

School of Social Work

SOCIAL WORKwww.pitt.edu/~pittssw

Social work is one of the major professions within the network of human services professions. Social workers assist in the resolution of problems in social functioning by helping individuals, families, groups, and communities to define and cope with their problems and needs, and to realize their potential to the fullest. Also, they try to effect changes in the environment to reduce harmful and restrictive forces and to provide adequate resources to meet human needs. These goals are reached through activities such as individual counseling, family therapy, group activity designed to change attitudes and behavior, mobilization of constituencies for social action, and engagement in social policy formulation in governmental bodies.

The primary concerns of Pitt's School of Social Work are developing, organizing, and disseminating information about the broad welfare needs and problems of society, and equipping personnel with knowledge, values, and skills necessary to plan, program, manage, and deliver health and welfare social services that promote social equity.

The undergraduate program in social work is designed to give you your first professional degree in the social work world. It has been developed to meet the standards for undergraduate programs as outlined by the Council on Social Work Education, and represents a major concentration offered at the upper-division or junior and senior years. It is planned for the undergraduate who wishes to major in social work and practice immediately upon graduation, or practitioners with some experience who wish to enhance their practice with a theoretical base. It is also appropriate for the undergraduate who plans to enter a graduate study program.

The first two years of study are spent in the University of Pittsburgh School of Arts and Sciences. During these two years, pre-social work students earn credits in a distribution of liberal classes. The department's bachelor's and master's programs in social work are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, and graduates are eligible for full membership in the National Association of Social Workers.

Requirements for a BA in Social Work (BASW)

120 credits are required for graduation, distributed as follows:

Admission

You must complete your freshman and sophomore years (a minimum of 60 credits) in the School of Arts and Sciences or at an accredited undergraduate institution, obtaining a liberal arts base, and/or completing an associate's degree program, with a minimum of a 2.5 quality point average on a 4.00 scale. Your course work should be distributed as follows:

- a. Humanities 9 cr.
- b. Natural Sciences 9 cr.
- c. Social Sciences 9 cr.
- d. Other courses (preferably including a computer skills course and courses in the humanities and behavioral/social sciences)

1. Social Work Courses (48 cr.; all courses are 3 cr. unless noted otherwise):**SOCWRK 1000 Introduction to Social Work**

This course explores social work in terms of the profession's goals, direct practice methods, values and ethics, history, special mission (regarding poverty, racism, sexism, etc.), and evaluative system.



SOCWRK 1005 Social Welfare I

You will be engaged in analyzing the nature and impact of economic/political/social ideologies and forces that shaped the evolution (up to 1935) of response to the poor, unemployed, sick, etc.

SOCWRK 1006 Social Welfare II

You will examine the post-1935 era and analyze the nature and impact of economic/political/social ideologies and forces that have shaped the development of American social welfare policies and services.

SOCWRK 1008 Ethnicity and Social Welfare

This course will engage you in historical research of federal policies on immigration, naturalization and citizenship, tribal sovereignty, and civil rights.

SOCWRK 1010 Interventive Methods I

This course will guide you in developing professional skills in using effective techniques of worker-client communication; structure helping interviews; establishing, maintaining, and terminating effective working relationships; and applying the data collection-assessment-intervention-evaluation process involved in generalist practice with client systems of various sizes.

SOCWRK 1011 Interventive Methods II

During this course, you will learn how to make knowledge assessments of the needs of individuals and families as clients/client systems, as well as how to implement appropriate plans for intervention, apply techniques to evaluate the effectiveness of the interventions, and terminate the helping relationship.

SOCWRK 1012 Interventive Methods III

This course focuses on your relationship as a social worker to organizations in the community. You will learn to establish and maintain effective working relationships with organizations of community residents/systems as client systems, to work with these organizations to prepare knowledgeable assessment of the needs of communities, to develop and implement community plans and strategies of intervention, and to assess the effectiveness of these interventions.

SOCWRK 1013 Interventive Methods IV

This course focuses on developing your skills regarding group social work. You will learn to make knowledgeable assessments of the needs of treatment-oriented groups, to establish a good worker relationship with these groups, to guide group activities and processes so as to maximize group goals attainment, and to apply techniques to evaluate the effectiveness of practice activity with groups.

SOCWRK 1015 Human Behavior and the Social Environments

You will examine the bio-psychological and sociological factors in life course development that facilitate and/or inhibit effective human interactions with family, group, neighborhood, and community; employment; housing; health care; and education, with special emphases upon evaluating the impact of social class, gender, sexual orientation, and racial/ethnic group membership.

SOCWRK 1020 Introduction to Social Work Research

This course teaches you such research concepts as research methods, measurements, sampling and surveying, and single-case designs. You will also develop your skills of scientific inquiry, problem formulation, planning and implementation of research designs, and analysis of data and assessment of research.

SOCWRK 1024 Practicum Seminar and Lab I

You will study the application in the field of theories, methods, and techniques learned prior to and concurrent with academic and field work. Topics include field instruction, supervision, and evaluation; understanding social agencies and social service delivery systems of which they are a part; and the applicability of specific generalist practice methods and techniques to the client systems with which you will interact in field placement.

SOCWRK 1025 Practicum I (6 cr.)

Here you will engage in University- and agency-supervised field placement assignments involving entry-level generalist practice activities with clients in a human service agency.

SOCWRK 1026 Practicum Seminar and Lab II

This course continues studying the application of course work to the field. Topics include social service delivery network analysis, case recording, practice ethics, practice research, and postbaccalaureate professional growth and development.

SOCWRK 1027 Practicum II (6 cr.)

You will continue with your University- and agency-supervised field placement assignments involving more autonomous entry-level generalist practice activities.

2. Social and Behavioral Sciences (24 cr.)

Anthropology 3 cr

Economics 3 cr.

Political Science 3 cr.

Psychology 3 cr.

Sociology 3 cr.

Additional credits in one of these five areas 9 cr.

3. Other Course Requirements (12 cr.)

English Composition 3 cr.

Africana Studies 3 cr.

Statistics 3 cr.

Human Biology (or equivalent course, emphasizing the biological determinants of human behavior) 3 cr.

Course Sequencing for Full-time Students

Junior Year

Fall

SOCWRK 1000 Introduction to Social Work

SOCWRK 1005 Social Welfare I

SOCWRK 1010 Interventive Methods 1

SOCWRK 1015 Human Behavior and the Social Environment

Student choice 3 cr.

Total: 15 cr.

Spring

SOCWRK 1006 Social Welfare II 3 cr.

SOCWRK 1008 Ethnicity and Social Welfare 3 cr.

SOCWRK 1011 Interventive Methods II 3 cr.

SOCWRK 1012 Interventive Methods III 3 cr.

Student choice 3 cr.

Total: 15 cr.

Senior Year

Fall

SOCWRK 1013 Interventive Methods IV

SOCWRK 1020 Introduction to Social Work Research I

SOCWRK 1024 Practicum Seminar and Lab I

SOCWRK 1025 Practicum I 6 cr.

Total: 15 cr.

Spring

SOCWRK 1026 Practicum Seminar and Lab II

SOCWRK 1027 Practicum II 6 cr.

Student choice 6 cr.

Total: 15 cr.

Requirements for a Minor in Social Work:

Twelve credits are required for the minor in social work.

The minor includes successful completion (with a grade of C- or better) of four of the following seven 3- credit courses:

SOCWRK 1000 Introduction to the Field of Social Work*

SOCWRK 1005 Social Welfare I: History

SOCWRK 1006 Social Welfare II: Policy

SOCWRK 1035 Global Perspectives on Social Work Practice

SOCWRK 1058 Economics and Social Work

SOCWRK 1079 Child Welfare Services

SOCWRK 1088 Special Topics

*SOCWRK 1000 Introduction to the Field of Social Work is required for all subsequent courses, with the exception of SOCWRK 1005 Social Welfare History.

Honors

This program honors those students whose academic performance places them in the upper 2 percent of their graduating class. These students are considered for honors recognition at the annual honors convocation conducted by the University in the spring of each year. The BASW program is also home to the Mu Omicron chapter of Phi Alpha (a national social work honor society). Students with a 3.85 quality point average in their major at graduation are invited to join Phi Alpha.

Possible Job Opportunities for a Graduate with a BA in Social Work

Graduates often receive entry-level professional social work positions working with individuals, families, groups, communities, and organizations within a multicultural society. Professional practice settings for entry-level practitioners include programs such as child welfare, family preservation, mental retardation, mental health, juvenile justice, and drug and alcohol. Shelters for battered women, homeless shelters, community food banks, hospitals, neighborhood citizen organizations, and rehabilitation centers are other settings.

Graduate Programs in Social Work

Graduate work in social work is available at the master's and PhD levels. Also, a few joint degree, cooperative degree, and certificate programs are available in conjunction with other University of Pittsburgh graduate schools, like the Graduate School of Public Health and the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

For more information about the social work program, please contact:

University of Pittsburgh
School of Social Work
Mary Pat Elhatab
2108 Cathedral of Learning
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-624-6348
E-mail: elhatab@pitt.edu
www.pitt.edu/~pittsw/academics.html

For more information about other programs, please contact:

University of Pittsburgh
Office of Admissions and Financial Aid
Alumni Hall, 4227 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-624-PITT
E-mail: oafa@pitt.edu
www.oafa.pitt.edu

Special Programs and Opportunities

Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) Club

This student organization aims to create a professional atmosphere in the undergraduate program and incorporate the functions of networking, conference planning, and support services for junior and senior undergraduate social work students in cooperation with the faculty and staff. Activities of the groups include peer advising, conferences, and a social event with juniors and seniors and other students from a junior college.

Child Welfare Education for Baccalaureates Program

The Child Welfare Education for Baccalaureates (CWEB) program is a cooperative effort among the United States Administration for Children and Families, the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, and 14 undergraduate social work degree programs in Pennsylvania accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. The goal of CWEB is to strengthen public child welfare services in Pennsylvania by providing educational opportunities for undergraduate social work majors preparing for employment in one of Pennsylvania's 67 public child welfare agencies. Qualified students, enrolled as social work majors (either full time or part time) may receive substantial financial support in return for a contractual obligation to accept employment in a Pennsylvania public child welfare agency following their studies. To apply, students also must be in good academic standing and provide a recommendation from faculty in the social work program.

Volunteer Service

Volunteering gives you valuable experience that enhances your learning, personal development, and the process of discovering your interests. The Student Volunteer Outreach Center coordinates a variety of volunteer opportunities with more than 100 local community agencies and annual programs such as the mentoring and tutoring programs, Junior Achievement, Alternative Spring Break, annual volunteer agency fair, and Scouting for Food.

Study Abroad

Studying abroad is an exciting way to add an international perspective to your undergraduate education and strengthen your credentials as a graduate. Since only a small percentage of American students have studied abroad, this experience distinguishes you when you enter the job market or pursue graduate study. It allows you to broaden your personal experience and gain an appreciation of other cultures, while earning credits toward your degree. Scholarships are available, and financial aid is applicable. Social work majors should participate in study abroad before entering the social work program or risk missing required courses and extending their stay at Pitt.