

SOCIAL WORK, BSW

Banner Code: HH-BSW-SOCW

Academic Advising

Website: <https://chhs.gmu.edu/students/academic-advising/undergraduate-advising/social-work-advisors>

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:

Code	Title	Credits
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:

Code	Title	Credits
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 (<https://socialwork.gmu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions>).

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 (<https://socialwork.gmu.edu>).

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

Code	Title	Credits
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)	
Global Understanding		
Any Mason Core Global Understanding course		3
Total Credits		34-39

Required Courses

Code	Title	Credits
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

Code	Title	Credits
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

Code	Title	Credits
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 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.