



School of Social Work

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Advocates for positive social change

Bachelor of Social Work Program

Transfer Student Handbook

Our Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program prepares entry level professional social work practitioners to have the knowledge and skills to work towards alleviating social injustice, poverty, oppression and discrimination. We prepare culturally competent practitioners and scholars to be leaders in addressing persistent and emerging social problems through practice, research and policy.

I. OVERVIEW: THE PROFESSION OF SOCIAL WORK

What is social work?

According to the [International Federation of Social Workers](#), “Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people... Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing.”

Rooted in values of service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity and competence, the primary mission of the profession of social work is to “enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty” ([National Association of Social Workers](#)).

Jobs in Social Work:

- Activities Director
- Adoption Case Manager
- Advisor
- Behavior Specialist
- Bereavement Counselor
- Care Coordinator
- Case Manager
- Child and Family Therapist
- Clinician
- Community Assistant
- Community Developer
- Community Educator
- Counselor
- Crisis Referral Specialist
- DFCS Service Specialist
- Director of Children’s Services
- Forensic Social Worker
- Foster Care Social Worker
- Fundraising Chair
- Grants Manager
- Homeless Advocate
- Hospice Social Work
- Investigator
- Juvenile Probation Officer
- Medical Social Worker
- Mental Health Practitioner
- Military Social Worker
- Oncology Social Worker
- Outpatient Therapist
- Outreach Coordinator
- Patient Services Manager
- Preventative Case Planner
- Program Services Coordinator
- Project Coordinator
- Research Associate
- Residential Manager
- School Social Worker
- Shelter Coordinator
- Social Justice Advocate
- Social Services Specialist
- Substance Abuse Counselor
- Therapist

II. MAJOR: BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK

Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)

Our Bachelor of Social Work program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education to prepare students for entry-level social work practice. Ranked #6 in the nation by [College Factual](#), we provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary for excellence in generalist social work practice with individuals, families, groups and communities. Generalist social work practice is based on an understanding of the ecological perspective, driven by commitment to social justice, and grounded in scientific research.

BSW students have a grounding in liberal arts, which helps to inform and enhance their social work classes. In addition, students learn about the history of social work and the development of social welfare, the impact of diversity and oppression on our society, and theories of human development—including the development of the family and of groups. Students also learn about communities and organizations and how they affect families and individuals. Social work students learn research methodology and understand the relationship between research and practice. They acquire and demonstrate skills and techniques for generalist practice with individuals, families, groups, and communities through intensive academic year-long field education internships during the senior year, when BSW students intern for 20 hours a week in social service agencies.

Advanced Standing Eligibility

By completing our BSW Professional Program, students have the opportunity to achieve an “[Advanced Standing](#)” status, which may be applied to a future Master of Social Work (MSW) degree. As part of our BSW program, students complete 40 credits of 5000-level courses that equate to one year of graduate school. Advanced Standing means that students who graduate from our BSW program can then receive their MSW with only one additional year (11 months) of schooling. To qualify for Advanced Standing at UGA, students typically must successfully complete their BSW with a minimum GPA of 3.2*. Advanced Standing status is valid for five years after graduation.

** Please note that the minimum GPA for Advanced Standing eligibility varies by institution.*

Program Structure

The academic program for students seeking the BSW degree is composed of three parts:

1. Lower-Division Coursework: Pre-professional enrollment for lower-division students and transfer students preparing for entry into the professional program when complete the required lower-division, 2000-level SOWK courses (10 credits total): SOWK 2154 (3), SOWK 2154S (1), SOWK 2155 (3) and SOWK 2156 (3);
2. Upper-Division/Professional Program Coursework: The BSW Professional Program, consisting of our 5000-level Professional Program courses, to be completed after: A) formally applying to the BSW Professional Program; and B) finishing all 2000-level SOWK requirements. Students typically begin these courses during fall or spring of their third year, starting with SOWK 5340 (3) and SOWK 5524 (3), which serve as prerequisites for Senior Coursework;
3. Senior Coursework: BSW students’ fourth year, consisting of only 5000-level SOWK courses, including their year-long field practicum and group capstone experience (34 credits total).

Throughout the course of the BSW program, evaluation of the student's performance will determine the student's compatibility and fit to the professional practice of social work.

III. ENTRANCE & PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Upon admission to the University of Georgia, students may declare their major “Intended Social Work” and begin enrolling in our Lower-Division (2000-level) Coursework. These 2000-level SOWK courses are open to all University of Georgia students and serve as prerequisites to the Upper-Division/BSW Professional Program Coursework. Students apply to the BSW Professional Program during the semester that they are completing the last of their 2000-level/Lower-Division SOWK courses, and they must submit an application and be accepted into the BSW Professional Program before they may enroll in any 5000-level courses.

To be eligible to apply to the BSW Professional Program, students must meet the following criteria:

- Currently enrolled in classes at the University of Georgia
- Minimum overall GPA of 2.5
- Completed 60 semester hours
- Earned a B- or higher in all SOWK courses
- Completed or be in progress (IP) to finish all 2000-level, lower-division SOWK courses (i.e., SOWK 2154, SOWK 2154S, SOWK 2155 and SOWK 2156) during the current semester.

Students typically apply to the BSW Professional Program during the fall semester of their junior/third year. Under certain circumstances, a student will apply to the BSW Professional Program during the spring semester of their junior/third year.

IV. TYPICAL COURSE SEQUENCING

Because our program is “top-heavy” with the bulk of our BSW curriculum being completed during senior year, the BSW Program offers a great deal of flexibility regarding [course sequencing](#) and general elective credits during earlier years. Additionally, students can complete the required SOWK course sequence in as little as four semesters.

During years 1, 2 and 3, students typically complete their UGA requirements, Core Areas I through V, and Lower-Division SOWK courses (SOWK 2154, SOWK 2154S, SOWK 2155 and SOWK 2156). After completing *all* lower-division (2000-level) SOWK courses, applying, and being accepted into the BSW Professional Program, students may then enroll in their first two 5000-level, Upper-Division/Professional Program courses (SOWK 5340 and SOWK 5524), which serve as prerequisites to beginning Senior Coursework. Students typically finish their 2000-level/Lower-Division SOWK courses and apply to the BSW Professional Program during the fall semester of their junior year, and then complete SOWK 5340 and SOWK 5524 during the following spring semester.

The following chart outlines the courses that students complete during their senior/fourth year.

SENIOR COURSEWORK	
Fall Semester (17 credits)	Spring Semester (17 credits)
SOWK 5326 (3) - Foundations of Social Work Research	SOWK 5544 (3) - General Practice of Social Work III
SOWK 5534 (3) - General Practice of Social Work II	SOWK 5701 (3) - Social Welfare Policy and Services
SOWK 5757 (3) - Current Issues in Social Work I	SOWK 5767 (3) - Current Issues in Social Work II
SOWK 5835 (5) - Practicum in Social Work I	SOWK 5845 (5) - Practicum in Social Work II
SOWK 5836 (2) - Integrative Seminar in Generalist Social Work Practice	SOWK 5846 (2) - Integrative Seminar in Generalist Social Work Practice
SOWK 5850 (1) - Capstone I	SOWK 5851 (1) - Capstone II

Barring extenuating circumstances, students may only enroll in social work courses during their senior year.

V. COURSE OPTIONS PRIOR TO TRANSFER

Students transferring to UGA from another University System of Georgia institution are encouraged (though not required) to complete the core curriculum prior to transferring. Students transferring to UGA from a private or out-of-state institution should refer to the [Transfer Equivalency Database](#) to determine if and how courses will transfer. Transferable courses include UGA Core requirements and USG Core-to-Core equivalent courses. Social Work courses taken at other institutions are evaluated by the BSW Program Director on a course-by-course basis.

The following is a list of recommended courses that all BSW students are required to complete, but may be taken at another institution:

Area I:	ENGL 1101 ENGL 1102 MATH 1101 (or higher)
Area II:	BIOL 1103 + BIOL 1103L Any Core Physical Science course
Area III:	STAT 2000
Area IV:	Foreign Language through the 3 rd level (e.g., SPAN 1001, SPAN 1002 & SPAN 2001) Any Core Humanities & Arts course
Area V:	POLS 1101 HIST 2111 <i>or</i> 2112 PSYC 1101 SOC 1101 <i>or</i> SOCI 2600
Other:	PSYC 2101 <i>or</i> PSYC 3230 Any Cultural Diversity course

VI. CONTACT INFORMATION

Prospective students are encouraged to visit our [website](#) and contact the BSW Program & Advising Office at ugaBSW@uga.edu for additional information or to schedule a visit. Please contact the following with additional questions:

BSW Program & Advising Office

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