

Why Social work?

While Sociology, Psychology and related degrees provide generalized preparation for a number of careers, a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree provides you with specific, targeted courses that train you in treating the whole person within the context of his or her environment.

BSW Students Receive Training In:

- Advocacy
- Assessment
- Case Management
- Community Outreach
- Crisis Intervention
- Intake/Referral
- Interviewing
- Problem Solving
- Research
- Service Planning

Programs offered

The MU School of Social Work offers three professional degree programs, which are:

- Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)
- Masters of Social Work (MSW)
 - Dual MSW/MPH
 - Gerontology Certificate
 - Military SW Certificate
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Our BSW and MSW programs are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the national accrediting body for professional social work education. Our PhD program is the only social work doctoral program available at a Missouri public university.

MAKE TOMORROW'S CHANGE Today →



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School of Social Work
University of Missouri



Professional Bachelor of Social Work Program

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What Separates Social Work From Other Helping Professions?

Social work is distinctive from other helping professions in its approach of assisting clients to understand themselves and function optimally in their own environments. This person-in-environment perspective is central to social work practice. Social work is also distinctive for its professional values and ethics, appreciation for human diversity, emphasis on social and economic justice, understanding of social welfare policy and services, and strong foundation in field education.

What is a Professional Social Worker?

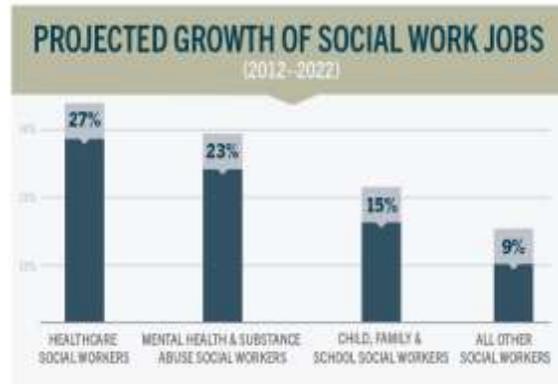
As a social worker, you genuinely enjoy working with people and want to make a difference. You are an individual of action who works to bring about positive change. Few occupations can match social work in the variety of opportunity. As a social work professional, you assist individuals, families and communities. You can be a manager, supervisor or administrator. You find opportunities in public agencies, private businesses, schools, hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, private practices, police departments, courts and countless other interesting settings. You are able to serve all levels of government. You can be an educator, therapist, researcher, or even an elected political leader or legislator. Learn more about professional social work at sww.missouri.edu/profession.html.

Advanced Standing Status

Earning an MU BSW degree makes you eligible for Advanced Standing status in MSW Programs across the U.S. For the MU MSW program, Advanced Standing status waives 23 credit hours, allowing you to earn the MSW degree in just one year (39 credit hours).

A Growing Field

Social work is one of the fastest growing occupation in the state in Missouri and nationally, according to the Missouri Department of Economic Development and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The demand for professional social workers is projected to increase by 19% during 2012-2022 which is faster than the national growth average of 14%. In 2012 more than 607,300 held social work jobs and this number is expected to increase to 721,500 by 2022. Learn more about the professional Social Work job outlook at sww.missouri.edu/outlook.html.



*U.S. Department of Labor Statistics (<http://data.bls.gov>)

Social Justice Minor

The Social Justice minor is designed to give non-social work majors the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding about social justice in the person-centered environment context. Social Justice involves the idea that in a perfect world all citizens would have identical social benefits, rights, protections, and opportunities regardless of their backgrounds and membership in diverse groups. To learn more about the minor and apply, visit sww.missouri.edu/minor.

Financial Literacy for Helping Professionals Minor

Social work clients include families who have low income, and struggle to meet their financial needs. This minor will prepare social workers to help clients avoid predatory lending practices, as well as access programs designed to supplement income for the impoverished. Education on available resources, in addition to engaging on dialogue and identifying accessibility with families, will be emphasized. To learn more about the minor and apply, visit sww.missouri.edu/minor_financial.

Gerontology Minor

The Gerontology minor is designed to provide students with an entry level of knowledge in the field of gerontology. The minor will give participants expanded knowledge in providing services to older adults and their families. The focus of the Gerontology minor is to build a skill set in understanding the basic foundations of scientific information centered around the process of aging. To learn more about the minor and apply, visit sww.missouri.edu/minor_gerontology.

The Bachelor of Social Work Program

Our professional Bachelor of Social Work Program (BSW) prepares you for graduate-level education and for immediate entry into direct human service professional positions working in both public and private settings. It is a specialized degree, distinctive among other disciplines as a professional undergraduate program, requiring three semesters of sequenced coursework (fall, winter, fall) completed during your junior and senior years. During your third semester (fall, senior year), you participate in the Undergraduate Field Practicum, a 6-credit hour (400 clock hours) component, where you learn through actual supervised social work practice in a local agency. If you are interested in the Professional BSW Program, you may declare a social work major when entering MU as a freshman or current MU students can transfer into the school at sww.missouri.edu/bsw-admission.html. However, choosing a social work major does not guarantee admission into the Professional BSW Program. Admission to the BSW Program is competitive and by application only.

To apply to the Professional BSW Program, you must have:

1. A minimum of a 2.5 GPA on all college-level course work.
2. Second-semester sophomore status (at least 42 credit hours by February 15*) and complete 55 hours prior beginning the first semester of the Professional BSW Program.
3. Complete the required liberal arts prerequisite courses listed below (or their equivalents) before the beginning of the Professional BSW Program

Economics 1014 or 1015, English 1000, Math 1100, Biology 1010, Psychology 1000, Communication 1200, Philosophy, any Anthropology class (1300, 1350, 2030 recommended), Sociology 1000, History 1100, 1200, 1400, 2440, 2210 or Political Sci. 1100, 2100, SW2220

Applicants who meet these requirements can submit a completed application including transcripts, references and a personal statement by the deadline of February 15th to begin the Professional BSW Program in the fall. Forms and detailed instructions are available at: <http://sww.missouri.edu/bswapp.shtml>.

*The late application deadline is May 15th