SOCIAL WORK, BSW

Banner Code: HH-BSW-SOCW

Academic Advising
Website: chhs.gmu.edu/students/advising-sw.cfm

This program prepares students for beginning generalist professional practice in social work at the baccalaureate level and has been granted full accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education. All students are expected to abide by the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers.

No academic credit toward field experience or coursework is given based on previous work or life experience. Students are required to successfully complete 450 hours of supervised field practicum in agencies approved by the Department of Social Work. The Department of Social Work will make reasonable efforts to work with a student to secure an appropriate field placement, but it does not guarantee a placement. The social work program does not offer all of the required courses during the evening hours, so students should meet with their academic advisor to develop a plan to complete coursework for the degree. Field placements generally require availability during regular daytime hours.

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

Admission Requirements
To be admitted to the social work program, a student must have

1. completed at least 45 credits with a GPA of 2.50 or higher;
2. completed or be registered in:
   - BIOL 103 Introductory Biology I (Mason Core) 4
   - ENGH 101 Composition (Mason Core) 3
   - SOCI 101 Introductory Sociology (Mason Core) 3
   - PSYC 100 Basic Concepts in Psychology (Mason Core) 3
3. earned at least a C in:
   - SOCW 200 Introduction to Social Work 3
   - SOCW 357 Methods of Social Work Intervention I 3
   - SOCW 361 Methods of Social Work Intervention I: Laboratory 2
   And at least two of the following courses:
   - SOCW 311 Building Professional Social Work Skills 3
   - SOCW 312 Knowledge Building for Helping Professionals 3
   - SOCW 375 Human Behavior and the Family Life Course (Mason Core) 3
   - SOCW 380 Changing Social Policies and Systems 3
   - SOCW 390 Analytic Methods for Social Work Research 3
4. be enrolled in all other required 300-level SOCW courses; and
5. submitted an application for the social work major and the senior field practicum by the deadline stated on the BSW admissions website (http://chhs.gmu.edu/bsw/admissions.cfm).

The student’s application for admission to the social work major is reviewed for action by social work faculty members. A personal interview may be required.

There is no admission to the social work program in the summer. Students who have not met all criteria for admission to the major will not be considered for admission until the next academic year.

Policies

For policies governing all undergraduate degrees, see AP.5 Undergraduate Policies.

Program Requirements
To earn a bachelor's degree in social work, students must earn a grade of C or above in all Social Work classes applied to the major and must achieve a GPA of 2.50 overall. Class attendance is required in all Social Work courses. Before beginning SOCW 495 Field Practicum and Seminar I, students must successfully complete all required 200- and 300-level courses with a grade of C or above.

The Social Work faculty evaluates student performance periodically and may require students to withdraw from the program when, in their judgment, performance is not satisfactory. The decision is based on the quality of academic and field performance, as well as on personal fitness for the profession of social work. Students have the right to appeal.

A student with a criminal history may find it difficult to obtain a field placement or employment in a human service agency depending on the specific charge. It is possible that a student with a criminal background may not be able to be placed in a field practicum or complete their degree program. The Criminal Background Policy is available on the Social Work Department website (http://chhs.gmu.edu/socialwork).

Immunization and Fees
All students who are enrolled in a course that requires a field placement (SOCW 495 Field Practicum and Seminar I and SOCW 496 Field Practicum and Seminar II) must have an annual tuberculosis screening (PPD). In addition, students must complete the entire hepatitis B immunization series in accordance with current U.S. Public Health Service recommendations. The cost of immunizations is the responsibility of the student. The majority of agencies used for field placements require fingerprinting, a criminal background check (may be more extensive than the university requirement), and a child protective services check. Any cost related to these requirements is the responsibility of the student.

Writing Intensive Requirement
The university requires all students to complete at least one course designated "writing intensive" in the 300 level or above. Students majoring in social work fulfill this requirement by successfully completing SOCW 471 Research in Social Work.
Requirements

Degree Requirements
Total credits: 120

Mason Core
Written Communication
ENGH 101 Composition (Mason Core) 3
ENGH 302 Advanced Composition (Mason Core) 3
Oral Communication
Any Mason Core Oral Communication course 3
Quantitative Reasoning
Any Mason Core Quantitative Reasoning course 3
Information Technology
Any Mason Core Information Technology course 3-7
Literature
Any Mason Core Literature course 3
Arts
Any Mason Core Arts course 3
Natural Science
BIOL 103 Introductory Biology I (Mason Core) 4
One 3 or 4 credit approved Mason Core Natural Science course 3-4
Western Civilization
HIST 100 History of Western Civilization (Mason Core) 3
or HIST 125 Introduction to World History (Mason Core) 3
Global Understanding
Any Mason Core Global Understanding course 3
Total Credits 34-39

Required Courses
Psychology
PSYC 100 Basic Concepts in Psychology (Mason Core) 3
Sociology
SOCI 101 Introductory Sociology (Mason Core) 3
Statistics
Select one from the following: 3-4
SOCW 390 Analytic Methods for Social Work Research
SOCI 313 Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences (Mason Core)
PSYC 300 Statistics in Psychology
STAT 250 Introductory Statistics I (Mason Core)
Total Credits 9-10

Social Work Major
SOCW 200 Introduction to Social Work 3
SOCW 311 Building Professional Social Work Skills 3
SOCW 312 Knowledge Building for Helping Professionals 3
SOCW 357 Methods of Social Work Intervention I 3
SOCW 361 Methods of Social Work Intervention I: Laboratory 2
SOCW 358 Methods of Social Work Intervention II 3
SOCW 362 Methods of Social Work Intervention II: Laboratory 2
SOCW 375 Human Behavior and the Family Life Course (Mason Core) 3
SOCW 380 Changing Social Policies and Systems 3
SOCW 471 Research in Social Work (fulfills writing intensive requirement) 3
SOCW 472 RS: Integrative Methods in Social Action and Social Change (Mason Core) 3
SOCW 495 Field Practicum and Seminar I 5
SOCW 496 Field Practicum and Seminar II 5
Total Credits 41

Electives
Select 34-36 credits of electives 1 34-36
Total Credits 34-36

1 Six credits must be in social work at the 400- or 500-level, not including courses listed above; SOCW 499 Independent Study in Social Work may be used to satisfy an additional 1 to 3 credits toward general electives.

Notes
SOCW 110 Global Perspectives on Human Rights is open to all students, but it does not count toward social work degree requirements.

SOCW 357 Methods of Social Work Intervention I and SOCW 361 Methods of Social Work Intervention I: Laboratory (only offered in the fall semester) are prerequisites to SOCW 358 Methods of Social Work Intervention II and SOCW 362 Methods of Social Work Intervention II: Laboratory (only offered in the spring semester). Graduation may be delayed if courses are not taken in proper sequence.

Selected Social Work electives are offered each semester on a rotating basis.