rests on an established body of knowledge, values, and skills pertinent to understanding human relationships and the interaction between people as individuals, in families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social Work courses (https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/soc_work/) offer a theoretical understanding of social problems and an introduction to practice methods used by social workers. The curriculum covers such areas as aging, family and child welfare, poverty, mental health, developmental disabilities, substance use disorders, diversity, race and ethnicity, criminal justice, oppression, at-risk populations, and social, economic, and environmental justice.

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK MISSION AND GOALS

Read more about the School and its mission: socwork.wisc.edu/about (<https://socwork.wisc.edu/about/>)

Guided by the core values of the social work profession and grounded in the generalist practice framework, the Bachelor of Social Work's mission is to provide social work education that will nurture competent, ethical entry-level social work professionals committed to scientific inquiry, evidence-based practice, respect for human diversity, the promotion of human and community well-being, human rights, and social, economic and environmental justice.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Students in the Social Welfare major or the Bachelor of Social Work degree often choose from a variety of certificate programs (https://guide.wisc.edu/explore-majors/#filter=filter_45) available. Common certificates include African American Studies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/african-american-studies/african-american-studies-certificate/>), American Indian and Indigenous Studies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/american-indian-indigenous-studies/american-indian-indigenous-studies-certificate/>), Business (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/business/school-wide/business-certificate/>), Chicano/a and Latino/a Studies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/chicana-chicano-latino-latino-studies/chicana-chicano-latino-latino-studies-certificate/>), Criminal Justice (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/center-law-society-justice/criminal-justice-certificate/>), Gender and Women's Studies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/gender-womens-studies/gender-womens-studies-certificate/>), Global Health (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/agricultural-life-sciences/entomology/global-health-certificate/>), LGBTQ+ Studies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/gender-womens-studies/lgbtq-plus-studies-certificate/>), South Asian Studies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/institute-regional-international-studies/south-asian-studies-certificate/>), and Southeast Asian Studies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/>

[institute-regional-international-studies/southeast-asian-studies-certificate/](https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/institute-regional-international-studies/southeast-asian-studies-certificate/)), among others.

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK ADVANCED STANDING

Bachelor of Social Work students may be considered for advanced standing if they apply and are accepted to one of the Master of Social Work programs. Advanced standing qualifies a student to exempt out of all or part of their "generalist" year. For more information, please refer to the Advanced Standing page (<https://socwork.wisc.edu/programs/advanced-standing-msw/>) on the School of Social Work website and the MSW Social Work Advanced Standing, MSW Guide page (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/social-work/social-work-advanced-standing-msw/>).

HOW TO GET IN

HOW TO GET IN

Students enter the Bachelor of Social Work program by first declaring the Social Welfare major (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/social-work/social-welfare-ba/#howtogetintext>). Later, if a student applies to and is accepted into the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program, their degree program is changed to BSW. In the late fall/early spring of the junior year (see Deadlines (<https://socwork.wisc.edu/admissions/deadlines/>) for application deadline), students apply for admission to the BSW program for their senior year.

Students in the BSW program must be in the College of Letters & Science. Applicants may be enrolled in another School or College, but must transfer to Letters & Sciences if they are accepted into the BSW program and choose to pursue the degree.

DECLARING THE SOCIAL WELFARE MAJOR

See the Social Welfare How to Get In (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/social-work/social-welfare-ba/#howtogetintext>) page for information about declaring the Social Welfare major. This must be done *prior to applying* to the BSW Program.

ADMISSION TO THE BSW PROGRAM

Students who meet the following eligibility criteria as of spring of their junior year may apply for admission to the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program by the application deadline (<https://socwork.wisc.edu/admissions/deadlines/>):

- SOC WORK 205 and SOC WORK 206 completed;
- Declared in the Social Welfare major;
- Statistics completed (or concurrent enrollment)¹;
- Second-semester junior status (minimum of 71 credits completed); and
- Minimum of 2.500 cumulative GPA from all colleges attended².

Admission to the Bachelor of Social Work program is based on assessment of the applicant's background, preparation and experience for practice in the field of social work. Approximately 45 students are admitted to the BSW program each year. Applicants must refer to the School of Social Work BSW Application website (<https://socwork.wisc.edu/admissions/bsw-application/>) to apply, for deadline information, and further application instructions.

NOTES

- ¹ Refer to the Statistics and Research list in the Requirements tab for eligible statistics courses.
- ² Only grades from all post-secondary institutions that have transferred credits to UW-Madison are reviewed. The credits earned at UW-Madison and those transferred to UW-Madison will be computed into the minimum 2.500 GPA required for admission using the GPA calculation method found on the back of each institution's transcript. See admissions instructions (<https://socwork.wisc.edu/admissions/bsw-application/>) for more details about including transcripts.

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatetext>) section of the Guide.

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|-------------------|--|
| General Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits • Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits • Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits • Communication Part A & Part B * • Ethnic Studies * • Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B * |
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* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK (BSW)

The Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work is a professional school within the College of Letters & Sciences (L&S). The College confers the BSW degree.

Students pursuing a Bachelor of Social Work degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The BSW is a special degree program; it is not considered a major. The BSW degree is not available to students who intend to earn a degree outside the College of Letters & Science.

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework. Students complete Quantitative Reasoning B within the requirements of the BSW degree program.

Language Complete either:

- the fourth unit of one language; or
- the complete the third unit of one language and the second unit of one additional language.

Breadth in the Degree Complete:

- 12 credits of Humanities, including at least 6 credits of Literature breadth; and
- 12 credits of Social Science breadth; and
- 12 credits of Natural Science breadth, which must include one 3+ credit course in Biological Science breadth and one 3+ credit course in Physical Science breadth.

Ethnic Studies Complete at least 6 credits of coursework with the Ethnic Studies designation.

Liberal Arts and Science Coursework Complete at least 108 credits.

Depth of Intermediate/Advanced Coursework Complete at least 60 credits at the Intermediate or Advanced level.

Major Gain admission to and complete the Bachelor of Social Work degree program.

Total Credits Complete at least 120 credits.

UW-Madison Experience Complete both:

- 30 credits in residence, overall; and
- 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.

Quality of Work

- 2.000 in all coursework at UW-Madison
- 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW-Madison

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROGRAM

Complete a minimum of 47 credits, to be attained via the requirements detailed below.

SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY & SERVICES

Code	Title	Credits
Complete both:		
SOC WORK 205	Introduction to the Field of Social Work	4
SOC WORK 206	Introduction to Social Policy	4

SOCIAL SCIENCE CONCENTRATION¹

Complete **two** Intermediate or Advanced level courses and **at least 6 total credits** from **one** of the following social science concentration areas:

African American Studies

Code	Title	Credits
AFROAMER 302	Undergraduate Studies in Afro-American History	3
AFROAMER 303	Blacks, Film, and Society	3
AFROAMER/ HISTORY 321	Afro-American History Since 1900	3-4
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 323	Gender, Race and Class: Women in U.S. History	3
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 333	Black Feminisms	3
AFROAMER/ HISTORY 347	The Caribbean and its Diasporas	3
AFROAMER/ HISTORY 393	Slavery, Civil War, and Reconstruction, 1848-1877	3-4
AFROAMER/ LEGAL ST 435	Civil Rights: Policing, Prisons, Voting, Housing, Employment	3-4
AFROAMER/ HIST SCI/ MED HIST 523	Race, American Medicine and Public Health	3
AFROAMER/ ED POL 567	History of African American Education	3
AFROAMER 621	Slavery and Capitalism in the United States	3
AFROAMER 631	Colloquium in Afro-American History	3
AFROAMER 671	Selected Topics in Afro-American History	3
AFROAMER 673	Selected Topics in Afro-American Society	3

American Indian and Indigenous Studies

Code	Title	Credits
AMER IND/ ENVIR ST 306	Indigenous Peoples and the Environment	3
AMER IND/ ANTHRO 314	Indians of North America	3
AMER IND/ ENVIR ST/ GEOG 345	Caring for Nature in Native North America	3
AMER IND/ GEOG 410	Critical Indigenous Ecological Knowledges	3
AMER IND 450	Issues in American Indian Studies	3
AMER IND/ ANTHRO/ BOTANY 474	Ethnobotany	3-4
AMER IND/SOC 578	Poverty and Place	3
AMER IND/ SOC WORK 636	Social Work in American Indian Communities: The Indian Child Welfare Act	3

Anthropology

Code	Title	Credits
ANTHRO 300	Cultural Anthropology: Theory and Ethnography	3
ANTHRO/AMER IND 314	Indians of North America	3

ANTHRO 321	The Emergence of Human Culture	3
ANTHRO 322	The Origins of Civilization	3
ANTHRO/RELIG ST 343	Anthropology of Religion	3-4
ANTHRO 345	Family, Kin and Community in Anthropological Perspective	3
ANTHRO 348	Economic Anthropology	3-4
ANTHRO 350	Political Anthropology	3-4
ANTHRO/GEN&WS 443	Anthropology by Women	3
ANTHRO/ AMER IND/ BOTANY 474	Ethnobotany	3-4
ANTHRO 477	Anthropology, Environment, and Development	3
ANTHRO 545	Psychological Anthropology	3
ANTHRO/ ED POL 570	Anthropology and Education	3

Asian American Studies

Code	Title	Credits
ASIAN AM/SOC 220	Ethnic Movements in the United States	3-4
ASIAN AM 240	Topics in Asian American Studies	3
ASIAN AM 441	Hmong American Social Movements in the 20th and 21st Centuries	3
ASIAN AM 540	Special Topics	3

Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies

Code	Title	Credits
CHICLA/POLI SCI 231	Politics in Multi-Cultural Societies	3-4
CHICLA 301	Chicana/o and Latina/o History	3
CHICLA/ POLI SCI 302	Mexican-American Politics	3-4
CHICLA 315	Racial Formation and Whiteness	3
CHICLA/ CURRIC 321	Chicano/Latino Educational Justice	3
CHICLA 329	Education and Service Topics in Chicana/o & Latina/o Studies	3
CHICLA 330	Topics in Chicano/a Studies	3-4
CHICLA/GEN&WS 332	Latinas: Self Identity and Social Change	3
CHICLA/HISTORY/ LACIS/POLI SCI 355	Labor in the Americas: US & Mexico in Comparative & Historical Perspective	3
CHICLA/LEGAL ST/ SOC 440	Ethnicity, Race, and Justice	3-4
CHICLA/LEGAL ST/ SOC 443	Immigration, Crime, and Enforcement	3-4
CHICLA/SOC 470	Sociodemographic Analysis of Mexican Migration	3
CHICLA/ LAND ARC 475	Latino Urbanism: Design and Engagement in the American City	3
CHICLA 501	Chican@ and Latin@ Social Movements in the U.S.	3

CHICLA/ COUN PSY 525	Dimensions of Latin@ Mental Health Services	3
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Economics

Code	Title	Credits
ECON/ FINANCE 300	Introduction to Finance	3
ECON 301	Intermediate Microeconomic Theory	4
ECON 302	Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory	4
ECON/HIST SCI 305	Development of Economic Thought	3-4
ECON/A A E/ REAL EST/ URB R PL 306	The Real Estate Process	3
ECON 311	Intermediate Microeconomic Theory - Advanced Treatment	3
ECON 312	Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory - Advanced Treatment	3
ECON/ FINANCE 320	Investment Theory	3
ECON 321	Sports Economics	3-4
ECON 330	Money and Banking	4
ECON 340	Microeconomics in Popular Culture	3
ECON/A A E/ENVIR ST 343	Environmental Economics	3-4
ECON 355	The Economics of Growing-up and Getting Old	3-4
ECON 370	Economics of Poverty and Inequality	3
ECON 390	Contemporary Economic Issues	3
ECON/URB R PL 420	Urban and Regional Economics	3
ECON 441	Analytical Public Finance	3-4
ECON/POLI SCI 449	Government and Natural Resources	3-4
ECON 450	Wages and the Labor Market	3-4
ECON 461	International Macroeconomics	3-4
ECON/A A E/ INTL BUS 462	Latin American Economic Development	3
ECON 464	International Trade	3-4
ECON/ HISTORY 466	The American Economy Since 1865	3-4
ECON 467	International Industrial Organizations	3-4
ECON/A A E/ECON 474	Economic Problems of Developing Areas	3
ECON 475	Economics of Growth	3-4
ECON 521	Game Theory and Economic Analysis	3-4
ECON 522	Law and Economics	3-4
ECON/PHILOS 524	Philosophy and Economics	3
ECON/A A E/ F&W ECOL 531	Natural Resource Economics	3
ECON/POP HLTH/ PUB AFFR 548	The Economics of Health Care	3-4
ECON 623	Population Economics	3-4
ECON 661	Issues in International Macroeconomics	3-4

ECON/A A E/ ENVIR ST/ URB R PL 671	Energy Economics	3
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Gender and Women's Studies

Code	Title	Credits
GEN&WS/CHICLA/ GEOG 308	Latinx Feminisms: Women's Lives, Work, and Activism	3
GEN&WS 320	Special Topics in Gender, Women and Society	3
GEN&WS/ PSYCH 322	Sexual & Relationship Violence Research & Activism	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 323	Gender, Race and Class: Women in U.S. History	3
GEN&WS 331	Topics in Gender/Class/Race/ Ethnicity (Social Sciences)	3
GEN&WS/CHICLA 332	Latinas: Self Identity and Social Change	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 333	Black Feminisms	3
GEN&WS 340	Topics in LGBTQ Sexuality	3
GEN&WS 342	Transgender Studies	3-4
GEN&WS 344	Bi/Pan/Asexuality: Community & Representation	3
GEN&WS/HISTORY 353	Women and Gender in the U.S. to 1870	3-4
GEN&WS/HISTORY 354	Women and Gender in the U.S. Since 1870	3-4
GEN&WS/ LEGAL ST/SOC 406	Law, Sexuality, & Society	3-4
GEN&WS/ COM ARTS 418	Gender, Sexuality, and the Media	3
GEN&WS 420	Women in Cross-Societal Perspective	3
GEN&WS/ LEGAL ST 422	Women and the Law	3
GEN&WS 423	The Female Body in the World: Gender and Contemporary Body Politics in Cross Cultural Perspective	3
GEN&WS/ LEGAL ST/SOC 425	Crime, Gender and Justice	3
GEN&WS/ POLI SCI 429	Gender and Politics in Comparative Perspective	3-4
GEN&WS 441	Contemporary Feminist Theories	3
GEN&WS/ANTHRO 443	Anthropology by Women	3
GEN&WS 446	Queer of Color Critique	3
GEN&WS 449	Special Topics in Feminist Theory	3
GEN&WS/ POLI SCI 469	Women and Politics	3-4
GEN&WS/ GEOG 504	Feminist Geography: Theoretical Approaches	3
GEN&WS/HISTORY 519	Sexuality, Modernity and Social Change	3
GEN&WS/PSYCH 522	Psychology of Women and Gender	3

GEN&WS 523	Framing Fatness: Gender, Size, Constructing Health	3	POLI SCI 411	The American Constitution : Powers and Structures of Government	4
GEN&WS 527	The Environment of the Womb: Epigenetics and Parent/Child Health	3	POLI SCI 412	The American Constitution: Rights and Civil Liberties	4
GEN&WS 534	Gender, Sexuality, and Reproduction: Public Health Perspectives	3	POLI SCI 414	The Supreme Court as a Political Institution	3
GEN&WS/INTL ST 535	Women's Global Health and Human Rights	3	POLI SCI 416	Community Power and Grass Roots Politics	3
GEN&WS 536	Queering Sexuality Education	3	POLI SCI 417	The American Judicial System	3-4
GEN&WS/HIST SCI 537	Childbirth in the United States	3	POLI SCI/PUB AFFR 419	Administrative Law	3-4
GEN&WS 539	Special Topics in Gender and Health	3	POLI SCI/GEN&WS 429	Gender and Politics in Comparative Perspective	3-4
GEN&WS 546	Feminist Theories and Masculinities	3	POLI SCI/INTL ST 431	Contentious Politics	3-4
GEN&WS 547	Theorizing Intersectionality	3	POLI SCI/INTL ST 434	The Politics of Human Rights	3-4
GEN&WS/ED POL 560	Gender and Education	3	POLI SCI/INTL ST 439	The Comparative Study of Genocide	3-4

Political Science

Code	Title	Credits	Code	Title	Credits
POLI SCI 205	Introduction to State Government	3-4	POLI SCI/ECON/ENVR ST/URB R PL 449	Government and Natural Resources	3-4
POLI SCI/LEGAL ST 217	Law, Politics and Society	3-4	POLI SCI 461	Interdisciplinary Seminar in Political Economy, Philosophy, & Politics	3
POLI SCI/CHICLA 231	Politics in Multi-Cultural Societies	3-4	POLI SCI/ILS 463	Deception and Politics	4
POLI SCI 272	Introduction to Public Policy	3-4	POLI SCI/GEN&WS 469	Women and Politics	3-4
POLI SCI/CHICLA 302	Mexican-American Politics	3-4	POLI SCI 470	The First Amendment	3-4
POLI SCI 304	The Political Economy of Race in the United States	3-4	POLI SCI 511	Campaign Finance	3-4
POLI SCI 305	Elections and Voting Behavior	3-4	POLI SCI 515	Public Opinion	3-4
POLI SCI 306	American Political Parties	3-4	POLI SCI 538		3-4
POLI SCI 311	United States Congress	3-4	POLI SCI 601	Proseminar: Topics in Political Science	3
POLI SCI 314	Criminal Law and Justice	3-4	POLI SCI 635	Comparative Politics of Sport	3-4
POLI SCI 330	Political Economy of Development	3			
POLI SCI 335	Social Identities	3			
POLI SCI 338	The Civil-Military Paradox in U.S. Politics and Society	3			
POLI SCI 343	Theories of International Security	3-4			
POLI SCI 345	Conflict Resolution	3-4			
POLI SCI 347	Terrorism	3			
POLI SCI 348	Analysis of International Relations	3-4			
POLI SCI 350	International Political Economy	3-4			
POLI SCI 354	International Institutions and World Order	3-4			
POLI SCI/CHICLA/HISTORY/LACIS 355	Labor in the Americas: US & Mexico in Comparative & Historical Perspective	3			
POLI SCI 356	Principles of International Law	3-4			
POLI SCI 358	States in the World: Comparative Foreign Policy	3-4			
POLI SCI 359	American Foreign Policy	3-4			
POLI SCI 405	State Government and Public Policy	3-4			
POLI SCI 408	The American Presidency	3-4			

Psychology

Code	Title	Credits
PSYCH 311	Issues in Psychology	3-4
PSYCH/GEN&WS 322	Sexual & Relationship Violence Research & Activism	3
PSYCH 401	Psychology, Law, and Social Policy	3
PSYCH 403	Psychology of Personality	3
PSYCH 405	Adult Psychopathology	3-4
PSYCH 414	Cognitive Psychology	3
PSYCH/SOC 453	Human Sexuality	4
PSYCH 456	Social Psychology	3-4
PSYCH 460	Child Development	3-4
PSYCH 462	Adolescent Development	3-4
PSYCH 464	Adult Development and Aging	3
PSYCH 502	Cognitive Development	4
PSYCH 503	Social Development	4
PSYCH 508	Psychology of Human Emotions: From Biology to Culture	4
PSYCH 510	Critical Issues in Child Psychopathology	4

PSYCH 513	Hormones, Brain, and Behavior	4
PSYCH 521		4
PSYCH/ GEN&WS 522	Psychology of Women and Gender	3
PSYCH 526	The Criminal Mind: Forensic and Psychobiological Perspectives	4
PSYCH 528	Cultural Psychology	4
PSYCH 532	Psychological Effects of the Internet	4
PSYCH 607	Introduction to Psychotherapy	3

Sociology

Code	Title	Credits
SOC 181	Honors Introductory Seminar-The Sociological Enterprise	3-4
SOC/C&E SOC 210	Survey of Sociology	3-4
SOC/C&E SOC 211	The Sociological Enterprise	3
SOC/ASIAN AM 220	Ethnic Movements in the United States	3-4
SOC/A A E/ C&E SOC 340	Issues in Food Systems	3-4
SOC/C&E SOC 341	Labor in Global Food Systems	3
SOC/C&E SOC 343	Sociology of Health and Medicine	3
SOC/GEN&WS/ LEGAL ST 406	Law, Sexuality, & Society	3-4
SOC 421	Processes of Deviant Behavior	3-4
SOC/ SOC WORK 422	Social Issues in Aging	3
SOC/ILS/ JEWISH 423	Modern Jewish Thought	3
SOC/GEN&WS/ LEGAL ST 425	Crime, Gender and Justice	3
SOC/CHICLA/ LEGAL ST 440	Ethnicity, Race, and Justice	3-4
SOC 441	Criminology	3-4
SOC/CHICLA/ LEGAL ST 443	Immigration, Crime, and Enforcement	3-4
SOC 444	Social Psychology: A Sociological Perspective	3-4
SOC 446	Juvenile Delinquency	3-4
SOC/PSYCH 453	Human Sexuality	4
SOC/CHICLA 470	Sociodemographic Analysis of Mexican Migration	3
SOC/C&E SOC 475	Classical Sociological Theory	3
SOC 476	Contemporary Sociological Theory	3
SOC/C&E SOC 532	Health Care Issues for Individuals, Families and Society	3
SOC/C&E SOC 533	Public Health in Rural & Urban Communities	3
SOC 535	Talk and Social Interaction	3
SOC/C&E SOC/ ENVIR ST 540	Sociology of International Development, Environment, and Sustainability	3
SOC/C&E SOC 541	Environmental Stewardship and Social Justice	3
SOC 543	Collective Behavior	3

SOC/C&E SOC 573	Community Organization and Change	3
SOC 575	Sociological Perspectives on the Life Course and Aging	3
SOC/AMER IND/ C&E SOC 578	Poverty and Place	3
SOC/C&E SOC/URB R PL 617	Community Development	3
SOC 624	Political Sociology	3
SOC 626	Social Movements	3
SOC/C&E SOC 630	Sociology of Developing Societies/ Third World	3
SOC 632	Sociology of Organizations	3-4
SOC 633	Social Stratification	3
SOC 640	Sociology of the Family	3
SOC/LAW/LEGAL ST 641	Sociology of Law	3-4
SOC/URB R PL 645	Modern American Communities	3
SOC/ED POL 648	Sociology of Education	3
SOC/C&E SOC 650	Sociology of Agriculture	3
SOC/C&E SOC 652	Sociology of Economic Institutions	3
SOC/HISTORY 670	Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy in America Since 1890	3-4
SOC 678	Sociology of Persecution	3

HUMAN BEHAVIOR & THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

Code	Title	Credits
Complete all:		
SOC WORK 457	Human Behavior and the Environment	3
SOC WORK 612	Psychopathology in Generalist Social Work Practice	2
SOC WORK 640	Diversity, Oppression and Social Justice in Social Work	3

SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE SEQUENCE ⁵

Code	Title	Credits
Complete all:		
SOC WORK 400	Field Practice and Integrative Seminar I ^{2,5}	4
SOC WORK 401	Field Practice and Integrative Seminar II ^{2,5}	4
SOC WORK 441	Generalist Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups ⁷	3
SOC WORK 442	Generalist Practice with Communities and Organizations ⁷	2

STATISTICS AND RESEARCH

Code	Title	Credits
Statistics		
Complete one course from:		3-4
STAT 301	Introduction to Statistical Methods	
or STAT 371	Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences	

or PSYCH 210 Basic Statistics for Psychology
 or SOC/
 C&E SOC 360 Statistics for Sociologists I

Research

Complete one course from: 3-4

SOC WORK 650	Methods of Social Work Research
or PSYCH 225	Research Methods
or SOC/ C&E SOC 357	Methods of Sociological Inquiry

Total Credits 6-8

ELECTIVES

Complete **two** Intermediate or Advanced level SOC WORK courses and **at least 6 total credits** of Social Work electives. Not all courses in the list below are offered in each semester or year.

List of Social Work Elective Courses

Code	Title	Credits
SOC WORK 336	Making Sense of Mental Health & Mental Illness	3
SOC WORK 375	Contemporary Issues in Social Welfare	3
SOC WORK 420	Poverty and Social Welfare	3
SOC WORK/ SOC 422	Social Issues in Aging	3
SOC WORK 453	Substance Use Disorders	3
SOC WORK 454	Small Groups in Social Work Practice	3
SOC WORK 462	Child Welfare	3
SOC WORK 578	Housing Precarity and Social Policy	4
SOC WORK 623	Interpersonal Violence	3
SOC WORK 624	Social Work with the Small Group	3
SOC WORK 627	Sex Trafficking and Sex Trading	2
SOC WORK/ AMER IND 636	Social Work in American Indian Communities: The Indian Child Welfare Act	3
SOC WORK 639	Social Work Practice with LGBTQIA2S+ Individuals and Communities	3
SOC WORK 644	Issues in Developmental Disabilities	3
SOC WORK 646	Child Abuse and Neglect	2
SOC WORK 648	Social Work Practice in Palliative Care	2
SOC WORK 656	Child Welfare Practice in Foster and Kinship Care, Permanency, and Adoption	2
SOC WORK 675	Topics in Contemporary Social Welfare	2-3
SOC WORK 691	Senior Thesis ³	2
SOC WORK 692	Senior Thesis ³	2
SOC WORK 699	Directed Study ⁶	2-3

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all SOC WORK courses and all major courses (cumulative)
- Minimum 2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level major credits, taken in residence⁴
- 15 credits in SOC WORK, taken on campus

FOOTNOTES

- ¹ Social Science Concentration courses listed are a selected list of eligible courses. Consult with a Social Work advisor for other exceptions or additions to the list.
- ² BSW students take two semesters (16 hours per week—256 hours/semester) of field education during their senior year (SOC WORK 400 fall semester, SOC WORK 401 spring semester).
- ³ Students with an interest in a particular area of study may develop a plan of independent work with the assistance of an interested Social Work faculty member. They may obtain information about instructors and their areas of interest from the School of Social Work website (<https://socwork.wisc.edu/directory/>). Consent of instructor is required for the noted course offerings in independent work.
- ⁴ PSYCH 225, SOC/C&E SOC 357, STAT 301, STAT 371, PSYCH 210, SOC/C&E SOC 360, and all SOC WORK courses designated as Intermediate or Advanced count as upper-level in the major.
- ⁵ Please refer to the Advising and Careers tab (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/social-work/social-work-bsw/#advisingandcareerstext>) for more information on field education placements.
- ⁶ No more than 3 credits of SOC WORK 699 Directed Study may be used toward fulfillment of this requirement.
- ⁷ See Advising and Careers tab for more information on Practice Course sequencing.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree To receive a bachelor's degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Articulate and demonstrate foundational ethical and professional behavior
2. Identify the historical foundations of the US social welfare system and the social work profession.
3. Recognize and engage in foundational practices to advance human rights and social, racial, economic, and environmental justice.
4. Demonstrate foundational knowledge, critical reflection, and analytic skills that inform anti-oppressive and anti-racist practice.
5. Demonstrate a foundational understanding and ability to use research to inform practice and to use practice experiences to inform research.
6. Describe and demonstrate foundational policy practice skills.
7. Describe and demonstrate foundational knowledge and skills in engaging, assessing, intervening, and evaluating practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

This Four-Year Plan is only one way a student may complete an L&S degree with this major. Many factors can affect student degree planning, including placement scores, credit for transferred courses, credits earned by examination, and individual scholarly interests. In addition, many students have commitments (e.g., athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, work and volunteer experiences) that necessitate they adjust their plans accordingly. Informed students engage in their own unique Wisconsin Experience by consulting their academic advisors, Guide, DARS, and Course Search & Enroll for assistance making and adjusting their plan.

Students wishing to apply to the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program (<https://socwork.wisc.edu/admissions/bsw-application/>) must do so in spring of Junior year.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Communication A	3 Ethnic Studies	3-4
Quantitative Reasoning A	3-4 Literature Breadth	4
Biological Science Breadth	3 Physical Science Breadth	3
Language (if needed)	4 Language (if needed)	4
	14	14

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
SOC WORK 205	4 SOC WORK 206	4
Humanities Breadth	4 Communication B	4
Literature Breadth	4 Science Breadth	3
Elective	3 Electives	5
INTER-LS 210 ¹	1	
	16	16

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
SOC WORK 640 (fall-only) ²	3 SOC WORK 457 (spring only)	3
Social Science Concentration ²	3-4 STAT 301, 371, PSYCH 210, or SOC 360 (also meets Quantitative Reasoning B)	3-4
Science Breadth	3 SOC WORK elective (Intermediate/Advanced-level)	3-4
Electives (Intermediate/Advanced-level)	6 Social Science Concentration ²	3-4
	Elective (Intermediate/Advanced-level)	3
	15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
SOC WORK 400 (fall only)	4 SOC WORK 401 (spring only)	4
SOC WORK 441 (fall only)	3 SOC WORK 612 (spring only) ³	2
SOC WORK 442 (fall only)	2 SOC WORK 650 (spring only) ³	3
Electives (Intermediate/Advanced-level)	6 SOC WORK elective (Intermediate/Advanced-level)	3-4
	Elective (Intermediate/Advanced-level)	2-3
	15	15

Total Credits 120

Note: SOC WORK 100 is a pre-major elective course that can be taken in the first year, if offered; it is not required for the major.

¹ The College encourages students to take INTER-LS 210 in their second year (or anytime); it is recommended but not required.

² SOC WORK 640 counts towards the BSW ethnic studies requirement, providing three of the six credits needed.

³ SOC WORK 612 and SOC WORK 650 are often available in the summer. Check with an Advisor regarding availability and how summer courses might fit into your schedule.

THREE-YEAR PLAN

THREE-YEAR PLAN

This Sample Three-Year Plan is a tool to assist students and their advisor(s). Students should use it –along with their DARS report, the Degree Planner, and Course Search & Enroll tools – to make their own three-year plan based on their placement scores, credit for transferred courses and approved examinations, and individual interests.

Three-year plans may vary considerably from student to student, depending on their individual preparation and circumstances. Students interested in graduating in three years should meet with an advisor as early as possible to discuss feasibility, appropriate course sequencing, post-

graduation plans (careers, graduate school, etc.), and opportunities they might forgo in pursuit of a three-year graduation plan.

DEPARTMENTAL EXPECTATIONS

Students planning to graduate within three years from the Bachelor of Social Work program should enter the University with a minimum of 30 advanced standing credits, and have satisfied the following requirements with course credit or via placement examination:

- Communication Part A
- Quantitative Reasoning Part A
- 18 combined credits of Humanities, Social Science, and Natural Science coursework
- 3-4 units of language

Students wishing to apply to the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program (<https://socwork.wisc.edu/admissions/bsw-application/>) must do so in spring of Junior year.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
SOC WORK 205	4 SOC WORK 206	4
Social Science Concentration course	3-4 Social Science Concentration course	3-4
Biological Science Breadth	3 Humanities Breadth	3
Literature Breadth	3 Literature Breadth	3
Language (if interested in retroactive credit or to reach 4 units)	3 Physical Science Breadth	3
	16	16

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
STAT 301, 371, PSYCH 210, or SOC 360 (also meets Quantitative Reasoning B)	3 SOC WORK 650 (spring only) ²	3
SOC WORK 640 (fall only) ¹	3 SOC WORK 457 (spring only)	3
SOC WORK elective (Intermediate/Advanced-level)	3 Humanities Breadth	3
Communication B	3 Science Breadth	3
Science Breadth (if not taking STAT 301 or 371)	3 Elective (Intermediate/Advanced-level)	3-4
	15	15

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
SOC WORK 400 (fall only)	4 SOC WORK 401 (spring only)	4
SOC WORK 441 (fall only)	3 SOC WORK 612 (spring only) ²	2
SOC WORK 442 (fall only)	2 Ethnic Studies	3
Elective (Intermediate/Advanced-level)	3-4 SOC WORK Elective (Intermediate/Advanced-level)	3-4

Elective	2-4 Elective (Intermediate/Advanced-level)	2
	14	14

Total Credits 90

- ¹ SOC WORK 640 counts towards the BSW ethnic studies requirement, providing three of the six credits needed.
- ² SOC WORK 612 and SOC WORK 650 are often available in the summer. Check with an Advisor regarding availability and how summer courses might fit into your schedule.

ADVISING AND CAREERS

ADVISING AND CAREERS

Students interested in either the Social Welfare major or Bachelor of Social Work meet with the Social Work advisors to discuss degree requirements; explore career paths; declare the major; and confer on student issues and concerns. Advisors are an excellent resource for information about campus and community services. Students should see an advisor at least once each semester to review academic progress.

Advising appointments for current UW-Madison students are made through Starfish (<https://wisc.starfishsolutions.com/starfish-ops/>) or by calling 608-263-3660.

Social Work faculty members are available for advice about coursework, research, and the social work profession in general.

FIELD EDUCATION

The Director of Field Education makes final unit placement decisions and field instructors make final agency-placement decisions.

The types of agencies working with the field education program are varied. Field units are organized around a social problem area or a field of practice. Each unit has a range of field placement agencies and settings appropriate to its theme. The emphasis for undergraduate placements is on applying the knowledge and skills of generalist social work practice with systems of all sizes. The focus is on learning and applying analytic and intervention skills within an ethically based, problem-focused approach.

Social Work students should be advised that the Wisconsin Caregiver Law requires a Wisconsin background check (Caregiver Check and Wisconsin Criminal History) for all potential field-education students prior to the field placement. More information regarding this process is available at Field Education (<https://socwork.wisc.edu/programs/field-education/>) on the Social Work website.

For more information about field units, the agencies they work with, and field course expectations see the Field Education Handbook (<https://socwork.wisc.edu/students/resources/#bsw-students>). Field unit availability may vary from year to year.

SUCCESSWORKS

SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps you turn the academic skills learned in your classes into a fulfilling life, guiding you every step of the way to securing jobs, internships, or admission to graduate school.

Through one-on-one career advising, events, and resources, you can explore career options, build valuable internship and research experience,

and connect with supportive alumni and employers who open doors of opportunity.

- What you can do with your major (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/what-you-can-do-with-your-major/>) (Major Skills & Outcomes Sheets)
- Make a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
- Try “Jobs, Internships, & How to Get Them,” (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/canvas/>) an interactive guide in Canvas for enrolled UW–Madison students

CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE

CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE EXAM PASS RATES

Association of Social Work Boards (<https://www.aswb.org/>) BSW exam pass rates.

Many students pursuing a BSW will go on to earn a Master in Social Work, which does not require taking the bachelor's level exam. Thus, no data is available from ASWB for UW–Madison attempts in years when the number of students taking the exam is low. As of 2022, ASWB no longer posts national results for repeat exam-takers, only first-time. Exam results nationally, by state, and by institution are publicly available on the ASWB website (<https://www.aswb.org/exam/exam-scoring/exam-pass-rates/>) for the prior year.

Year of Exam	UW–Madison Nationa Graduates: All Attempts	Nationa All Attempt
2023	100	No Data
2022	100	No Data
2021	No Data	61
2020	100	61
2019	No data	60

Year of Exam	UW–Madison Nationa Graduates: First Attempt	Nationa First Attempt
2023	100	68
2022	100	65
2021	No Data	69
2020	100	69
2019	No Data	67

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE DISCLOSURE (NC-SARA)

The United States Department of Education (via 34 CFR Part 668 (<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-34/subtitle-B/chapter-VI/part-668/?toc=1>)) requires institutions that provide distance education to disclose information for programs leading to professional certification or licensure. The expectation is that institutions will determine whether each applicable

academic program meets state professional licensure requirements and provide a general disclosure of such on an official university website.

Professional licensure requirements vary from state-to-state and can change year-to-year; they are established in a variety of state statutes, regulations, rules, and policies; and they center on a range of educational requirements, including degree type, specialized accreditation, total credits, specific courses, and examinations.

UW–Madison has taken reasonable efforts to determine whether this program satisfies the educational requirements for certification/licensure in states where prospective and enrolled students are located and is disclosing that information as follows.

Disclaimer: This information is based on the most recent annual review of state agency certification/licensure data and is subject to change. All students are strongly encouraged to consult with the individual/office listed in the Contact Information box on this page and with the applicable state agency for specific information.

The requirements of this program meet certification/licensure requirements in the following states:

Illinois, Wisconsin

The requirements of this program do not meet certification/licensure requirements in the following states:

Not applicable

Updated: 1 June 2025

ACCREDITATION

ACCREDITATION

Council on Social Work Education (<https://www.cswe.org/Accreditation/>)

Accreditation status: Accredited. Next accreditation review: 2029.

SOCIAL WORK COMPETENCIES

At the conclusion of the BSW program we expect students to have achieved the following core competencies at a generalist level:

1. Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior
2. Advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice
3. Engage anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion (ADEI) in practice
4. Engage in practice-informed research and research-informed practice
5. Engage in policy practice
6. Engage with individuals, families, groups, communities, and organizations
7. Assess individuals, families, groups, communities, and organizations
8. Intervene with individuals, families, groups, communities, and organizations
9. Evaluate practice with individuals, families, groups, communities, and organizations