Department of Social Work

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:

**Required Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Curriculum Area II: Natural Science with Laboratory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Curriculum Area II: Fine Art</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Curriculum Area II: Humanities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required Social Work Courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW 100 Introduction to Social Work</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW 200 Professional Communication in Social Work</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW 207 Racism, Sexism and Other Isms</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Social Work Elective**

Select six hours from SW courses

Total Hours: 51

**Additional Requirements**

**General Electives**

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Freshman</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Freshman</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Term</td>
<td></td>
<td>Second Term</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<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>3</td>
<td>Core Curriculum Area II: Humanities</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sophomore</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Sophomore</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Term</td>
<td></td>
<td>Second Term</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<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>3</td>
<td>Core Curriculum Area II: Humanities or Fine Art</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Junior</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Term</td>
<td></td>
<td>Second Term</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<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>SW 320</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senior</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Senior</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Term</td>
<td></td>
<td>Second Term</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW 315</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SW 490</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW 321 or SOC 410</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>SW 494</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 13
SW 422 3
SW 422L 1
Social Work (SW) Elective 3
General Elective 3

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Total credit hours: 116-117

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

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Total credit hours: 10-12

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 encourages a stellar opportunity for our brightest students to prepare for graduate study and/or professional careers in social work through enhanced and personalized exposure to the application of social work research/evidence-based practice. The Program, through an individualized match with Department faculty and established social work researchers, will build students’ problem-solving skills and promote critical and independent thinking. In partnership with a faculty mentor, students will have the opportunity to participate in a research project and present the results at an event that highlights student research (e.g., the UAB Expo or the Department’s Social Work Month activities). The Honors Program can accept up to five (5) outstanding students each term; thus, meeting the eligibility requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the Program.

Benefits
• Honors students will benefit from one-on-one mentoring and collaboration in research and/or evidence-based practice with faculty in the Department that can substantially enhance student preparation for graduate school and practice.
• Honor students will participate in a professional presentation, which will provide academic exposure and enhance the student’s understanding of the field and practice of social work.
• Students who complete the program will graduate with the “With Honors in Social Work” distinction.

Eligibility Requirements
• Declaration and acceptance into the social work major (application can be in the process of being reviewed at the time of submission); in order to be accepted into the social work major, students must have completed (or be in the process of completing at the time of submission) (SW 100, SW 200, SW 207, SW 222, SW 222L);
• Minimum 3.2 cumulative GPA and a minimum 3.6 GPA in social work courses;
• Completion of Honors Program application process.

Application Process
The completed application packet should be submitted to the Department of Social Work, University Hall Third Floor. Currently, applications are accepted on a rolling basis; it is recommended that interested students should submit their application packets no later than mid-March or mid-November, whichever precedes the desired semester of Honors Program acceptance. Students will receive periodic notifications about their Honors Program application.

The Honors Program application packet includes the following documents:
• Honors Program Application Form*
• Resume

*NOTE: The application must be typed.

Review Process
Applications will be reviewed by the Honors Program Director and other Department faculty members. In some cases, a subsequent interview with the Honors Program Director may be warranted. Ideally, the review process will be completed within one month of student’s submission of application materials. Students accepted into the Honors Program will receive notification via formal letter from the Department Chair and the Honors Program Director.

Requirements
To complete the Department of Social Work Honors Program and, thus, graduate with Honors distinction, students must:
• Complete all required courses for the Social Work major.
• Complete three course credit hours of Honors Seminar (SW 496); the Honors Seminar is usually scheduled as a 3-hour course.
• Complete three course credit hours of the Honors Independent Study (SW 498); the Honors Independent Study is usually scheduled as a 3-hour course, but may be scheduled for 1-3 hours depending on the plan of study agreed upon by the Honors Program student and their faculty mentor.
• Maintain a minimum 3.2 cumulative GPA and minimum 3.6 GPA in social work courses through graduation.
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 279. Special Topics in Social Work. 3 Hours.
In this course, students will explore 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. 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 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 315. Human Behavior and Social Environment. 3 Hours.
This course examines the interrelationships 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. Social Work Practice Lab 1. 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 378. Special Topics in Social Work. 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.

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. Social Work Practice Lab II. 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 452. Birmingham Neighborhood Studies. 3 Hours.
This is an interdisciplinary course that explores the visual and material culture, history, and urban development of four Birmingham neighborhoods in transition. It emphasizes community engagement through active study of Birmingham’s historic neighborhoods. Students will study and learn about the history of select Birmingham neighborhoods from different disciplinary lenses (social work, history, and art history), examine artifacts and documents related to them, and engage and collaborate with community members in order to develop written and creative projects based on their research. Projects will be presented at an exhibition at the end of the semester. This course requires significant time spent off-campus, in the Birmingham community. During the first several weeks of class, we will take field trips during class to the four different neighborhoods. Field trip permissions must be completed.

SW 454. Working in Addiction and Recovery. 3 Hours.
This course examines the impact of substance use disorder on individuals, families, groups, organizations, institutions and communities. 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 course integrates social work knowledge and values with application of professional helping skills. Students participate in a full-time placement in approved social service agencies under supervision of master’s-level social workers. This is taken concurrently with SW 494. This course must be taken at UAB. Transfer credits will not be accepted for this course. **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. 1-3 Hour.
This course provides opportunities for Honors students to initiate their research project and receive one-on-one mentorship. This independent study is required for all Social Work Honors students. Instructor’s permission is required. Course may be repeated.

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.