

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM IN SOCIAL WORK
www.sowkweb.asp.radford.edu

Director

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Introduction

A social worker is professionally educated in order to help individuals, families, groups and communities solve a whole variety of problems that arise in the course of people's lives--families dealing with substance abuse; elderly people suffering from Alzheimer's disease; young people facing the crisis of AIDS or even a community that has suffered because of discrimination and violence--all everyday problems, yet widespread and serious. These are the situations that social workers are involved in and because of their extent and intensity, social workers must have the personal capacity and the educational background to understand and to help.

Social work majors must be well grounded in the liberal arts and must understand major theories about the human condition, theories drawn largely from sociology, psychology, biology, and philosophy. The professional courses in social work focus on working with people in order to solve or alleviate their problems and concerns. The demand for graduates of social work programs is high and its long-term future is bright. In fact, social work has been cited as one of the professions "on the move" for the next century.

A professional social work career requires a degree from a college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. The baccalaureate degree prepares people to offer direct services in family and children's agencies, in hospitals and schools, in mental health clinics or in senior centers, to name a few. Some students may wish to continue their education in a Master of Social Work degree program. Radford University's MSW program offers advanced standing in the graduate program to qualified graduates of accredited undergraduate programs and therefore, Radford baccalaureate graduates are eligible to apply.

The School of Social Work offers a comprehensive program at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The undergraduate program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and is reviewed and monitored by the Professional Advisory Council of 50-plus trained professional social workers. Course work includes courses in human behavior and the social environment, research, social welfare policies and services, intervention methods, and field instruction. In addition, students may elect courses in child welfare, gerontology, international social work and crisis intervention.

The professional program in social work leading to the bachelors degree in social work consists of three components: Core Curriculum requirements, a pre-professional core of courses (pre-social work majors) and a professional core (social work majors). Students accepted into the social work major participate in a 490-hour internship that takes place in the senior year in a local social service agency under the close supervision of trained professional social workers.

Social Work is a comprehensive helping profession. It is a dynamic, changing and challenging profession that allows persons to work in a wide variety of human services settings. Social workers work in many different fields, including:

- Addiction: alcohol and drug
- AIDS: counseling
- Aging: nursing homes and senior centers
- Child Welfare: adoption and foster care, child protective services, day care of children, and residential treatment
- Crime and delinquency: institutions, probation, and residential treatment
- Family: preservation and support
- Housing: low income relocation
- Public assistance and supplemental security income
- Parenting skills and support for single parent families
- Youth service agencies
- Case management

Social workers provide counseling and other related services to people from all walks of life, with all kinds of problems, in all kinds of settings. For example, a social worker might:

- locate a suitable nursing home for an aged parent and then help the family and the older person make the emotional adjustment to the new living situation
- meet with a teenager and his/her family who has been arrested for shoplifting and help counsel all with the problems that exist in the family
- place a special needs child for adoption
- provide counseling services to persons with chemical abuse problems

It is important that prospective social workers know that their BSW degrees are the accepted entry-level educational credential for beginning social work practice. Because of the highly structured curriculum, the emphasis upon building of counseling and problem-solving skills, and the involvement of the students in two internships, human service agencies look very favorably upon our graduates. In addition, the School of Social Work offers the Masters of Social Work degree; highly qualified graduates of Radford's undergraduate social work program may complete the MSW degree in one calendar year.

Social work students have the opportunity for membership in several organizations established for social work majors. One is the Social Work Club, a student-run organization that carries out service projects, social functions, and has regular programs of interest to human service practitioners. Phi Alpha (national social work honor society) is for students who are high academic achievers. Student Advisory Council/Committee members are liaisons with the School of Social Work, bridging communication between faculty and students. Students are also involved in decision-making committees within the School.

Internships in the social work program offer a wide variety of experiential learning. Not only do students learn theories, concepts and methods, but also get to see and work in the different agencies and facilities where this knowledge is put into use. SOWK 289 offers an opportunity to actually work in a human service agency. This course offers “hands on” knowledge that will be valuable in future classes and placements. SOWK 489, field instruction placement, offers students the responsibilities of a full-time professional while under a trained supervisor. Knowledge learned during the previous years of courses and field experiences will be applied during the field instruction placement. Students are placed in a setting which best suits his/her interest and expertise.

The undergraduate Social Work Program, leading to the Bachelors Degree in Social work (BSW) is a professional program that prepares students for direct practice as generalist social work practitioners. All interested students may take academic courses to test out their aptitude, readiness and competencies for the profession. This education prepares social workers to practice at a high level of expertise. Please note that all students in the Waldron College of Health and Human Services adhere to the Standards for Professional Practice Education. Additional competencies for Social Work majors will be discussed in the Social Work classes.

Key to the demonstration of competencies is the Portfolio Project that involves each student in identifying knowledge and skills pertaining to the stated program objectives. Specifics about the Portfolio Project as an educational document are located in other documents.

The BSW program is offered through two sites: (1) the Radford University program located at Radford University, and (2) the Radford University program located in Roanoke, VA – classes are taught at either Virginia Western Community College or at the Roanoke Higher Education Center. Both programs are similar in structure and are nationally accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. The basic BSW program is available at either site although course scheduling, and some policies and procedures differ depending on the program. Each major must choose one program, under which to be admitted and graduate from, and must follow the policies and procedures for that program. Courses may be taken at either campus as arranged with the student’s faculty advisor.

In order to benefit from a nationally accredited BSW educational program, a potential social worker must have an aptitude for the profession, be ready to learn and practice at the application, analyzing and evaluation levels of learning, and move through a series of integrated courses that offer the future social worker the competencies related to generalist practice.

Any student who has been accepted to Radford University may apply to become a Pre-Social Work (PSWK) major through the Advising Center in 351 Waldron Hall. PSWK majors must take SOWK 200, SOWK 210 and then SOWK 289, following the prerequisites for each course. During the semester that they are enrolled to take SOWK 210, students must apply to take SOWK 289. These application materials are available at the School of Social Work in 206 Waldron Hall.

Students must also apply to the upper division Social Work (SOWK) major (to be changed from PSWK to SOWK). Minimum requirements for admission to the SOWK major are as follows:

- Have a minimum overall GPA of 2.5;
- Have passed, with a “C” or better, each of the following courses: SOWK 200, SOWK 210, Biology 104, Psychology 121, Sociology 110, CORE 102 and Sociology 121 or PEAC 200
- Have received a grade of "P" in SOWK 289 or if applying while concurrently in that course, have received a mid-term evaluation of "P". Students who apply while in SOWK 289 will receive a provisional acceptance if all other academic requirements are met until they complete SOWK 289 with a grade of "P" or better.
- Complete the Official Application to the Major in Social Work and accompanying prerequisite documentation, and submit by the School of Social Work deadline. Application materials are located in the office of the School of Social Work in 206 Waldron Hall and online at the Social Work website www.sowkweb.asp.radford.edu.
- If admission interviews are conducted, a missed interview will result in the delay of further application review until the next review cycle.

Students who receive an acceptance to the Professional Program will automatically have their major switched to the SOWK major and may register for required SOWK 300 and 400 level courses according to the plan of study devised with their faculty advisor.

Students not accepted may remain PSWK majors and work with their faculty advisor to meet admission requirements, or they may decide to switch majors and begin a new course of study.

During the semester prior to undertaking SOWK 489 and 490, each SOWK major shall complete an “Application for Graduation” and turn it into the Waldron College Advising Center in 351 Waldron Hall for review. Students are then sent a letter outlining any remaining requirements needed for graduation with the BSW degree. Note: That a student may repeat a SOWK course only once. If a student is unable to pass the course (with a “C” or better) after two attempts, the student will be dropped from the program. Also in order to graduate, a SOWK student must have a GPA of 2.7 in all social work courses and an overall GPA of 2.5.

CORE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS 2010-2011

UNIVERSITY CORE

COLLEGE CORE

A. Core Foundations (12 SH)

CORE 101 _____ 3

Essentials of Written & Oral Communication

*CORE 102 _____ 3

Advanced Written & Oral Communication

CORE 103 _____ 3

Written & Oral Communication-Honors (CORE 103 will replace CORE 101 & 102 for those students in the RU Honors Academy)

CORE 201 _____ 3

Topics in Critical Inquiry

CORE 202 _____ 3

Topics in Ethical Inquiry

NOTE: Courses listed in multiple areas can only be used to fulfill a single area requirement.

Students can use only one course with their major prefix to fulfill core requirements.

B. Core Skills & Knowledge

(16 SH)

Courses must be from different disciplines:

Mathematical Sciences (3SH)

MATH 114 is recommended

MATH _____ 3

One of the following: MATH 111, 112, 114, 116, 125, 126, 132, 137, 138, 151: 152

Natural Sciences (4 SH)

*BIOL 104 _____ 4

Humanities (3 SH)

ENGL 200 _____ 3

Social/Behavioral Sciences (3SH)

*PSYC 121 _____ 3

Visual & Performing Arts

(3 SH)

_____ 3

One of the following: ART 111, 215, 216 CVPA 266 DNCE 111 MUSC 100, 121, 123 THEA 100, 180

A. National & International

Perspectives (6 SH)

Courses must be from different disciplines:

U. S. Perspectives (3 SH)

_____ 3

One of the following:

HIST 111 or 112

Global Perspectives (3SH)

_____ 3

One of the following:

*PEAC 200 or SOCY 121

***NOTE:**

Prerequisite courses

Must have a grade of "C" or

better. Must have a 2.5

overall GPA for upper

division SOWK.

B. Supporting Skills & Knowledge

(9-11 SH)

Natural Sciences or Mathematical Sciences (4 SH)

One of the following:

BIOL 103 or 105 _____ 4

Humanities, Visual & Performing Arts or Foreign Languages (3 SH)

PHIL 112 is recommended

PHIL _____ 3

One of the following:

PHIL 111, 112 or 114

Social/Behavioral Sciences or Health and Wellness (3 SH)

*SOCY 110 _____ 3

Additional Requirements

(15 SH)

POSC 120 is recommended

ECON 101, 105, 106 or

POSC 110 or 120 _____ 3

HLTH 111, 200 NURS 111, NUTR

214, RCPT 200 _____ 3

STAT 200 _____ 3

===== **SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK MAJOR REQUIREMENTS** =====

(Minimum grade of "C" required for all major courses)

Pre-professional courses 10 hrs.

SOWK 200 _____ 3 hrs.

SOWK 210 _____ 3 hrs.

SOWK 289 _____ 4 hrs.

Professional Courses 39 hrs.

SOWK 300 _____ 3 hrs.

SOWK 301 _____ 3 hrs.

SOWK 320 _____ 3 hrs.

SOWK 321 _____ 3 hrs.

SOWK 350 _____ 3 hrs.

SOWK 422 _____ 3 hrs.

SOWK 423 _____ 3 hrs.

SOWK 424 _____ 3 hrs.

SOWK 489 _____ 12 hrs.

SOWK 490 _____ 3 hrs.

Related Requirements

PSYC 439 _____ 3

SOCY 250, 331 or

PSYC 250 _____ 3

PSYC 343 or 361 _____ 3

Free Electives 9 hours

(may include following SOWK classes)

SOWK 410 _____ 3 hrs.

SOWK 421 _____ 3 hrs.

SOWK 425 _____ 3 hrs.

SOWK 440 _____ 3 hrs.

SOWK 480 _____ 3 hrs.

Total hours required for

Graduation: 120

GPA REQUIREMENTS

TO ENTER INTO SOWK

489 & 490

Major GPA 2.7

Overall GPA 2.5

GPA REQUIREMENTS

TO GRADUATE

Major GPA 2.7

Overall GPA 2.5

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Transfer Institution _____

Transfer GPA: _____

School of Social Work: Four-Year Academic Plan 2010-2011

You should attempt to structure your course schedule as indicated in the following plan. There is flexibility within the course sequencing of the core curriculum requirements. There is also some flexibility in the Social Work classes for students transferring into Social Work. Students should always consult with their academic advisor before making changes to their planned schedule and must get permission to change the sequencing of Social Work classes.

Freshman Year

Fall Semester

Course	Semester Hours
CORE 101	3
*SOCY 110	3
*PSYC 121	3
Health and Wellness	3
BIOL 103 or 105	<u>4</u>
Total	16

Spring Semester

Course	Semester Hours
*CORE 102	3
*SOWK 200	3
ECON or POSC	3
*BIOL 104	4
Visual & Performing Arts	<u>3</u>
Total	16

Sophomore Year

Fall Semester

Course	Semester Hours
CORE 201	3
*SOWK 210	3
PHIL 111, 112, or 114	3
*PEAC 200 or	
SOCY 121	3
HIST 111 or 112	<u>3</u>
Total	15

Spring Semester

Course	Semester Hours
CORE 202	3
*SOWK 289	4
Mathematical Sciences	3
ENGL 200	3
PSYC 343 or 361	<u>3</u>
Total	16

Junior Year

Fall Semester

Course	Semester Hours
SOWK 300	3
SOWK 301	3
SOWK 320	3
STAT 200	3
Elective	<u>3</u>
Total	15

Spring Semester

Course	Semester Hours
SOWK 321	3
SOWK 350	3
SOWK 422	3
PSYC 439	3
Elective	<u>3</u>
Total	15

Senior Year

Fall Semester

Course	Semester Hours
SOWK 423	3
SOWK 424	3
SOCY 250, 331	
or PSYC 250	3
Elective	<u>3</u>
Total	12

Spring Semester

Course	Semester Hours
SOWK 489	12
SOWK 490	<u>3</u>
Total	15

*All Prerequisites passed with grade of "C" or better.

To graduate, a student must have a GPA of 2.7 in all Social Work courses and an overall GPA of 2.5