SOCIAL WORK

Undergraduate Program Information

The BSW degree (CSWE accredited) allows you to join a profession dedicated to helping people in personal and social situations. As a unique and challenging field, social work addresses the complexity of human behavior and the ever-present needs and potential of people. From rural communities to inner cities, social workers are at work in social service agencies, mental health centers, hospitals, schools, neighborhood organizations, probation offices and private agencies. Social work roles are varied and flexible. Social workers practice in areas such as child abuse, community organization, direct services with individuals and families, mental health, group work, and the administration, planning and development of social programs. With each consumer group and in every agency setting, social workers help to correct the causes or alleviate the results of poverty, racism, poor health, mental illness or any condition that prohibits people from reaching their potential.

Graduate Program Information

The School of Social Work offers full-time and part-time graduate study in Las Cruces and Albuquerque leading to the Master of Social Work (MSW) degree. The program is designed to provide academic and fieldwork education with an emphasis in Advanced Generalist Practice with Populations of the Southwest based on the foundation first year of generalist practice. The program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

Admission to the program is in accordance with the general regulations of the Graduate School, which include a completed undergraduate degree from an accredited institution. In addition to applying to the Graduate School, application must also be made to the School of Social Work. The application to the School of Social Work spells out admission requirements that include submitting an application form, a written statement, a current resume and personal references and statistics course. Applicants having a degree from a non-liberal arts area must show coursework that includes two courses from the humanities, two from the natural and biological sciences (with one course containing content in human biology) and three from the behavioral and social sciences, with at least one course in sociology or psychology. Applicants are also required to complete a Basic Statistics course prior to beginning their MSW program of study. The program does not grant academic credit for work or other life experience in lieu of social work course or field content.

The School of Social Work is committed to ensuring a culturally diverse student population to enhance the social work profession at both state and national levels. To meet this goal of diversity, the school makes an effort to recruit and retain a diverse student population.

Applicants who qualify for advanced standing may complete the program with 34 credits rather than 60 credits. Admission to the advanced-standing program is for highly qualified applicants who have a Bachelor of Social Work degree (BSW) from a social work program accredited by the CSWE and earned within seven years of beginning the advanced standing program, a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 and a minimum GPA of 3.5 in core Undergraduate Social Work courses.

Degrees for the Department


Minors for the Department

Alcohol and Drug Counseling - Graduate Minor (http://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/health-social-services/social-work/alcohol-drug-counseling-graduate-minor)

Tina Hancock, DSW, Director

Professors Wagner; Associate Professors Blair, de la Rosa, Gurrola, Nedjat-Haiem, Whittlesey-Jerome; Assistant Professor Gergerich; College Associate Professor Cabada; College Assistant Professors Burns, Ortiz; BSW Academic Advisor, Irma Hernandez

R. Blair, Ph.D. (Utah) – mental health, individual therapy; S Burns, M.S.W. (Michigan) – direct practice; O. Cabada, M.S.W. (Texas) - mental health, social justice; I. de la Rosa, Ph.D. (Michigan) – program evaluation, research; E. Gergerich, Ph.D (Arkansas) - gerontology; M. Gurrola, Ph.D (Arizona) - social justice, immigration; T. Hancock, D.S.W. - domestic violence, immigration; F. Nedjat-Haiem, Ph.D (California) - gerontology; M. Ortiz, M.S.W. (NMSU) – cultural competence, practice; D.L. Wagner, Ph.D. (Portland State Univ.) - gerontology, community planning; W. Whittlesey-Jerome, Ph.D. (Texas-Arlington) – mental health, policy, research

S WK 221G. Introduction to Social Welfare
3 Credits
A broad overview of current social problems and the role of social agencies and community members in addressing these problems.

S WK 251. Women's Issues in Social Work
3 Credits
Examines gender-specific social problems and their identification and resolution through the use of social agencies and community resources. Community Colleges only.

S WK 253. Case Management
3 Credits
Introduction to case management for social- and human-services workers. Overview of typical duties and responsibilities of a case manager, including setting goals, performing assessments, writing progress notes, and linking clients with other resources in the community. Recommended for students considering a career in social work or human services. Community Colleges only.

Prerequisites: PSY 201G and S WK 221G.

S WK 300. Social Work Practice Skills
3 Credits
Introduction to generalist social work practice. Interpersonal skills, values, and ethics required in the helping relationship. Taught in a small-group format. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: S WK majors. Restricted to Las Cruces campus only.

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S WK 301. Orientation to Field
1 Credit
This course will provide an orientation to requirements for a social work field practicum and to establish the transfer of learning between classroom instruction and future practicum skill application. Restricted to S WK majors.
Corequisite(s): S WK 300.

S WK 309. Sociocultural Concepts
3 Credits
Theoretical and sociohistorical perspectives on racism, sexism, ageism, heterosexism, classism, ableism, and other forms of discrimination and oppression. Cultural diversity, strengths, and Southwest and border issues are examined.

S WK 311. Human Behavior and the Social Environment I
3 Credits
Major theories of human behavior and the life span from conception to adolescence. Restricted to: S WK majors.
Corequisite(s): S WK 309.

S WK 312. Human Behavior and the Social Environment II
3 Credits
Continuation of S WK 311. Major theories of human behavior and the life span from young adulthood through old age. Restricted to: S WK majors.
Prerequisite(s): S WK 311.

S WK 313. Social Work Practice with Individuals
3 Credits
Generalist social work practice theory and skills in engagement, information gathering, assessments, planning, interventions, evaluation, and termination with individual client systems. Restricted to: S WK majors.
Prerequisite(s): S WK 300.

S WK 315. Social Work Practice with Families
3 Credits
Generalist social work practice theory and skills in engagement, information gathering, assessments, planning, interventions, evaluation, and termination with multicultural family systems. Restricted to: S WK majors.
Prerequisite(s): S WK 300.
Corequisite(s): S WK 313.

S WK 316. Social Work Research
3 Credits
This undergraduate course is designed to prepare students to be effective consumers of research and to evaluate their own practice. Students will learn to read, critically evaluate and use the research of others to select interventions that are based on evidence of effectiveness. Students will demonstrate the knowledge, values and skills to be critical consumers of research for effective and ethical practice as well as possess the basic skills necessary to evaluate their own social work professional practice. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: Restricted to Social Work majors.
Prerequisite(s): STAT 251G, STAT 271G or A ST 251G.

S WK 331V. Introduction to Social Policy: History
3 Credits
Historical overview of the economic, political, and cultural impact on social welfare policy, institutions, and professions with international content.

S WK 401. Field Experience I
3 Credits
This course is a social work practicum at a university approved agency. This course focuses on generalist social work practice. At this level students are expected to assume substantive responsibility for carrying out social work activities at the beginning level of social work practice.
• Students are given the opportunity to observe and assume social work activities in direct and indirect practice under close supervision.
• These field work opportunities enable students to apply and integrate previous and current semester learning.
• Opportunities will be available for students to develop knowledge of professional practice at multiple system levels and with a variety of cultural, ethnic, racial, gender and age groups.
• Students in this Field Practicum Course are required to take a Field Seminar that will provide the students the opportunity to discuss the integration of academic and practice experience learning. Restricted to: S WK majors. S/U Grading (S/U, Audit).
Corequisite(s): S WK 412.

S WK 403. Social Work Practicum II
3 Credits
This course is a social work practicum at a university approved agency. This course focuses on generalist social work practice. At this level students are expected to assume substantive responsibility for carrying out social work activities at the beginning level of social work practice.
• Students are given the opportunity to observe and assume social work activities in direct and indirect practice under close supervision.
• These field work opportunities enable students to apply and integrate previous and current semester learning.
• Opportunities will be available for students to develop knowledge of professional practice at multiple system levels and with a variety of cultural, ethnic, racial, gender and age groups.
• Students in this Field Practicum Course are required to take a Field Seminar that will provide the students the opportunity to discuss the integration of academic and practice experience learning. Restricted to: S WK majors.
Corequisite(s): SWK 419.

S WK 405. Service Learning
3 Credits
This course introduces students to field work as an essential component of social work education. Students are required to provide a minimum of 40 hours of service to a human services agency. This course will focus on the connection between coursework, field work, the NASW Code of Ethics and skills needed to work with people.
Prerequisite(s): S WK 301, S WK 313.

S WK 412. Practicum Seminar I
3 Credits
This practicum seminar course must be taken with SWK 401 to provide students who are enrolled in the field practicum course the opportunity to discuss and reflect on social work knowledge, values and skills as they interact with clients in their practicum placement.
• Students will have an opportunity to present a case and discuss how they are able to integrate the nine social work competencies.
• The seminar will provide opportunities to integrate previous and current semester learning.
Corequisite(s): S WK 401.
S WK 415. Generalist Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities
3 Credits
This course focuses on generalist social work values, knowledge and skills regarding practice with larger systems. Course content will include theories of community and organizational assessment and intervention. Strategies for advocacy and change, leadership for community and organizational change. May be repeated up to 3 credits.
Prerequisite(s): S WK 300, S WK 313, S WK 315.
Corequisite(s): S WK 417.

S WK 416. Generalist Social Work Practice with Groups
3 Credits
Generalist social work practice skills with group client systems focusing on the planned change process and the empowerment of oppressed populations. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: S WK majors.
Prerequisite(s): SWK 415.

3 Credits
Policy practice related to the formation of current social welfare policies that promote social and economic justice. Emphasis is on the development and influences of social policy, policy analysis, and the policy change process. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Consent of Instructor required. Restricted to: S WK majors.

S WK 418. Professionalism in the Field of Social Work
3 Credits
This course is designed to prepare you to develop professional skills, knowledge, awareness and boundaries as a social worker as you get ready to enter the field practicum. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: S WK majors.
Corequisite(s): S WK 419.

S WK 419. Practicum Seminar II
3 Credits
This practicum seminar course must be taken with S WK 403 to provide students who are enrolled in the field practicum course the opportunity to discuss and reflect on social work knowledge, values and skills as they interact with clients in their practicum placement. • Students will have an opportunity to present a case and discuss how they are able to integrate the nine social work competencies • The seminar will provide opportunities to integrate previous and current semester learning. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: S WK majors. S/U Grading (S/U, Audit).
Corequisite(s): S WK 403.

S WK 443. Family and Child Welfare Practice
3 Credits
Current issues and interventions in child protection, foster care, family preservation and support, family reunification, adoption and permanency planning. Cannot receive credit for S WK 443 and M SW 543.

S WK 447. Identifying Mental Health Concerns
3 Credits
This course is designed to advance students’ knowledge and professional skills for addressing mental health concerns in social work practice at the bachelor’s level. Students will learn to identify major mental health concerns across the life span. Culturally competent practices are considered in regard to various mental health concerns. Restricted to: SWK majors.

S WK 449. Independent Study
1-6 Credits
Individual studies directed by consenting faculty with the prior approval of the department head.
Prerequisite: majors or consent of instructor.

S WK 490. Family and Child Welfare Policy
3 Credits
This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the history and evolution of child welfare policies, initiatives and factors that influence advocacy and practices within the child welfare system. Child welfare policies and services specific to the state of New Mexico are infused throughout the course. Taught with MSW 590. Students enrolled in S WK 490 will not receive credit MSW 590 Students enrolled in S WK 490 will not receive credit MSW 590.

S WK 497. Special Topics
3 Credits
Specific subjects to be announced in the Schedule of Classes. May be used as a mandatory practice elective. Restricted to: S WK majors.
Prerequisite(s): Junior or above standing, majors or consent of instructor.

Name:
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