

# SOCIAL WORK, BSW

Social Work students are usually interested in a wide variety of topics related to social justice, human rights, social policy, mental health, and community organizing. Often underlying those interests is a concern for persons who are vulnerable, oppressed, underserved, and living in poverty. Students interested in social work typically have strong oral and written communication skills, an interest in solving social problems, and an enjoyment of working with people from diverse backgrounds.

**Mission of the BSW Program:** The BSW Program prepares practitioners committed to promoting social justice and improving the well-being of individuals, families, groups, and communities.

**Goals of the BSW Program:** Graduates of the BSW program will be able to:

- Demonstrate skills in generalist social work practice informed by the best available evidence
- Engage in culturally sensitive and culturally effective social work practice with diverse groups
- Apply social work values and ethics
- Advocate for vulnerable and oppressed populations
- Create sustainable local and global change that improves societal wellbeing

**Unique opportunities for BSW students:** Some of the unique opportunities the BSW program offers students include:

- Practicum education offerings in Washington, D.C., internationally, or in more than 250 social services agencies in Alabama and beyond
- A social work honors program
- Research experiences with faculty and graduate students
- Policy and advocacy-focused Washington, D.C. Fly-In program
- Opportunities for experiential and service learning
- Community-engaged student organizations

The degree of Bachelor of Social Work requires completion of the courses designated in the following program of study. Elective hours may be used to complete a portion of the University Core Curriculum; additional courses may be required. Students should also review core curriculum requirements in the Academic Records and General Academic Policies section of this catalog. Please note that some courses require proctored exams or skills labs. Students are expected to cover the cost of proctored exams, if applicable. A few courses are not yet available in online format and will need to be completed at another institution.

**Note:** The School of Social Work reserves the right to make modifications in its program and policies as necessary, but every effort will be made to implement the general program for full-time students.

## Social Work Major Courses

Code and Title	Hours	
<b>Social Work Major Pre-Professional Courses</b>		
PY 101 or PY 105	Intro To Psychology Honors Intro Psychology	3
COM 122 or COM 121 or COM 123 or COM 124	Critical Decision Making Crit Decisn Makng Honors Public Speaking Honors Public Speaking	3

SOC 101	Intro To Sociology	3
BSC 108 or BSC 109 or BSC 114 & BSC 115 or BSC 116 & BSC 117 or BSC 118 or BSC 120	Intro Biology Non Maj I Intro Biology Non Maj II Principles Of Biology I and Laboratory Biology I Principles Biology II and Laboratory Biology II Honors General Biology I Honors Gen Biology II	4
SW 100 or SW 105	Intro Fields SW Practice Honors Intro Field of SW Pract	3
SW 101	Orientation to Social Work (*)	3
SW 200 or SW 205	Reform and Resistance Honors Reform and Resistance	3
SW 310	Professional Writing Seminar	3
SW 351 or SW 355	Anti-Oppression Social Justice Hnrs Anti-Oprrsn & Soc Justic	3
Select one of the following Social Psychology Courses:		
SOC 205 or PY 372	Social Psychology Social Psychology	3
Select one of the following Statistics courses:		
SW 220	Social Work Statistics	3
BER 345	Educational Statistics	
CJ 381	Statistics	
PY 211	Elem Statistical Methods	
SOC 301	Social Statistics	
ST 260	Statistical Data Analysis	
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>34</b>

### Footnotes

- <sup>1</sup> A Bachelor of Social Work degree requires a minimum of 120 hours with a Social Work GPA of 2.5 and an overall GPA of 2.25.
- <sup>2</sup> If you do not meet the World Language requirement upon admission, your advisor will assist you in replacing core and/or free elective courses with World Language courses.

Code and Title	Hours	
<b>Social Work Major Professional Program Courses</b>		
SW 401 or SW 405	Soc Wel Policy & Services Hon Soc Wel Pol & Serv	3
SW 410	Human Behav Soc Envir I	3
SW 411	Human Behav & the Soc Envir II	3
SW 415 or PY 358	Psychopathology Psychopathology	3
SW 420 or SW 425	Research Social Work Practice Research for SW Pract. Honors	3
SW 440	SW Pract with Indiv & Families	3
SW 441	SW Practice with Groups	3
SW 442	SW Practice with Communities	3
SW 443 or	Seminar in Generalist Practice	3

SW 445	Social Work Honors Seminar	
SW 444	Leadership and Development	1
SW 490	Practicum Education	9
Social Work Elective		3-6
Total number of required SW electives depends on which Psychopathology option is chosen		
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>40-43</b>

Learn more about opportunities in this field at the Career Center

## Sample Curriculum Plan (p. )

### Freshman

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
EN 103		3 SOC 101	3
PY 101		3 COM 122, 121, 123, or 124	3
SW 100		3 SW 200 or 205	3
SW 101		3 SW 220	3
FREE ELECTIVE		3 UA 101	1
		FREE ELECTIVE	3
		<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>

### Sophomore

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
Biology Core (with lab)		4 SOC 205 or PY 372	3
FINE ARTS CORE		3 SW 351	3
SW 310		3 Literature Core	3
HISTORY CORE		3 Natural Science Core (with lab)	4
FREE ELECTIVE		3 FREE ELECTIVE	3
		<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>

### Junior

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
SW 401 or 405		3 SW 411	3
SW 410		3 SW 420 or 425	3
SW 415 or PY 358		3 SW 441	3
SW 440		3 SW 442	3
FREE ELECTIVE		3 SW 444	1
FREE ELECTIVE		1 FREE ELECTIVE	1
		<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>

### Senior

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
SOCIAL WORK ELECTIVE		3 SW 443 or 445	3
FREE ELECTIVE OR SOCIAL WORK ELECTIVE		6 SW 490	9
FREE ELECTIVE		3	
FREE ELECTIVE		3	
FREE ELECTIVE		3	
		<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>

**Total Hours: 120**

According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, social work is one of the fastest growing careers in the United States. Social workers are employed in a variety of career settings, including schools, hospitals, colleges and universities, mental health clinics, senior centers, nursing homes, elected offices, private practices, prisons, military systems, public defender and criminal court systems, corporations, and numerous public and private agencies that serve individuals and families in need.