

MADONNA UNIVERSITY

Social Work • College of Social Sciences

About the Program

Overview

The social work program is an accredited program designed to prepare students for generalist entry-level positions in social work. The program offers a bachelor of social work degree and adheres to the purposes and values of social work as stated in the Council on Social Work Education's Curriculum Policy Statement for Baccalaureate Degree Programs in Social Work Education. The BSW degree is also offered in Gaylord, Michigan, via two-way interactive television.

Department Mission

The mission of the social work program is to ensure that the baccalaureate social work students have the knowledge, skills and values necessary for entry-level generalist social work practice and/or graduate social work studies for the purpose of promoting social and economic justice globally among people who are vulnerable and discriminated against. Further, the program prepares its students to assist at-risk populations in becoming empowered in order to eliminate exploitation and oppression.

Unique features

1. Interactive distance education classes
2. Off-campus locations in Southwest Detroit and Gaylord
3. Accredited by the Council on Social Work Education
4. Small personalized classes
5. Evening and weekend classes
6. Supportive faculty
7. International practice opportunities
8. Emphasis on service learning, community service and working with at-risk populations

Full Time Plan of Study - BSW Degree

Required Major Courses:

First Semester

SW 2300	Introduction to Social Work	4 s.h.
SW 3350	Generalist Practice Methods I	3 s.h.
SW 3400	Human Behavior & Social Environment I	3 s.h.

Second Semester

SW 3410	Human Behavior & Social Environment II	3 s.h.
SW 3500	Social Welfare	4 s.h.
SW 3700	Generalist Practice Methods II	4 s.h.

Third Semester

SW 4350	Generalist Practice Methods III	3 s.h.
SW 4500	Social Policy	4 s.h.
SW 4800	Field Practicum I	4 s.h.
SW 4850	Field Practicum Seminar I	2 s.h.

Fourth Semester

SW 4700	Generalist Practice Methods IV	3 s.h.
SW 4870	Social Work Research	4 s.h.
SW 4900	Field Practicum II	4 s.h.
SW 4950	Field Practicum Seminar II	<u>2 s.h.</u>
		47 s.h.

These courses must be taken in sequence. Students must complete SW 2300 with a C or better before applying for admission into the social work program. As part of the degree requirements, students also complete a total 60 hours of service learning in the community at the sophomore and junior levels and 400 hours of field experience at the senior level.

Required Support Courses:

BIO 1010	Introductory Biology or	4 s.h.
BIO 3150	Human Genetics and Society or	3 s.h.
NSC 1250	Health Problems	4 s.h.
CIS 2380	Introduction to Computers	3 s.h.
PSC 2510	American Government	4 s.h.
PSY 1010	General Psychology	3 s.h.
SOC 1010	Introduction to Sociology & Cultural Anthropology	4 s.h.
SW 2390	Empathy Listening Skills	1 s.h.
SOC 4140	Conflict Resolution	<u>1 s.h.</u>

Admission to the Program

Students must apply for admission into to the social work program after Completing SW 2300: *Introduction to Social Work* with a grade of "C" or better and completion of the prerequisites with a "C" or better. Applicants must also demonstrate attitude and aptitude for social work practice. A grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or better is required at the time of admission. Applications to the social work program are accepted three times yearly, corresponding with the completion of SW 2300. A faculty admissions committee reviews applications and candidates are notified of its decision by mail.

Social Work Student Organizations

Social work students are encouraged to participate in the two student organizations offered through the program. Seniors who maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 and a 3.25 in their social work courses are eligible to join the Social Work Honor Society. In addition, the Social Work Association is open to all students and offers a variety of professional development, socialization and volunteer activities.

Course Descriptions

Introduction to Social Work

Introduces students to the profession of social work, its Code of Ethics, values base and commitment to social justice and working with vulnerable and oppressed groups. Explores historical development as well as current trends in the profession. Acquaints students with various fields of practice and orients them to the roles of the generalist social work practitioner within a theoretical framework that consists of systems theory, the ecological perspective and the problem-solving model. Emphasizes the positive value of diversity with a strengths-based approach to empowering at-risk populations, including gays/lesbians, people of color, the elderly and women. Stresses self-assessment in determining suitability for a career in social work. Includes a 30-hour service learning requirement.



Admissions Information:

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For Program Information:

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See Advisor/Admissions Office for current information.

Madonna University guarantees the right to equal educational opportunity without discrimination because of race, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability.

Human Behavior & the Social Environment I, II

Explores the relationship of biology, psychology, spirituality, culture and the social environment in shaping human behavior. Working from a strengths perspective, students explore the differences and similarities in the experiences, values and beliefs of diverse populations including people of color, the elderly, gays/lesbians, and women. Patterns of oppression are identified along with the role of social work in promoting social justice.

Social Welfare

Examines the philosophical and historical basis and values of the social welfare system and the contemporary structure and functions of social programs. Discusses historical and current human needs and the conditions that have prevented individuals, families and communities from meeting those needs, resulting in the use of social welfare services. Emphasizes the dynamics and consequences of social and economic injustice, especially in relation to oppressed, discriminated against and exploited groups. Examines poverty, unemployment, income maintenance, distribution of wealth and income, and economic policy as they impact/are impacted by the social welfare system. Includes content on economic globalization and compares social welfare systems from a world perspective. Examines the literature on social welfare issues and includes research skills in social welfare agency analysis.

Social Policy

Explores contemporary social welfare policy in the United States and critically analyzes the social, cultural, economic, historical, political and philosophical forces influencing its development. Discusses national and international trends and issues in social policy and distinguishes between policies, programs and institutions. Explores the relationship between social welfare policy and social work practice. Presents a framework for analyzing social policies and evaluating their intended and unintended effects particularly upon vulnerable populations including gays/lesbians, people of color, the elderly, and women. Reviews the political process and develops skills in using change and advocacy strategies to influence social policies and empower individuals, groups, families and communities to obtain needed resources.

Social Work Research

Prepares students to be educated consumers of social work and social science research studies and provides them with skills and knowledge necessary to perform basic research and program evaluation studies. Students are oriented to the research process, quantitative and qualitative methodologies, as well as ethical considerations in conducting research with human subjects. Emphasis is placed upon applied research skills such as data collection, entry and analysis using SPSS, which culminates in a final, original research project that demonstrates knowledge in all steps of the research process.

Generalist Practice I, II, III, IV

Working from a theoretical perspective of systems theory and the ecological perspective of "person-in-environment," students are prepared for beginning level generalist social work practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. Students acquire skills in interviewing, counseling, assessment, problem solving and planned change to enable them to perform the many roles of the social worker including advocate, outreach worker, broker, mobilizer, mediator, consultant and care giver.

Field Practicum I, II

During their senior year, students complete a practicum in a community agency, working under the supervision of a professional social worker. Students learn to apply BSW foundation knowledge, skills, values and ethics to direct practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations and/or communities. The practicum consists of 15 hours per week in the field for two consecutive terms (400 hours minimum). In addition, students participate in weekly integrative seminars that provide an opportunity to discuss the field experience and to further integrate learning between the classroom and field settings.

Empathy Listening Skills and Conflict Resolution

These one-and-a-half day intensive sessions are offered throughout the year. Using role playing and other simulated learning experiences, *Empathy Listening Skills* teaches students new ways of communicating and listening. *Conflict Resolution* instructs helping professionals in dealing with conflict in the workplace. Students also inventory their own attitudes and approaches to conflict.