The bachelor of arts degree in social work is a professional degree program dedicated to teaching people to help others cope with a variety of personal, family, group and social problems. Social workers are employed in hospitals, nursing homes, schools, neighborhood organizations, armed services, industry, substance abuse and mental health programs, and other public and private agencies – just about anywhere there are people.

Wichita State University’s Bachelor of Social Work program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. It is designed to develop beginning level generalist social workers for practice within Kansas and the region. The program will prepare you for professional practice, graduate social work education and responsible community participation.

The degree requires 45 hours of coursework and practicum experiences. Because it is a professional program, you will be required to have 480 clock hours of field practice experience under educational supervision. Placements vary among more than 80 community and state agencies.

Choices are made by you and the field director based on your educational needs, interests and career goals. After graduation, social work practitioners must meet the requirements of licensure established by the State of Kansas in order to practice in the state.

Related Opportunities

Social work majors may join the Student Organization of Social Work, a group of students and faculty, which arranges special workshops, speakers and social events, and engages in various social action projects. SOSW is a member of the WSU Student Government Association. Some social work students may want to participate in a Cooperative Education placement through which students may receive academic credit for paid work experience related to the social work major.

Students who are eligible may join the national social work honor society, Phi Alpha, or university honor societies such as Phi Kappa Phi and Mortar Board.

Related Programs

Students interested in social work may select a second major or minor in a related field, such as sociology, psychology, gerontology, ethnic studies, women’s studies or criminal justice.

General Education Program Requirements

What is the overall goal?
The goal of general education is to enable you to live a rich, meaningful life by developing: an informed appreciation of the arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences; an ability to intelligently follow and participate in current events; and a sensitive and tutored appreciation of diverse cultures and ways of living.

What are the expected outcomes?
Embedded throughout general education and furthered in the major are the skills that enable graduates to contribute productively to society and the on-going culture. Therefore, upon graduation the faculty expects you to:

- Have acquired knowledge in the arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences
- Think critically and independently
- Write and speak effectively
- Employ analytical reasoning and problem solving techniques

For more information about the social work degree, visit wichita.edu/socialwork.
**Major Requirements**

- Introduction to Social Work & Social Welfare - 3 credit hours
- Policy I: Understanding Social Welfare Policy - 3 credit hours
- Policy II: Connecting Policy & Practice - 3 credit hours
- Social Work Major Courses - 6 credit hours
- Person in Society: Micro - 3 credit hours
- Person in Society: Macro - 3 credit hours
- Introduction to Social Work Research - 3 credit hours
- Generalist Practice with Groups - 3 credit hours
- Generalist Practice with Individuals - 3 credit hours
- Practicum I - 4 credit hours
- Practicum II - 4 credit hours
- Generalist Practice with Orgs & Communities - 3 credit hours

Students are required to take six credit hours of Social Work Major Courses. Students may choose their two Major Courses from the following list. BSW students are required to take two Major Course selections: one suggested in the fall semester of their junior year, and one suggested in the spring semester of their senior year.

These courses will meet the requirements for a Major Course selection:

- Social Diversity and Ethics - 3 credit hours
- Human Sexuality - 3 credit hours
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Studies - 3 credit hours
- Generalist Practice with Children and Families - 3 credit hours
- Women and Poverty - 3 credit hours
- International Social Work - 3 credit hours
- Contemporary Issues & Perspectives - LGBTQ - 3 credit hours
- Policy and Practice with Aging - 3 credit hours
- Domestic Human Trafficking - 3 credit hours
- Social Work Practice with Families of Diverse Cultures - 3 credit hours

**Undergraduate Certificate in Social Work and Addictions (UCSWA)**

Undergraduate certificates are awarded by departments and colleges to recognize accomplishment in a cluster of related courses on a topic, skill, theme or method. In the School of Social Work, an undergraduate certificate in social work and addiction may be undertaken by students who wish to focus in on specialized knowledge related to addiction.

The Undergraduate Certificate Program in Social Work and Addiction is designed to provide specialized knowledge and skills in addictions for bachelor's level students planning to enter the workforce or enter graduate school after graduation. The courses within this certificate program include specific requirement of an eight credit hour practicum to be in addictions work setting, and nine credit hours of additional coursework. The program offers students the opportunity to explore addictions from a social work perspective.

**For more information, contact:**

**Office of Admissions**
(316) 978-3085
Wichita State University
wichita.edu/admissions
1845 Fairmount St.
wichita.edu/visit
Wichita, Kansas 67260-0124

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**For more information on Social Work at WSU visit wichita.edu/socialwork or call (316) 978-7250.**