Department of Social Work

Chair: Dr. David E. Pollio

The baccalaureate social work program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and prepares graduates for employment at the beginning level of professional social work practice as well as for graduate-level professional education. The mission is to educate undergraduate students from a social science perspective in both problem-solving skills and social work values to prepare them for generalist practice with diverse populations in an increasingly complex and interconnected world, emphasizing social and economic justice for populations at risk. The program encourages social work career development through affiliation with professional organizations, pursuit of graduate education, and involvement in continuing education.

Students seeking to formally declare Social Work as a major must officially apply to the Social Work Professional program. Upon submitting the application and a signed academic check sheet all applicants are expected to submit a four question essay which will be evaluated by Department of Social Work faculty to determine admission.

Required course work includes acquisition of social work knowledge, values, and skills essential to social work practice, research, and policy. The curriculum culminates with a full-time, one-term field practicum.

The UAB BSW program is accredited by CSWE; therefore this program will only accept transfer credits from other programs accredited by CSWE.

SW 322 and SW 322L, SW 422 and SW 422L, SW 490 and SW 494 must be taken at UAB. For these courses transfer credits will not be accepted.

No minor is required for social work majors. Instead, selected social and behavioral science courses provide a foundation for the professional courses. These foundation courses include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HY 121 The United States Since 1877</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC 210 Principles of Microeconomics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or EC 211 Principles of Macroeconomics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PY 101 Introduction to Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 101 Foundations of American Government</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or PSC 221 American State and Local Government</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 100 Introduction to Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 101 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

These courses must be completed with a grade of C or better. Additionally, students are required to take at least one biology course and laboratory that includes content about human beings (BY 101 or BY 123), also completed with a grade of C or better. This requirement may be taken as part of the Core Curriculum.

Bachelor of Science in Social Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SW 100 Introduction to Social Work</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW 200 Professional Communication in Social Work</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

**Proposed Program of Study for a Major in Social Work**

### Freshman

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Term</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Second Term</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EH 101</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>EH 102</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA 110</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>HY 121</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HY 120</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOC 100</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PY 101</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SW 100</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Curriculum Area II: Fine Art</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
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### Sophomore

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Term</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Second Term</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SW 200</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SW 222</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BY 101 &amp; BY 102</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>SW 222L</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW 207</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ANTH 101</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>EC 210 or 211</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Core Curriculum Area III: Natural Science with Laboratory</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Curriculum Area II: Literature</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanities or Fine Art</td>
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### Junior

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Term</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Second Term</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSC 101 or 221</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SW 302</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Work (SW) Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SW 322</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Electives</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>SW 322L</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW 320</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Senior

<table>
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<th>First Term</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Second Term</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SW 315</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SW 490</td>
<td>9</td>
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**Additional Requirements**

**General Electives**

Students must take general electives to reach the 120 semester hour requirement.

**Social Work Elective**

Select six hours from SW courses

Total Hours 51
SW 321 or SOC 410 3-4 SW 494 3
SW 422 3
SW 422L 1
Social Work (SW) Elective 3
General Elective 3

16-17 12

Total credit hours: 116-117

Junior
First Term Hours Second Term Hours
SW 320 (SW 320 Honors Research ) 3 SW 496 (Honors Seminar) 3

3 3

Senior
First Term Hours Second Term Hours
SW 498 (Honors Independent Study) 1 SW 494 (Honors Practicum Seminar) 3

1 3

Total credit hours: 10

1 Select One: ARH 101, ARH 203, ARH 204, ARH 206, MU 120, THR 100, THR 105 or THR 200.
2 Select One: EH 216, EH 217, EH 218, EH 221, EH 222, EH 223 or EH 224.

Minor in Social Work

Requirements Hours
Required Social Work 1.
SW 100 Introduction to Social Work 3
Social Work Electives 15
Select fifteen hours from SW courses 2

Total Hours 18

1. Online option is available.

Grade Requirement
“C” or better is required in all courses applied to the minor.

Purpose
The Social Work Honors Program will provide preparation for graduate study or professional careers in Social Work. The program is designed to enhance students’ problem solving skills, critical and independent thinking, and application of research/evidence-based practice.

Benefits
- Honors students will benefit from one-on-one mentoring with faculty in the department, professional presentations and exposure which will enhance the student’s understanding of the field and practice of social work;
- Students who complete the program will graduate “With Honors in Social Work.”

Minimum Eligibility Requirements
- Completion or currently enrolled in the following required social work courses (SW 100, SW 200, SW 207, SW 222, SW 222L);
- Declaration and acceptance into the social work major (application can be in the process of being reviewed at the time of submission);
- Must have a minimum 3.5 overall GPA and a minimum 3.8 GPA in required social work courses.

Application Process
Submit application material to the Department of Social Work office.

The application deadline(s) are as follows:
- Fall Admission: No later than 2nd Friday in March
- Spring Admission: No later than 2nd Friday in November

Submit a “Social Work Honors Program Application” with the following documents:
- A Honors Program Application Form*
- An unofficial copy of transcript
- A recommendation letter from an instructor of SW 100, SW 200, SW 207, or SW 222**
- A resume

*NOTE: The application must be typed.
**A recommendation letter must be sent directly to Dr. Stacy Moak (stacym@uab.edu).

Review Process
- Review of application by faculty members
- Interview with the Honors Program Director

Requirements
To complete the departmental honors program, students must earn 10 honors credit hours and must maintain a minimum 3.5 overall GPA and a minimum 3.8 GPA in required social work courses and honors courses through graduation. Honors sections will be offered in the following courses:
- SW 320 Honors Research (3 credits)
- SW 494 Honors Field Seminar (3 credits)
- SW 496 Honors Seminar (3 credits)*
- SW 498 Honors Independent Study (1 credit)**

*Must be taken as the required social work elective
**Additional course for Honors Program students only

Courses
SW 100. Introduction to Social Work. 3 Hours.
This course introduces students to the value-based profession of social work. Students will have the opportunity to learn about social work’s history, mission, professional values and theoretical frameworks (e.g. the systems/ecological perspective). Furthermore, students will explore areas in generalist practice and the varied roles and responsibilities of the social work profession. Students will be afforded the opportunity to examine their own personal values and how those values influence their views on social welfare problems and issues.
SW 200. Professional Communication in Social Work. 3 Hours.
This course introduces the techniques of professional writing for social work practitioners. The course is designed to enhance professional and academic writing skills. Students will study how to craft narratives for funding applications, case records, and advocacy materials. Students will be introduced to the APA style. Additionally, students will complete a technology module focusing on information technology skills such as word processing, using presentation software, and communication skills with digital and social media. This is a writing intensive course.

SW 207. Racism, Sexism and Other Isms. 3 Hours.
This course is intended to provide students with opportunities to examine various aspects of culture and cultural diversity as those aspects impact on the delivery of social services. The course also examines the impact of discrimination and oppression on various social service consumer populations.

SW 208. Disaster Preparedness. 3 Hours.
This course uses a multi-disciplinary perspective on aspects of domestic disaster preparedness and response for natural and man-made disasters. This course provides review of current recommendations on disaster preparedness, local, state and federal response networks and organizations, and psychosocial aspects of response including sheltering, crisis intervention and psychological first aid. This course does not cover international issues.

SW 222. Social Work Values. 3 Hours.
This course offers an introduction to the helping profession of social work with service learning opportunities in local social service agencies. A didactic classroom that focuses on self-awareness related values, professionalism and ethical practice. This is one of four foundation courses that student must successfully complete before fully admitted to the professional program. Must be concurrently taken with SW 222L Social Work Values Lab.

SW 222L. Social Work Values Lab. 1 Hour.
This course offers an introduction to the helping profession of social work with service learning and simulation opportunities in local social service agencies. The service learning lab integrates field observation with self-awareness related values, professionalism and ethical practice (SL).

SW 278. Special Topics in Social Work. 3 Hours.
In this course, students will learn special topics in social work. Students will discuss the history and the current status of social issues. Students will learn policies and programs available to address the special topics.

SW 302. Social Welfare Policy Analysis. 3 Hours.
This course introduces analytical frameworks with which to evaluate contemporary U.S. social welfare policy. It is designed for students with basic knowledge of the history of social welfare. The course also examines the relationship between current policy and the practice of social work today. Additionally explored is the real-world impact of current policy on the well-being of individuals and communities, within a social justice context.

SW 305. Social Work in Perinatal Settings. 3 Hours.
This course covers issues facing families in perinatal settings, providing an overview of the social work role from a generalist practice model. This course covers practice issues related to services to families during pregnancy, delivery and childbirth, and the neonatal period. Topics will be covered from a multidisciplinary perspective, highlighting the impact of culture and diversity during specified times of life transition, including medical and psychosocial issues. Social Work interventions will be discussed using an evidence-based framework.

SW 315. Human Behavior and Social Environment. 3 Hours.
This course examines the interrelationship—ships between the individual, family, small groups, organizations and the community. Special attention is given to diversity, cultural sensitivity, oppression and discrimination.

SW 320. Introduction to Research Methods. 3 Hours.
This course introduces students to research theory, methods and tools; and to expand their appreciation of the quintessential role of research in guiding practice. Qualitative and Quantitative research methodologies, sampling, data collection, and data analysis, as well as skills in critiquing research studies will be taught in the context of ethical standards governing evaluation and research as set forth in the NASW Code of Ethics. This course is a part of the core curriculum of the social work program. Quantitative literacy is a significant component of this course. Honors students will have additional research related assignments.

SW 321. Statistics for Social Work Research. 3 Hours.
This course provides the context for understanding the analysis and interpretation of quantitative data. Descriptive and inferential statistics will be covered, along with hypothesis testing and statistical significance. Students will become more familiarized with research-informed practice and practice-informed research. Quantitative Literacy is a significant component of this course.

Prerequisites: SW 320 [Min Grade: C]

SW 322. Social Work Practice I. 3 Hours.
This course provides generalist model application of social work with concentration on the micro-level that provides the student with the opportunity to gain the knowledge, skills, understanding and competence needed for interventions at the beginning professional level. This course includes a service learning lab that allows students to practice a solution-focused relationship with emphasis on self-awareness, cultural-awareness, active listening, interviewing, and recording skills at all systems levels. This course must be taken at UAB. Transfer credits will not be accepted for this course.

Prerequisites: [SW 222 [Min Grade: C] and SW 222L [Min Grade: C]] or SW 222 [Min Grade: C]

SW 322L. SW 322L Practice I Lab. 1 Hour.
This service learning lab focuses on generalist model application of social work practice at the micro level. The lab emphasizes systems theory and strengths perspectives to examine individuals and families, and gives students the opportunity to discuss and practice necessary skills for practice. This lab allows students to practice working with individuals and/or families in local social service agencies, using ethical and professional standards based on NASW Code of Ethics (SL). Students will complete 32 hours in service learning and/or simulation experiences. This course must be taken at UAB. Transfer credits will not be accepted for this course.

This course addresses issues children face in today’s society and identify possible intervention strategies. This course will also identify current trends in service delivery and relevant policy issues concerning the health and well-being of children. Students will have the opportunity to examine the diversity of families in today’s society to better understand and appreciate the roles children play in their family systems.
SW 379. Special Topics in Social Work - Service Learning. 3 Hours.
The purpose of this special topics course is to expose students to topics that are contemporary issues in social work. These topics are dynamic and change depending on what is happening in the broader society. They present immediate challenges to practitioners and often involve complex policy considerations that provide space for advocacy work in the macro practice of social work. This course will incorporate advanced scholarship through the in-depth review of recent studies on a variety of contemporary topics. Students in this course will complete a service learning project in consultation with one or more community based organizations. A combination of research and community engagement will provide students with a totally unique experience in scholarship.

SW 422. Social Work Practice II. 3 Hours.
This course focuses on generalist model application of social work practice at the mezzo and macro levels. The course emphasizes systems theory and strengths perspectives to examine groups, communities and organizations, and gives students the opportunity to discuss and practice necessary skills for practice. This course must be taken in conjunction with the required service learning lab that allows students to practice working with groups, communities and organizations in local social service agencies, using ethical and professional standards based on NASW Code of Ethics. (SL). Must be taken concurrently with SW 422L Practice II Lab. This course must be taken at UAB. Transfer credits will not be accepted for this course.

Prerequisites: SW 322 [Min Grade: C] or (SW 322 [Min Grade: C] and SW 322L [Min Grade: C])

SW 422L. SW 422L Practice II Lab. 1 Hour.
This service learning lab focuses on generalist model application of social work practice at the mezzo and macro level. The lab emphasizes systems theory and strengths perspectives to examine groups, communities and organizations, and gives students the opportunity to discuss and practice necessary skills for practice. This lab allows students to practice working with groups, communities and organizations in local social service agencies, using ethical and professional standards based on NASW Code of Ethics (SL). Students will complete 32 hours in service learning and/or simulation experiences. This course must be taken at UAB. Transfer credits will not be accepted for this course.

SW 428. Medical and Mental Health Social Work. 3 Hours.
This course provides an introduction to and overview of working with people called “patients” in medical and mental health. Through this course, students will obtain a basic understanding on how to effectively assist individuals, groups, families, and communities impacted by various illnesses. The role of the social worker on the care team in various settings will be examined. The course also examines special population groups, resource allocation, service delivery, and legal and ethical considerations.

SW 432. Juvenile Law and Process. 3 Hours.
This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the study of juvenile justice in the United States; to examine the components of the juvenile justice system including laws, court processes, and corrections. The course will examine the history and philosophy behind the original juvenile court and explore recent developments in the field. The course will include exposure to Juvenile Case Law as well as issues related to ethics, social development, community influences, rehabilitation, and reintegration of offender.

SW 452. Birmingham Neighborhood Studies. 3 Hours.
This course is recommended for students who want to expand their knowledge and sensitivity for understanding the special problems that substance use disorder brings to society. Course content includes identification of the various drugs of abuse, major theories of addiction, and examination of the psychological and physiological consequences of substance use disorder.

SW 478. Special Topics in Social Work. 3 Hours.
Study of current issues in social work.

SW 490. Practicum in Social Work/SL. 9 Hours.
This capstone course in Social Work is an integrative seminar that must be completed.

Prerequisites: (SW 422 [Min Grade: C]) or (SW 422 [Min Grade: C] and SW 422L [Min Grade: C])

SW 494. Practicum Seminar. 3 Hours.
This capstone course in Social Work is an integrative seminar that must be taken concurrently with SW 490 (Practicum in Social Work). The seminar reviews basic social work tools that will enhance the students’ work with client systems by providing opportunities to increase their knowledge of the social work profession, practice collegiate collaboration for the benefit of clients, and engage in strategies for problem-solving. The seminar also provides a forum to review students’ practicum experiences, discuss social work practice issues, and reflect on the relationship of these experiences to their overall social work education program. Social Work Honors Students will be required to complete an additional 100 hours involved in community based research. This course must be taken at UAB. Transfer credits will not be accepted for this course.

SW 496. Social Work Honors Seminar. 3 Hours.
This course is designed to enhance students’ problem solving skills, critical and independent thinking, and application of research/evidence-based practice. Faculty mentors will assist students in exploring social work practice interest areas and will provide preparation for graduate study and/or professional careers in Social Work. This course is required for all Social Work Honors students.
SW 498. Honors Independent Study I. 1 Hour.
This course provides opportunities for Honors students to initiate their research project and receive one-on-one mentorship. Social Work Honors students will attend a monthly seminar session to present their progress on projects. This independent study is required for all Social Work Honors students. Instructor’s permission is required.

SW 499. Independent Study II. 1-3 Hour.
This course provides opportunities for student to pursue their specific interests in social issues and topics. Students will work closely with a faculty member to design readings, assignments, and/or activities to meet their learning goals. Instructor’s permission is required.