

Additional information may be obtained from:
University of Missouri–St. Louis
Office of Admissions
1 University Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63121-4400
314-516-5451
Toll-free: 888-GO-2-UMSL
Office of Career Services: 314-516-5111
School of Social Work: 516-314-6385
umsl.edu/~socialwk

UMSL Social Work

Why UMSL?

The UMSL Social Work program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. This accreditation assures graduates of placement in social service agencies and allows students to apply for a license to practice social work. Our faculty members are nationally and internationally recognized in their areas of specialization and are able to provide our students with the combination of academics and practical skills needed for professional social work practice in a wide range of fields and settings including hospitals, children's homes, victim services, juvenile court, legal services, corrections, policy and planning, community development, neighborhood centers, senior centers, schools and state social services agencies.

Career Outlook

The bachelor of social work program is designed to prepare persons for employment in social welfare agencies, schools, hospitals, mental health facilities, correctional institutions, day care and rehabilitation centers. Individuals currently working in social welfare settings can improve their skills or increase their opportunities for job advancement.

Undergraduate Studies

Degrees and Areas of Concentration

The School of Social Work offers courses leading to a Bachelor of Social Work degree (BSW). The social work program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. The faculty stresses the scientific and applied aspects of social work. Professional social work education enables students to integrate the knowledge, values and skills of the profession into competent practice. Throughout, the contribution of arts and sciences toward a well-rounded liberal arts education are emphasized. A minor in social work is also offered.

The school's emphasis is the development of adequate theoretical and methodological tools needed for professional practice. There is a strong emphasis on competencies used in practice, with community and social agency fieldwork as important parts of the program.

Faculty

The social work faculty reflects a cross section of the social work profession. Many specialties are represented, including child welfare, social policy, community organization and mental health. The faculty, in addition to maintaining high standards of teaching, provides many hours of community service and

practice to the numerous social services agencies in St. Louis. Research is also an integral part of the faculty's activities and many scientific papers are given by our faculty to local, national and international meetings. The faculty also publishes in many social work or related journals.

General Education Requirements

Majors must satisfy the University and college general education requirements, except that proficiency in a foreign language is not required.

Courses required for the BSW degree may not be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis except SOC WK 4800 and 4850.

Degree Requirements

Bachelor of Social Work

Students completing this degree may enter beginning positions as social workers or choose to enter professional schools of social work, looking toward eventual careers in supervision, administration, research and other specialized areas of practice. Candidates for this degree program must complete the following social work core requirements:

- SOC WK 2000, Social Work and Social Issues
- SOC WK 2001, Social Work and Social Issues Lab
- SOC WK 2200, Social Welfare as a Social Institution
- SOC WK 3100, Introduction to Strategies for Social Work Practice
- SOC WK 3210, Social Issues and Social Policy Development
- SOC WK 3410, Research Design in Social Work
- SOC WK 3510, Human Behavior in the Social Environment
- SOC WK 3700, Diversity and Social Justice
- SOC WK 4110, Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups
- SOC WK 4300, Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities
- SOC WK 4350, Social Work Organizations
- SOC WK 4800 and SOC WK 4850, Supervised Field Experience in Social Work I and II
- SOC WK 4801 and SOC WK 4851, Integrative Field Experience Seminar I and II

Students who wish to take a practicum must set up an appointment with the practicum coordinator one semester prior to enrolling in the practicum and attend a series of pre-practicum classes.

A minimum of 39 hours and a maximum of 50 hours may be taken in Social Work. A minimum of 30 hours is required in related area departments.

Evaluation of transfer credits will be done by a social work adviser on an individual basis.

Related Area Requirements

The following courses, or their alternatives, are required:

BIOL 1012, General Biology, or BIOL 1811, Introductory Biology I
ECON 1000, Introduction to the American Economy OR
ECON 1005, Family Economics and Household Development
POL SCI 1100, Introduction to American Politics
PSYCH 1003, General Psychology
SOCIOL 1010, Introduction to Sociology
SOCIOL 2160, Social Psychology, or PSYCH 2160, Social Psychology
SOCIOL 3220, Sociological Statistics
PSYCH 2201 Psychological Statistics,
CRIMIN 2220 CCJ Stats

At least nine additional hours must be taken in social work, sociology, political science, psychology, criminology and criminal justice, anthropology, women and gender studies, or economics at the 2000-level or above. Hours taken in social work will apply toward the maximum of 50 hours that may be taken in social work courses.

After fulfilling the general education and specific major degree requirements, students are to take the remaining 31 hours required to complete the Bachelor of Social Work degree from courses from one or more of the following areas or their university-quality equivalents at other institutions: anthropology/archaeology, art (appreciation, history, studio), biology, chemistry, communication, criminology and criminal justice, economics, English, foreign languages/literatures, history, mathematics/computer science, music (appreciation, history, performance), philosophy, physics, political science, psychology, social work, sociology, business, education, engineering and interdisciplinary.

The School of Social Work may require students to pass a placement test in order to enroll in the next level course, provided this or an equivalent test is administered to all students seeking to enroll in that course.

Social work majors must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better in all course work specifically required for the major, with satisfactory grades in practicum.

Admission Requirements

Students entering UMSL as freshmen and as transfer students should indicate a pre-social work major. Students must apply to the program concurrently with SOC WK 3100. Admission to the program is conditional upon the successful completion of all necessary requirements.

Note: Anthropology, biological sciences and Spanish are strongly advised by graduate social work schools.

Requirements for the Minor in Social Work

Candidates must complete the following social work courses:

SOC WK 2000, Introduction to Social Issues

SOC WK 2200, Social Welfare as a Social Institution

SOC WK 3100, Introduction to Strategies for Social Work Practice

SOC WK 3210, Social Issues and Social Policy Development and one course
above the 3000 level

Graduate Education

The School of Social Work now offers a Master in Social Work degree (MSW); additional information can be obtained by calling the School of Social Work or the Graduate School.