

Social Work

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Social work is one of the major human service professions focused on enhancing the social functioning of individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. Services are provided to all people with particular emphasis on disadvantaged populations. A variety of practice settings, including hospitals, family and children's service agencies, schools, residential facilities, health care facilities, home-based services, business and industry, mental health agencies and developmental disabilities agencies are used as service learning experiences.

The goals of the Taylor social work program are to: (1) prepare baccalaureate level social workers for beginning-level generalist practice including formal and informal lifelong learning; (2) integrate Christian values with professional values to challenge worldviews, personal beliefs and societal constructs; and (3) to globalize student perspectives and sensitize circles of influence to issues and experiences of diverse, vulnerable and marginalized population groups in an effort to advance social justice. The social work curriculum includes five content areas: human behavior and the social environment, practice, policy, research and field instruction.

Taylor's social work program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and offers a bachelor of arts (includes language requirement) or bachelor of science degree in social work. Graduates are prepared to apply for state credentialing (licensure, certification or registration) as a beginning-level social work practitioner in most states.

Program Entrance and Graduation Requirements

Entry into Taylor's social work education program begins during the sophomore year when students:

1. Satisfactorily complete the pre-entry courses—SWK 200 and 231; SOC 100 or 210; PSY 200.
2. Complete a minimum of 30 hours of volunteer experience, preferably at a social services agency.
3. Receive the approval of the social work education department.

Attainment of a minimum 2.5 GPA is required in the social work major.

Social Work (BA or BS)

The bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees are offered in social work. Students considering work in areas that are bilingual are encouraged to take appropriate language courses. The bachelor of arts degree requires two years of one foreign language. Students in the social work major are expected to complete a minimum of 79 hours.

Major Requirements

POS 331	3	Public Policy
PSY 200	3	Introduction to Psychology
PSY 250	3	Life Span Development
PSY 300	4	Abnormal Psychology
SOC 220	3	Ethnic and Minority Issues
SOC 250	2	Principles of Research and Analysis
SOC 350	3	Social Research Methods
SOC 355	3	Applied Social Statistics
SWK 200	3	Explorations in Social Work
SWK 231	3	Social Welfare: Historical Perspectives and Development
SWK 351	3	Social Work Process and Practice I
SWK 354	3	Social Work Process and Practice II
SWK 355	3	Helping Troubled Families
SWK 362	3	Social Policy
SWK 393	4	Junior Practicum
SWK 441	3	Human Behavior and the Social Environment
SWK 451	3	Social Work Process and Practice III
SWK 452	3	Advanced Social Work Practice
SWK 482	2	Integrative Social Work Seminar
SWK 492	12	Senior Practicum

Select one course from the following:

BIO 205	4	Human Biology
BIO 244	4	Human Anatomy and Physiology I

Select one course from the following:

SOC 100	3	Introduction to Sociology
SOC 210	3	Contemporary Social Issues

Electives

Select one social work elective from:

SWK 320	3	Unleashing the Oppressed
SWK 340	3	Working with Children
SWK 380	3	Understanding Suffering, Grief, and Loss

Complete and document 30 hours of volunteer experience by the end of sophomore year.

Social Work Courses

SWK 170

1-4 hours

Selected Topics

A course offered on a subject of interest but not listed as a regular course offering. *May count toward the departmental major and general education requirements.*

SWK 200

3 hours

Explorations in Social Work

An initial exposure to the field of social work by exploring what social workers are, what social workers do and the settings in which they work. Examination of the knowledge, value and skill base; practice settings; educational and career opportunities; and the interrelationships between social work and social welfare in the United States. Opportunity is given for the student to explore his or her own interest in and potential for a career in social work. Service learning component provides interaction with a variety of community-based agencies. *Meets general education civic engagement or general social science requirement. Open to all students.*

SWK 231

3 hours

Social Welfare: Historical Perspectives and Development

Follows the development of social welfare efforts from early civilizations to the present time. Focuses on the emergence of the profession of social work. Explores the question: "Am I my brother's keeper?" in the light of biblical principles. *Offered spring semester.*

SWK 270

1-4 hours

Selected Topics

A course offered on a subject of interest but not listed as a regular course offering. *May count toward the departmental major and general education requirements.*

SWK 320 3 hours
Unleashing the Oppressed
This course is designed to provide the student with the necessary knowledge, values and skills to empower people who fall into "at-risk population" groups. Those groups who are at-risk for prejudice and discrimination typically include mental disability, developmental disability, sexual orientation, women, elderly and religious diversity. Service-learning component provides interaction with a variety of community-based agencies. *Meets general education civic engagement or general social science requirement. Open to all students.*

SWK 340 3 hours
Working with Children
Overview of knowledge base important to effective interactions with children and adolescents. Socialization, development, welfare systems and services, legal systems, special populations and international comparisons are studied. Application to work settings is made through readings, role plays and personal experiences. Service-learning component creates interaction with community-based agencies serving children. *Open to all students. Offered fall semester of odd years.*

SWK 351 3 hours
Social Work Process and Practice I
First in a 4-course practice sequence designed to provide the student with the necessary knowledge, values for ethical decision making and skills for successful practice at the generalist social work practitioner level. Develops understanding of the nature and process of social work practice, principles and techniques of the planned change process. Develops students' ability for self-awareness and for understanding the nature of clienthood. *Prerequisites: CAS 110 or 120; SWK 200; SOC 100; PSY 200. Open only to social work majors. Offered fall semester.*

SWK 354 3 hours
Social Work Process and Practice II
Second in the 4-course practice sequence. Enables further development of generalist social work skills with various client systems. Areas of group dynamics, ethical issues, developmental levels and diversity are emphasized. Participation in a group experience is required. *Prerequisite: SWK 351. Offered spring semester.*

SWK 355 3 hours
Helping Troubled Families
Introduces family systems theory, as well as the history and development of family interventions. Presents the major approaches of working with families and provides the opportunity to role play application of these approaches. *Open to all students. Offered fall semester.*

SWK 360 1-4 hours
Independent Study
An individualized, directed study involving a specified topic.

SWK 362 3 hours
Social Policy
Expands upon the concepts developed in Social Welfare and Public Policy to include social welfare policies that exist in today's society and how they impact those most dependent on social programs. Examines social programs in light of the problems they address, the service they provide and their effectiveness. Addresses contemporary social issues in light of public funding decisions. *Prerequisites: POS 331; SWK 231. Offered spring semester.*

SWK 370 1-4 hours
Selected Topics
A course offered on a subject of interest but not listed as a regular course offering. *May count toward the departmental major and general education requirements.*

SWK 380 3 hours
Understanding Suffering, Grief, and Loss
Provides a basic introduction to crucial issues related to suffering and affliction, both self-imposed and those related to the human condition. Bereavement, grief and loss across the life span will be explored. Contemporary issues related to death and dying and the roles of social institutions and services to persons affected by suffering, death and loss will be covered. Issues will be examined based on difference in gender, culture, ethnicity and religion and in light of historic and contemporary Christian faith. *Open to all students. Offered spring semester of odd years.*

SWK 393 4 hours
Junior Practicum
During the January interterm of the junior year, students spend time in a social work setting learning how an agency functions, how professional social work practice is implemented, and how the professional interacts within an agency. This 140-hour field lab provides the student the opportunity for observation and practice. *Prerequisites: SWK 351 and approval of the Junior Practicum coordinator. Pass-fail only.*

SWK 395 4 hours
International Practicum
During the January interterm of the junior or senior year, students would spend time in an international social work setting gaining knowledge of social work in a different country. They learn how an agency functions, how social work practice is implemented abroad, and specific needs within another culture. This practicum opportunity provides 140 hours of field lab work. *Class fee assessed to cover travel and in country experience. Prerequisites: SWK 351 and permission of Director of Social Work. Pass-fail only.*

SWK 441 3 hours
Human Behavior and the Social Environment
The issues of abuse/violence, poverty, addictions, race/ethnicity and health will be addressed in light of bio-psycho-social-spiritual development. The theme of reconciliation will be applied to each issue. Serves as a capstone course for the human behavior in the social environment content of the social work major. Various cross-cultural literary forms are utilized in the process of research and application to the diversity found among humankind. *Prerequisites: PSY 250; BIO 244; SWK 362 and 354. Offered fall semester.*

SWK 450 1-4 hours
Directed Research
Investigative learning involving closely directed research and the use of such facilities as the library or laboratory.

SWK 451 3 hours
Social Work Process and Practice III
The third in the 4-course generalist social work practice sequence. The social work planned change process is applied to communities and organizations. Emphasizes integration of policy, practice and human behavior/social environment issues. The impact of racial and ethnic differences on community functioning is addressed, and practical applications are stressed. Assessment and grant-writing projects are completed within and on behalf of local communities. *Prerequisite: SWK 354. Offered fall semester.*

SWK 452 3 hours
Advanced Social Work Practice
Last in the 4-course sequence for developing generalist practice skills. The professional helping relationship and interview process are emphasized. Simulated client-worker situations provide opportunities to practice skills. Employment interviews and strategies are also discussed. Beginning-level professional writing skills are developed through documentation exercises. *Prerequisite: SWK 354. Offered fall semester.*

SWK 480 1-4 hours
Seminar
A limited-enrollment course designed especially for upper-class majors with emphasis on directed readings and discussion.

SWK 482 2 hours
Integrative Social Work Seminar
A seminar class taken by all social work majors during spring semester of the junior year. The focus is holistic integration of: (1) faith and the social work profession; (2) self and the social work profession; (3) liberal arts education and the knowledge and practice of social work; (4) self- and civic-mindedness; and (5) self as global citizen. Students begin to develop the CSWE content portion of their professional portfolio. Focused presentations are conducted with regard to: (1) stress and time management and burnout prevention. *Pass/fail only.*

SWK 490 1-2 hours
Honors
Individualized study or research of an advanced topic within a student's major. Open to students with at least a 3.00 GPA in the major field.

SWK 492 12 hours
Senior Practicum
A professional semester of supervised field practicum in a social work setting; 480 hours required. *Prerequisite: Completion of all required courses in the social work major. Offered spring semester.*