

# SOCIAL WORK (SW)

The Department of Social Work's undergraduate program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and must meet rigorous academic standards to retain this accreditation. Social work majors pursue a program that encompasses the professional social work competencies of professional identity, critical thinking, knowledge of diversity and human rights, social, environmental and economic justice, social welfare policy and services, social work practice with all client system sizes, human behavior in the social environment, research, and ethics.

According to the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), "The social work profession provides ethical, practical, and compassionate leadership to help people confront and resolve personal and social challenges" through their work with individuals, families, small groups, organizations, and communities. All social work majors complete a field internship under the direction of a qualified supervisor.

<https://chhs.unh.edu/sw>

## Programs

- [Social Work Major \(B.S.\)](#)
- [Social Work Minor](#)
- [Gerontology Multidisciplinary Minor](#)

## Courses

### Social Work (SW)

#### SW 424 - Introduction to Social Work Credits: 4

Introduces the learner to the field of social work with emphasis on the "person-in-environment" and attention to a range of practice approaches to understanding and assisting of the human condition. An overview of the history, values, and ethics of the profession. Includes various fields of practice in which social workers are employed.

**Equivalent(s):** SW 524

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

#### SW 440A - Honors/Healthy Communities: Environmental Justice and Social Change Credits: 4

This course provides students with opportunities to examine and promote health within communities. Students explore components of healthy communities, with a focus on equity, sustainability, and social and environmental justice. The class examines historical, contemporary, and future factors that empower and constrain community residents and systems. Students practice skills for social change and engage in experiential activities and discussion designed to foster consideration of community health and social justice.

**Attributes:** Honors course; Social Science (Discovery)

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

#### SW 500 - I'm Old, So What! An introduction to aging in the United States Credits: 4

This is the first of two mandatory courses for the GERO Minor, but any student may take it as an elective. It introduces the learner to the field of gerontology (the study of how people age). It explores the biological, psychosocial, and cognitive changes within the context of society. The history of ageism and its influence on how it has affected the individual, families, and society is presented. The range of independence among older people is examined. Various disciplines that work within the field of gerontology are reviewed. Lectures, novels, films and guest speakers help to examine growing old in the U.S.

**Equivalent(s):** GERO 500

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

#### SW 501 - Research Methods in Social Work Credits: 4

This course introduces students to practitioner-researcher role in social work. The class includes critical evaluation of, and introduction to research including project design, survey and evaluative methodologies. The course introduces students to statistics used in research process. Each student completes an individual research project.

**Attributes:** Social Science (Discovery); Inquiry (Discovery); Writing Intensive Course

**Prerequisite(s):** SW 424 with a minimum grade of D-

**Equivalent(s):** SW 601

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

#### SW 525 - Social Welfare Policy: History of Social and Economic Justice Credits: 4

Course considers the history and current status of social welfare policy in the United States, with specific considerations of policies related to immigration, social benefits, housing, labor, health, criminal justice, education, and child welfare. Students build skills related to: the critical consumption of information across perspectives, authors, and historical contexts; the integration of personal experiences in understanding the impact of social welfare policy; and the analysis of historical and current policies with a focus on their impacts on inclusivity, diversity, equity, anti-racism, and anti-oppression.

**Attributes:** Historical Perspectives(Disc)

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

#### SW 550 - Human Behavior and Social Environment I Credits: 4

Introduces human behavior and development as it influences and is influenced by multiple factors in the social environment, including individual genetic and biological composition, race, gender, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, geographic location, physical appearance, and ability. How these factors operate throughout the life cycle. Provides a knowledge base and perspective to understand a client's behavior, attitude, and values in relation to the attitudes and values of the social work professional and the larger society.

**Attributes:** Social Science (Discovery)

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

#### SW 551 - Human Behavior and Social Environment II Credits: 4

Agents of socialization that most significantly affect family, group, and organizational development and behavior within an ecosystems framework. Particular attention is paid to the influence of class, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation and other aspects of diversity on development and behavior of larger systems.

**Attributes:** Social Science (Discovery)

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

**SW 565 - Introduction to Child Life****Credits:** 4

When facing acute, chronic, or life-threatening illness and traumatic injuries, children and families have unique needs within the medical system. The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the theory and practice of the child life profession and family centered care. Topics include children's emotional reactions to hospitalization, use of play, preparation, and family support, designing healing environments, and specializations within the field.

**Equivalent(s):** HDFS 565**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**SW 611 - Behavioral Health and Well Being****Credits:** 4

This course provides an overview of behavioral health and wellbeing through a social justice lens. While students will learn about the traditional approach to behavioral health including the diagnosis and assessment of "mental illness", they will also explore contemporary perspectives that view our behavioral health as inseparable from our bodies, families, communities, and other social determinants of health.

**Equivalent(s):** SW 711**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**SW 622 - Social Work Practice: Interventions with Individuals and Families****Credits:** 4

Introduces students to the basic values, theories, and skills of social work practice. This is accomplished using lectures, discussions, readings, written exercises, and using laboratory and practice sessions. The intent is for students to use the experiential parts of the course (group work and interview simulations) to apply the conceptual and theoretical knowledge gained from lectures, class discussions and readings.

**Attributes:** Writing Intensive Course**Prerequisite(s):** SW 424 with a minimum grade of C.**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**SW 623 - Social Work Practice: Interventions with Groups, Organizations and Communities****Credits:** 4

Continuation of SW 622. Delineation and study of intervention and change strategies differentiated with individuals, groups, and communities.

**Attributes:** Writing Intensive Course**Prerequisite(s):** SW 622 with a minimum grade of C and SW 424 with a minimum grade of C.**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**SW 625 - Social Welfare Policy: Analysis, Activism, and Advocacy****Credits:** 4

Course examines the role of and sources of power in policy development and policy implementation. Students develop skills related to: the critical analysis of power and privilege in the policy process; the continuous processes of self-reflection that are essential for social workers working in communities experiencing oppression; and the implementation of activism and advocacy efforts in the abolition of systems of oppression and the pursuit of social justice.

**Attributes:** Writing Intensive Course**Prerequisite(s):** SW 424 with a minimum grade of C and SW 525 with a minimum grade of C.**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**Special Fee:** Yes**SW 630 - Race Equity in Health and Human Services****Credits:** 4

The nature and impact of oppression will be defined and understood through historical, structural, intergroup, and psychological perspectives to support the development of human service majors. The social construction of individual and group identities and their relationship to oppression, prejudice, discrimination and powerlessness in social and interpersonal contexts will be explored and their impact on individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. Students will have an opportunity to examine their own experiences of both privilege and oppression. Implications for practice that is strengths oriented and culturally sensitive will be explored. The unique challenges and dilemmas that historically marginalized groups experience will be examined. Students will learn to critically examine theories, concepts, and models of practice for all forms of bias. The course will combine lecture, discussion, and experiential learning as students have an opportunity to learn and apply skills of anti-oppressive practice.

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**SW 660 - Exploring Issues in Housing and Homelessness****Credits:** 4

This course examines the meaning we attach to shelter in our society, and will examine multiple perspectives on the issues of housing and homelessness. The course will begin with a macro perspective and will draw on economic, humanistic, and historical perspectives to respond to this question, is housing a right? Students will also examine community development approaches to housing and their neighborhood effects. The course will conclude with an in-depth look at the complexities of homelessness.

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**SW 697 - Special Topics in Social Welfare****Credits:** 4

Seminar for advanced majors. Topics may include: Alcohol and Alcoholism, Drugs and Chemical Dependency, Income Maintenance, Health Care, Child Welfare, Aging, Mental Health, or Developmental Disabilities. or study travel experiences. May be repeated for different topics.

**Repeat Rule:** May be repeated up to 1 time.**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**Special Fee:** Yes**SW 702 - Aging and Society****Credits:** 4

This course is designed to formalize students with biological, psychological, and sociological perspectives of aging and social services and policies for older people. This course covers a broad range of theories and contemporary issues in the field of aging. It also focuses on the strengths and limitations of existing programs and policies such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, and other community services. Comparisons to developments in other countries will be made throughout the course to provide a broader context for understanding aging and programs/policies in the U.S.

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**SW 704 - Adolescents with Emotional and Behavioral Challenges****Credits:** 4

This course focuses on the characteristics and needs of youth with emotional and behavioral challenges based upon socio-cultural and ecological theories, and provides exposure to family- and youth-driven practices and approaches that represent System of Care values and principles.

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

**SW 705 - Child and Adolescent Risks and Resiliency: Program, Policy and Practice****Credits:** 4

In this course, students apply an anti-oppressive lens in exploring the major social work practices, policies, and programs in the fields of child welfare and child/family services. Students will be introduced to current research related to the impact of trauma across the lifespan, with an emphasis on risk/resiliency factors within the family system. Students will learn how past/current child welfare policy and practice perpetuates social injustice, oppression, and trauma. Alternative approaches to support children and caregivers within the family, home, and community will be emphasized.

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**SW 707 - Child Maltreatment****Credits:** 4

This course introduces students to advanced concepts in child welfare with an emphasis on child maltreatment assessment and child protective services. The course addresses emerging assessment practices, data informed child protective service provision, the role of technology in child welfare practice, and workforce development.

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**SW 710 - SW and the Digital Age****Credits:** 4

This course focuses on the ever-changing landscape of technology as it relates to the Social Work field. Students will explore topics such as telehealth, online communities, assistive technology as well as digital advocacy. Ethical implications of the integration of technology into Social Work will be explored throughout the course. Students will work independently or collaboratively at a distance to create a multi-media project focused on a topic of interest within Digital Social Work.

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**SW 712 - Understanding Developmental Disabilities****Credits:** 4

Analysis of the complex social contexts of people with developmental disabilities. Explores and questions traditional approaches and the current system. Examines family and community services and resources.

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**SW 713 - School Social Work****Credits:** 4

The course examines the school as a social institution that serves to educate and socialize children into US society and the role of the social worker in the school setting. Readings, activities, and discussions provide practical skills and theory for school social work practice. The course content addresses the history of school social work integrating social work values into a school setting, systemic needs within school settings, the importance of networking and professional collaboration, and working with diverse and at-risk youth and their families. Students also examine the role of school social workers in helping students, schools and families adjust to and cope with trauma, special education needs, and related topics.

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**SW 715 - Affirming Practice with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer+ People****Credits:** 4

This course addresses the task of clinical practice with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, asexual, intersex, two-spirit, genderqueer, pansexual, and beyond (LGBTQ+) people on both personal and professional levels for the social worker. The class makes use of personal narratives, as well as theoretical and clinical practice readings. Students are expected to explore and examine their own attitudes, beliefs, and assumptions about LGBTQ+ people.

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**SW 721 - International Social Work****Credits:** 4

This course introduces the growing field of international social work. It addresses the impact of globalization on social work practice, provides an overview of the social work profession around the world, and considers current challenges and suggested ways social workers can contribute to solutions. Human rights and globalization are dominant themes underlying international social work and serve as unifying concepts for examining various global issues. The focus of the course is on global social issues with particular attention to human rights, development, racism, status of women and children, climate change, immigrants and refugees, HIV/AIDS, and aging populations. Linkages between international and domestic social work practice are emphasized, making the course relevant to all students and their future practice.

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**SW 740 - Social Work Internship Experience****Credits:** 4

Majors are placed in a social welfare setting for a minimum of 225 hours; individual arrangements with faculty coordinate. (No credit toward a minor).

**Co-requisite:** SW 740A**Prerequisite(s):** SW 622 with a minimum grade of C.**Equivalent(s):** SW 640**Grade Mode:** Credit/Fail Grading**Special Fee:** Yes**SW 740A - Social Work Internship Experience I: Seminar****Credits:** 4

This weekly seminar, held concurrently with SW 740 Social Work Internship Experience I, integrates the internship experience with Social Work theory and concepts learned throughout the curriculum through class discussion, exercises, readings, and written assignments. Seminar I is an opportunity for orientation to internship, continued development of your social work professional identity, review and application of the NASW Code of Ethics, integration of Anti-Oppressive (AOP) social work practices, and the use of small group discussion for problem solving. Students learn to use supervision effectively, to participate in the helping process, and to manage their own stress. Students assess the impact of policy on the client system, agency, and worker and to use research to inform practice.

**Co-requisite:** SW 740**Prerequisite(s):** SW 622 with a minimum grade of C.**Equivalent(s):** SW 640A**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

**SW 741 - Social Work Internship Experience II****Credits:** 4

A continuation of SW 740 with a minimum of 225 hours required in this term.

**Co-requisite:** SW 741A**Prerequisite(s):** SW 740 with a minimum grade of C and SW 740A with a minimum grade of C.**Equivalent(s):** SW 641**Grade Mode:** Credit/Fail Grading**SW 741A - Social Work Internship Experience II: Seminar****Credits:** 4

This is a continuation of Social Welfare Internship Experience I: SW 740A and builds upon the concepts presented in the student's first internship practice seminar. This seminar meets weekly for two and a half hours and is held concurrently with the internship placement. It is designed to integrate the internship experience with social work concepts through class discussion, reading and written assignments. Topics include but are not limited to, understanding and using agency structure to enhance client interactions, preparing client assessment and other documents, enhancing the client-worker therapeutic interaction, effective use of supervision, effective use of self in practice, prevention of burn-out, termination with clients and with agency staff, and values and ethics.

**Co-requisite:** SW 741**Prerequisite(s):** SW 740 with a minimum grade of C and SW 740A with a minimum grade of C.**Equivalent(s):** SW 641A**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**SW 770 - Intimate Partner Violence****Credits:** 4

This course examines intimate partner violence or domestic violence from its historic roots to the present. In accordance with an historical and contextual approach, the course examines theories that explain and describe the phenomenon, research that attempts to define it, as well as social policies, social movements, and intervention from a social work perspective. Intimate partner violence, cuts across ethnics, racial, and class boundaries and impedes a victim's wellbeing and social participation.

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**SW 785 - Study Abroad: Comparative Social Welfare Systems****Credits:** 4

Students examine the historical development of social welfare in another country including an analysis of the underlying values and attitudes that dictate practice and policy decisions. Includes agency site visits, lectures, themed readings, and visits to important cultural sites.

**Co-requisite:** INCO 687**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**Special Fee:** Yes**SW 795 - Independent Study in Social Service****Credits:** 1-6

Independent work under department faculty guidance. Enrollment by permission only through arrangement with specific faculty. May be repeated with a different focus. 12 hours in social work coursework required.

**Repeat Rule:** May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits.**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**Special Fee:** Yes**SW 796 - Independent Study: Teaching Assistantship****Credits:** 1-6

Participating students provide leadership and supervision for small groups of social work majors in social work practice simulations. Student teaching assistants work closely with, and under the direction of, department faculty.

**Repeat Rule:** May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits.**Grade Mode:** Credit/Fail Grading**SW 797 - Special Topics in Social Welfare****Credits:** 4

Seminar for advanced majors cross-listed with SW 897. Topics may include: alcohol and alcoholism, drugs and chemical dependency, income maintenance, health care, child welfare, aging, mental health, or developmental disabilities or study travel experiences. May be repeated for different topics.

**Repeat Rule:** May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits.**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**Special Fee:** Yes**SW 798 - Undergraduate Thesis in Social Work****Credits:** 1-6

Collaborating with a faculty adviser, students propose, develop, and implement a thesis research project for both oral and written presentation. The thesis must be a significant research project through which the student independently demonstrates their expertise in a specific topic area.

**Prerequisite(s):** SW 601 with a minimum grade of D-.**Repeat Rule:** May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits.**Equivalent(s):** SW 798H**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**SW 798H - Honors Thesis****Credits:** 2-4

Working with an assigned faculty adviser, students propose and develop a thesis project for both oral and written presentation before the end of the semester. 16 hours in social work coursework required.

**Attributes:** Honors course**Repeat Rule:** May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits.**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**SW 799 - Senior Project****Credits:** 1-6

Working with an assigned faculty adviser, students propose and develop a community project for both oral and written presentation during the senior year.

**Prerequisite(s):** SW 601 with a minimum grade of C.**Repeat Rule:** May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. May be repeated up to 3 times.**Mutual Exclusion:** No credit for students who have taken SW 799H.**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**SW 799H - Honors Project****Credits:** 1-6

Working with an assigned faculty adviser, students propose and develop a community project for both oral and written presentation during the senior year. Admission to the SW Honors Program required.

**Attributes:** Honors course**Prerequisite(s):** SW 601 with a minimum grade of C.**Repeat Rule:** May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. May be repeated up to 3 times.**Mutual Exclusion:** No credit for students who have taken SW 799.**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

## Faculty

Social Work Department Faculty