



School of Social Work
University of Missouri

Professional Bachelor of Social Work Program



web: ssw.missouri.edu
phone: 573-882-6206
e-mail: ssw@missouri.edu

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

The MU School of Social Work offers three professional degree programs, including the

- Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)
- Master of Social Work (MSW)
- 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 institution.

MU School of Social Work
Seventh Floor, Clark Hall
Columbia, MO 65211-4470

phone: 573-882-6206

fax: 573-882-8926

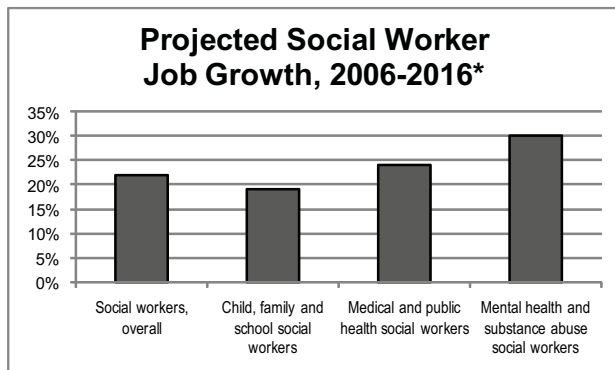
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Social work is distinctive from other helping professions in its approach of assisting clients to understand themselves *and* to function optimally within their own environments. This person-in-environment perspective is central to social work practice. 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.

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 opportunities. 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 at all levels of government. You are an educator, therapist, researcher or even an elected political leader or legislator.

Social Work is one of the fastest growing occupations in the state of 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 22% during 2006-2016, which is much faster than the average for all occupations. In 2006, about 595,000 people held social work jobs.



*U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

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 freshman or transfer into the School under certain conditions. A School of Social Work advisor would be assigned to you. However, choosing a social work major does not guarantee admission into the Professional BSW Program. Admission to the Professional 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 1*) and complete 55 hours prior beginning the first semester of the Professional BSW program
- 3.) completed the required liberal arts prerequisite courses listed below (or their equivalents) before the beginning of the Professional BSW Program:
 - English 1000
 - Math 1120
 - Biology 1010
 - Psychology 1000
 - a micro or macroeconomics course
 - History 1100, 1200, 1400, 2440, 2210 or Political Sci. 1100, 1700, 2100
 - Communication 1200
 - a philosophy course
 - an anthropology course
 - Sociology 1000

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

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).

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-in-environment context. As you complete the Social Justice minor, you will have the opportunity to take part in experiential or Service Learning that will enhance your general knowledge about social work as a profession.

A minimum of 15 credit hours in the School of Social Work is required to complete the Social Justice minor.

Required Courses (9 hours):

- SW 1115, Social Welfare and Social Work
- SW 2220, Human Behavior and the Social Environment
- SW 2000, Social and Economic Justice *or* SW 4710, Social Justice and Social Policy

Social Work Electives (choose 6 hours):

- Latino/a Immigrants and Receiving Communities
- Helping Strategies with Older Persons
- Contemporary Issues in Domestic Violence
- Alcoholism Treatment and Prevention
- Working with Minority Youth
- Introduction to Child Welfare
- Delinquency, Corrections and Social Treatment
- Social Work Practice with Minorities
- Helping Strategies with Children and Adolescents
- Law and Social Work Practice
- Deaf Culture & Social Work Perspectives

* Late applications are accepted after February 1 until May 15 for unclaimed seats in the Professional BSW Program.