SOCIAL WORK (SOWK)

SOWK 300 Social Work Foundations
This course introduces perspective social work students to basic foundational concepts and methods of the social work profession. Students will examine the historical foundations and current context of social work. The course will analyze the different factors and perspectives such as social justice, poverty and populations that are at risk. Areas of professional social work services will be evaluated such as family and children’s services, mental health, health care, aging and the criminal justice system. Future social work challenges and trends will be assessed. 3 credits.

SOWK 302 Interview and Assessment Skills in Social Work
Prerequisite or Corequisite SOWK 300.

This course introduces students to basic interview and assessment skills utilized in social work. Students will practice interpersonal communication skills, assessment strategies, and explore the dynamics of the helping relationship. Students will examine social and cultural influences, theories, and diversity issues related to the interview and assessment process. Students will evaluate communication and assessment skills used in the interview and assessment process. 3 credits.

SOWK 303 Diversity and Justice in a Global Society
Prerequisite or Corequisite SOWK 300.

This course will focus on diverse populations in American society and on an international level. We will examine ways historical and contemporary patterns of oppression and discrimination may influence social work practice. Specific attention is given to professional commitments to marginalized groups and processes of advocacy, coalition-building, and other ways of developing effective alliances to promote social justice. 3 credits.

SOWK 304 Social Welfare
Prerequisite or Corequisite SOWK 300.

This course examines social welfare issues from an historical perspective. Students are introduced to the origins of the welfare state, the development of the social welfare system, and the evolution of the social work profession. Social welfare issues, such as poverty, discrimination, employment, and criminal justice, are explored in terms of their social, ideological, political, and economic context. Particular emphasis is given to oppressed and vulnerable populations and the role of social workers as advocates in addressing social welfare issues. 3 credits.

SOWK 306 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I: Infancy, Childhood, and Adolescence
Prerequisite or Corequisite SOWK 300.

This course is the first of a two-course sequence on the interaction of human behavior and the social environment across the lifespan. Students will examine interdisciplinary theories of human behavior and evaluate the “goodness-of-fit” between individuals and their environment during early life stages. The role of social workers as advocates for infants, children, and adolescents will also be explored. 3 credits.

SOWK 307 Human Behavior and the Social Environment II: Adulthood & Aging
Prerequisite or Corequisite SOWK 300.

Prerequisite: SOWK 306.

This course is the second of a two-course sequence on the interaction of human behavior and the social environment across the lifespan. Students will examine interdisciplinary theories of human behavior and evaluate the “goodness-of-fit” between individuals and their environment during later life stages. The role of social workers as advocates for adults and the elderly will also be explored. 3 credits.

SOWK 309 Introduction to Social Work Research
This course introduces students to basic research concepts and methods with particular emphasis on the application of research to social work issues. Students examine the process of conducting research and compare different research methodologies to understand social work issues. Social work values and ethics are explored as they apply to conducting research. Diversity and unique populations are considered in the decision of research topics, subjects, and methodologies. Research studies and findings are evaluated as they apply to practice situations. The issue of research-informed practice and practice-informed research is explored. 3 credits.

SOWK 391 Youth At Risk
This course will introduce students to various models, theories, and intervention of children and adolescents considered “at-risk”. Topics covered include, but may not be limited to the following: a) socio-cultural factors in defining and influencing behavior; b) psychological models both biological and ecological that interact to shape behavior; c) types of at-risk categories including school dropouts, substance use and addiction, teenage pregnancy, antisocial behavior, delinquency, gangs, school shooters, and youth suicide; and d) specific types of clinical abnormal behavior including anxiety, mood, and impulse control disorders; e) theoretical and practical considerations related to community and school interventions. 3 credits.

SOWK 393 Child Abuse
An introduction to an overview of the phenomena of child abuse as it relates to the helping professional. This class will examine the definition and cause of child abuse from sociological, cultural, and psychological perspectives. The legal and child welfare systems will be studied in addition to treatment and prevention aspects of the child abuse issue. 3 credits.

SOWK 405 Military Social Work
The purpose of this course is to understand the military culture within which military families function, the stressors such as deployment that they navigate, and the diversity of military family structures and how a range of diversity filters can impact the military family and military culture. The different military contexts (i.e., active duty, guard/reserve, veteran) are explored. Ethical issues for working in this environment are considered. Theory-based and research-informed strategies to intervene with military families are reviewed. Military family policies are examined and critiqued. Family life cycle interactions with the military demands are discussed. Students completing this course will have a more in-depth understanding of and ability to work with the military and the military families that are a vital part of society. Online only. 3 credits.
SOWK 408 International Social Work
This course introduces the major concepts, theories, and issues of international social work practice. The history, values, ethics, and practice of social work are discussed in a global context that examines the role of the social work profession on an international level. Students will explore issues of human rights, sustainability, community building, and development as they apply a social work perspective to international social work issues at the individual, group, and societal level while considering the role of social workers as advocates in a global society. Online only. 3 credits.

SOWK 418 Social Policy
Prerequisite: SOWK 304.
This course examines the nature and impact of social welfare policies and the role of social workers in influencing social policy. Students will analyze the developmental stages of social policy—identifying need to implementation, and consider the social, political, and economic context of policy development. The role of ideology in social policy and the impact of policies on individuals, groups, and society will be addressed, with particular attention given to oppressed and vulnerable populations. Students will analyze social policies in the areas of homelessness, poverty, mental health, discrimination, and others. 3 credits.

SOWK 421 Social Work Practice: Individuals and Families
Prerequisite: SOWK 302.
This course introduces students to a conceptual framework and a core set of interpersonal helping skills for generalist practice with individuals, families, groups, and communities. This course focuses on the common knowledge, values, and skills which underlie social work practice with diverse client systems in diverse practice settings and community contexts. 3 credits.

SOWK 422 Social Work Practice: Groups
Prerequisite: SOWK 302.
This course complements the knowledge, values, and skill base found in Social Work Practice: Individual & Families. It is focused on micro assessment and intervention skills, as well as covering the steps of the problem solving process in working with groups. The class focuses on the dynamics of task and process groups. Students learn how to apply a systematic approach to the development, implementation, termination, and evaluation of groups. 3 credits.

SOWK 423 Social Work Practice: Organizations and Communities
Prerequisite: SOWK 302.
This course presents the basics of professional generalist social work practice as it has developed in response to the needs of multiple member systems and communities. Included are methods of practice used to mobilize people to collective action to solve their own problems, form ongoing organizations that enhance their power to meet their own needs, and develop resources where none exist. Emphasis is on work with diverse human populations and the importance of evaluation in practice. The systems perspective is used as an integrating theme throughout. 3 credits.

SOWK 445 Drug and Alcohol Treatment in Social Work
This course introduces the major theories, issues, and treatment approaches related to drug and alcohol abuse. Students examine perspectives on the causes, effects, context, and unique treatment needs of different populations. An historical and multicultural perspective is introduced to examine the origins and social context of substance use and abuse. The role of social work and social workers in addressing drug and alcohol issues is explored as well as societal attitudes and policy approaches to this issue. A social work perspective is applied to understanding and responding to the issues of drug and alcohol use, abuse, and consequences for individuals, families, and societies. Online only. 3 credits.

SOWK 482 Social Work with Older Adults
This course introduces students to age-specific issues involved in assessing and providing services to older adults in social work. Students review physical, psycho-social, and cultural characteristics of aging men and women. They also evaluate assessment and service-delivery strategies and models designed for diverse client populations. Students will study aging from a person-in-environment approach that examines the characteristics of aging as well as attitudes towards aging, societal responses to meeting the needs of older adults, and the role of social workers as advocates for older adults. 3 credits.

SOWK 493 Social Work Practicum Seminar I
Prerequisite: Successful completion of any nine courses (core requirements and/or electives) in the BA in Social Work major, including SOWK 300, 302, 303, 304, 306, 307, and 421; completion of readiness review with the Social Work Field Director, and permission of Field Director.

Students may take SOWK 493 only during the following sessions: Fall-I, Fall-II, Summer-I, Summer-II. This is a required course in the BA in Social Work program and serves as a capstone experience in the program. The course comprises a university-based seminar component and an agency-based field component, which complement each other. Students must participate in a seminar course to be in field practicum. The field practicum and the integrating seminar enable students to integrate knowledge acquired across the social work curriculum with practice in an agency. Through analysis in the seminar of their experiences in the field, students’ understanding of previously learned material is deepened and further knowledge acquired. Required readings provide additional content on specific practice topics addressed in the seminar. Practicum courses are to be taken consecutively. Graded pass/no-pass. 3 credits.

SOWK 494 Social Work Practicum Seminar II
Prerequisite: Successful completion of any nine courses (core requirements and/or electives) in the BA in Social Work major, including SOWK 300, 302, 303, 304, 306, 307, and 421; successful completion of SOWK 493.

This is a required course in the BA in Social Work program and serves as a capstone experience in the program. The course comprises a university-based seminar component and an agency-based field component, which complement each other. Students must participate in a seminar course to be in field practicum. The field practicum and the integrating seminar enable students to integrate knowledge acquired across the social work curriculum with practice in an agency. Through analysis in the seminar of their experiences in the field, students’ understanding of previously learned material is deepened and further knowledge acquired. Required readings provide additional content on specific practice topics addressed in the seminar. Practicum courses are to be taken consecutively. Graded pass/no-pass. 3 credits.
SOWK 495 Social Work Practicum Seminar III

Prerequisite: Successful completion of any nine courses (core requirements and/or electives) in the BA in Social Work major, including SOWK 300, 302, 303, 304, 306, 307, and 421; successful completion of SOWK 494.

This is a required course in the BA in Social Work program, and serves as a capstone experience in the program. The course comprises a university-based seminar component and an agency-based field component, which complement each other. Students must participate in a seminar course to be in field practicum. The field practicum and the integrating seminar enable students to integrate knowledge acquired across the social work curriculum with practice in an agency. Through analysis in the seminar of their experiences in the field, students' understanding of previously learned material is deepened and further knowledge acquired. Required readings provide additional content on specific practice topics addressed in the seminar. Practicum courses are to be taken consecutively. Graded pass/no-pass. 3 credits.

SOWK 497 Social Work Undergraduate Practicum Continuation

Prerequisites: Enrollment in SOWK 493, SOWK 494, and SOWK 495.

This course allows students to complete the required 400 practicum hours, when the hours have not been completed by the end of the session in which a student is enrolled in SOWK 495. Please see Tuition and Fees section of the catalog for the corresponding Social Work Undergraduate Practicum Continuation fee. This course is graded on a pass/no-pass basis. This course may be repeated. 0 credits.

SOWK 499 Independent Study

Prerequisites: Instructor's approval and approval of petition.

Directed reading and/or research designed to meet specific needs of superior upper division students. 1-3 credits.