Social Work

The College of St. Scholastica undergraduate social work education program prepares students in the generalist social work practice model, with emphasis on acquisition of basic knowledge, values and skills essential to beginning level professional practice with individuals, families, groups and communities. The College of St. Scholastica Social Work Program is guided by the liberal arts tradition of the College and integrates a humanistic, egalitarian educational philosophy with rigorous, sequential academic programming. Students completing the program are prepared to work in rural, urban, and international areas with diverse populations.

Social Work Licensure

The College of St. Scholastica Social Work Program enables graduates to sit for licensure as a Licensed Social Worker (LSW) by the Minnesota Board of Social Work. Additionally, the curriculum is approved by the Minnesota Board of Teaching for School Social Worker Licensure. Students seeking licensure as a school social worker are required to complete the social work major coursework and SWK 4555 Senior Field Practicum in a school setting under the supervision of a licensed school social worker, consisting of at least 400 contact hours during one school year.

Social Work Major

General education requirements:

- BIO 1102 or BIO 2110 and 2120
- PSY 1105 or PSY 2208
- PSY 3331
- SOC 2265 or SOC 4405 or INS 4410 or INS 4415 or INS 4420 or WMS 1011
- SOC 1125 or SOC 2231 or SOC 2433
- Social/Behavior Science elective (4 cr.)
- RES elective (4 cr.)

Social work core requirements: SWK 2240, 3360, 3362, 3370, 3383,
Other requirements

Students provide their own transportation to community learning experiences such as their field practicum during their junior and senior years. Students are required to obtain professional liability insurance before beginning field practicum. Students become members of N.A.S.W. (National Association of Social Workers) at the beginning of their Junior year.

Admission and Retention Procedure and Policy

All entering students are encouraged to submit their application for the Social Work major with the Registrar Office once they are an intended major. Social Work majors apply for formal admission to the Social Work Program during the spring semester of the sophomore year. For fall Junior-status admission, students transferring from a community college with an A.A. degree must make application to both the College and the Social Work Program by April 1st.

Admission to the Social Work Program is a prerequisite condition for registration in SWK 3362 and SWK 3370.

Application to the Social Work Program includes the following:

1. written application from the student;
2. one recommendation from a non-social work faculty member;
3. one recommendation from an agency supervisor who has observed the student in relationship to a client population;
4. one recommendation from a community member;
5. a structured writing sample;
6. possible interview by the Social Work Program Admissions Committee.

The Social Work Program Director informs student in writing by June 15th of the decision. Possible actions include:

- acceptance of application;
- provisional acceptance of application; or
- denial of application. Students who are denied admission to the Social Work Program have the right to appeal the decision to the Social Work Advisory Council Grievance
Admission and retention criteria for the program follow:

Student must maintain acceptable academic standing. For admission this includes: junior standing; a 2.5 overall GPA (on a 4.0 scale); and 3.0 cumulative GPA in psychology, sociology and social work courses. All social work courses must be passed with a minimum grade of C. Retention requires continuation of these minimum grades. Students who earn a grade below C in any required social work course must retake the course prior to enrollment in the next course in the professional practice sequence.

Students are expected to exhibit commitment to the profession through attendance and active participation in classes.

Other evaluative criteria used by the program include the following:

- ability to demonstrate increasingly more advanced writing skills;
- demonstration of growth and maturity as a person and as a professional;
- willingness to give and receive honest and respectful feedback;
- increased growth in self awareness;
- satisfactory performance in prerequisite courses, as well as in seminar and field experiences;
- positive references from academic and field representatives throughout the student's education;
- proper use of supervisory and collegial resources;
- ability to uphold the NASW Code of Ethics.

The Social Work Program reserves the privilege of accepting and retaining in the program only those students who, in the judgment of the faculty, Admission Committee and Grievance Committee, satisfy the requirements of scholarship and the integrity of the social work profession as set forth in the NASW Code of Ethics. No academic credit is awarded for life or previous work experiences in this degree program.

Social Work Diversity Statement

The Social Work Program encourages all students to learn about the diversity in their communities. Program activities are dedicated to expanding students' experiences with diversity and to assist them in
developing cultural competency. The Social Work Program conducts all of its activities without discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, ethnic or national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, local commission status, or status with regard to public assistance.

Course Offerings

**SWK 2240 - Introduction to Professional Social Work**: 4 cr.
Provides an introduction to the foundation of Social Work as a profession, and outlines the primary knowledge, values, and skills that characterize contemporary practice. This entry level course surveys a variety of professional practice settings allowing students an opportunity for career exploration within the social work profession. In addition, the course reviews the historical and philosophical background of social work. Students demonstrate increased awareness of personal values in exploring both the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics, as well as the Benedictine Values. The course emphasizes the experience of populations at risk and analyzes factors that constitute being at risk. Through the use of weekly classroom lecture, discussion, readings, audio visual tools, and service learning assignments, students increase awareness of the value of promoting social and economic justice across all levels of practice.

**SWK/GER/PSY/SOC 3315 - Psychosocial Aspects of Aging**: 4 cr.
Provides an overview of the aging individual within a social context. The focus is on characteristics of today's older adult cohort, psychological processes in late life, the social context in which older adults live, and society's response to older adults. Topics include: demographics, stereotypes and attitudes, research methods, theories of development, sensing and responding to the environment, cognitive processes, mental disorders and treatment, death and dying, sexuality, intimate relationships, family relationships, care giving, employment and retirement, finances, Social Security, social programs and political power of the older cohort.

**SWK 3360 - American Social Welfare Policy**: 4 cr.
Examines the history, current structures and future of social welfare policy, and the role of social policy in social work practice. Course content includes: identification of local, state, federal and international political processes that shape the development of domestic and international social policy; analysis of current limitations and strengths in social policy; application of research
relevant to existing and potential social policy; and consideration of controversial policies and social reform strategies. Policy analysis of the following issues are examined: income redistribution, poverty, discrimination, child welfare, mental health, housing, healthcare as well as other relevant economic/political/organizational systems. The purpose of the course is to challenge students to recognize and understand the relationship between social problems, social values, social institutions, client advocacy, and social change as they prepare for entry level generalist social work practice.

**SWK 3362 - Human Behavior in the Social Environment**: 4 cr.
Provides students with knowledge and understanding of the reciprocal relationships between human behavior and social environments through a social systems approach as affected by biological, cultural, environmental, psychosocial, and spiritual factors across the lifespan. Content includes empirically based theories and knowledge that focus on the interactions between and among individual, family, small group, organizational and community roles in human behavior as related to social work practice. Course focuses on cultural, ethnic and lifestyle diversity and its effects on achieving health and well being. Prerequisite: SWK 2240; PSY 1105 or 2208; BIO 1102; concurrent enrollment in SWK 3370.

**SWK 3370 - General Social Work Practice**: 4 cr.
The first of the four practice sequence courses. This course provides students with the fundamental concepts, principles and skills necessary to engage in beginning generalist social work practice at the baccalaureate level. It explores the unique aspects and challenges of the social work profession, emphasizes the professional commitment and values necessary to provide service to culturally diverse and vulnerable populations, promotes understanding and use of a strengths practice perspective, examines the NASW Code of Ethics, and introduces the generalist intervention problem solving method for practice with individuals, families, groups, and communities. Students develop interviewing skills and the professional use of self. Prerequisites: SWK 2240; PSY 1105 or 2208; concurrent enrollment in SWK 3362.

**SWK 3380 - Child Welfare**: 4 cr.
Examines the social welfare system as it affects children in American society. Students learn about critical factors that affect the needs of children and families in contemporary society. Child maltreatment, protective intervention, family preservation, family assessment and alternative substitute care are some of the key issues
addressed. Students also learn about human service agencies and programs providing services to children and families. Course content includes theory, practices services and research in the field of child welfare.

**SWK 3383 - Social Work with Individuals and Families**: 4 cr.
The second course in the social work practice sequence. This course builds on the knowledge and skills taught in SWK 3370. Students continue to demonstrate mastery of interviewing skills and application of the generalist intervention model on a more advanced level working with individuals, couples, and families. This course includes information and practice with: contemporary social work practice theories, social histories, individual and family assessments; assessment of suicidal potential and Duty to Warn; treatment plans; three generational genograms; eco maps and professional documentation skills. Students participate in role playing, client case analyses and ethical practice dilemmas. Prerequisites: SWK 2240, 3362, 3370.

**SWK 3385 Social Work Research and Evaluation**: 4 cr.
Qualitative and quantitative approaches to building evidence-based generalist social work practice. Students acquire knowledge and develop skills necessary for assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of practice interventions and social service programs. Course goals are to prepare students to be competent consumers, producers, and communicators of social science research. Course content includes: steps in practice research; ethnic sensitive research practice; empirical research strategies for assessing micro, mezzo and macro social work interventions; developing and implementing a research project; and effective use of computer technology as an integral part of both research and human service practice. Prerequisite: PSY 3331.

**SWK 3555 Junior Field Practicum**: 2-4 cr.
This course is designed to provide students an entry-level opportunity to work in a social service agency, institution or organization in the role of a Social Work Intern 8-13 hours per week/120-200 total hours, during spring semester of their Junior year. In placement, students prepare for effective social work practice within a pluralistic society including sensitivity to race, color, gender, age, creed, ethnic or national origin, handicap, or political or sexual orientation. Learning contracts are individually designed to meet the specific needs of each student and the requirements and opportunities available in each human service organization. Students participate in a weekly 100 minute small
group seminar which emphasizes student-centered learning, personal/professional introspection and an opportunity to exchange information on agency placement experiences. Various general practice skills will be explored, including values, ethics, professional documentation, and intervention strategies. Students will be graded on a P/F basis. Prerequisites: SWK 2240, 3362, 3370, and concurrent enrollment in SWK 3383, 3385, and program permission.

SWK/INS 4410 Counseling the American Indian (I, II, 6): 4 cr. Historical and cultural aspects of the relationship of American Indians to the counseling process. Courses involve group dynamics and practical techniques.

SWK/INS 4415 American Indian Families (I, II, 6): 4 cr. Traditional and contemporary concepts of American Indian families. The social and political changes that have impacted on Indian families will be identified and the degree of impact will be assessed.

SWK/INS 4420 Human Behavior and the American Indian Community (I, II, 6): 4 cr. Understanding of human behavior, cultural issues and their implication for human service interaction with American Indian communities. A systems approach will be utilized to address the issues of individual, family, community and societal behavior.

SWK 4440 Social Work Intervention with Groups: 4 cr. This course is the third sequenced course of four practice courses required for all Social Work majors. The course incorporates knowledge and skill content developed in SWK 3370 and SWK 3383. Students examine the nature and development of social work group practice within task and treatment groups. Specific attention is given to group dynamics theory, leadership and group facilitation skills, stages of group development, theories and techniques adapted to a variety of treatment and task group settings, ethical standards for group practice, and cultural and ethnic consideration in social work group intervention. Students have the opportunity to demonstrate group facilitation and memberships skills in group labs. In addition, students receive instruction in implementing empirically based interventions in evaluating practice effectiveness. Prerequisites SWK 2240, 3360, 3370, 3383 and 3385

SWK 4441 Social Work with Community Systems: 4 cr. Fourth course of the social work practice sequence. This course emphasizes the theories and skills necessary for beginning social
work practitioners to bring about effectively planned change in community groups, organizations and institutions. The course content addresses: community theory and community practice skills; organizational and interorganizational practice theory and skills; community organizing in a diverse society; macro social work research; and, theories and skills for professional development and macro level interventions. It provides students experiential learning opportunities. Prerequisites: SWK 2240, 3362, 3370, 3383, 4440, 3385; PSY 3331.

**SWK 4449 Preparation for Senior Practicum**: 1 cr.
Designed for senior social work students in preparation for their senior field experience. Students have the opportunity to assess their interests and abilities, familiarize themselves with available field placement sites, complete necessary paperwork and interview with at least three field placement supervisors. Prerequisites: SWK 2240, 3370, 3383, 3385; PSY 3331.

**SWK 4470 Independent Professional Project**: 2 cr.
Senior project integrating coursework and field placement experience of the student's social work education. The project must address these nine basic foundation areas: values and ethics, diversity, social and economic justice, work with populations at risk, human behavior in the social environment, social welfare policies and services, social work practice, research, field practicum and internship. Prerequisites: all social work courses and concurrent enrollment in SWK 4555.

**SWK 4555 Senior Field Practicum**: 8-12 cr.
A 400 hour (minimum) social work internship in a social service agency, institution or organization during the senior year. The practicum provides students the opportunity to integrate direct practice with acquired theoretical knowledge and skills. A bi weekly seminar facilitates the integration of classroom content and direct practice experience. Attention is given to the relationship between the purposes, values, and principles expressed in the Social Work Code of Ethics and the professional practice of social work. Prerequisites: all social work courses except SWK 4470; admission to the field sequence.

**SWK 4777 Topics in Social Work**: 1-4 cr.
Courses not a regular part of Social Work curriculum but taught because of special need, interest or opportunity. Topics vary.

**SWK 4999 Independent Study**: 1-8 cr.
Students select a particular topic of study with instructor. Individual student learning goals and method of evaluation is designed. Prerequisite: permission of instructor.

Questions and comments can be directed to our feedback form.

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