



Bachelor of Science in Social Work (BSSW) Program Student Handbook

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1.0 Introduction

This Student Handbook is for Bachelor of Science in Social Work (BSSW) students. The document has been prepared to give an overview of the program, its policies and procedures. This handbook is supplemented by the BSSW Program Field Education Policy Manual that provides information regarding the field education component of the program. This handbook is available to prospective and current students in order to inform and prepare them about the BSSW Program at Bowling Green State University.

Additional information about Bowling Green State University's admissions, fees, financial aid, services, Student Code of Conduct, student rights and responsibilities, and disciplinary procedures as consequences of violation of University regulations are provided in the University's Student Handbook. The BGSU Student Handbook can be accessed online at <https://www.bgsu.edu/studenthandbook.html>.

1.1 General Information and Historical Overview of the Program at Bowling Green State University

In 1978, the Social Work program at BGSU received accreditation from the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) to offer a Baccalaureate Program in Social Work. The most recent reaffirmation of accreditation occurred in 2019. The program received full- accreditation through 2027.

1.1.1 Mission Statement of the BSSW Program

The BSSW Program at Bowling Green State University educates students to be responsive, competent, and ethical social workers. The program prepares graduates to become generalist practitioners who utilize person-and-environment and strengths-based frameworks to build collaborative relationships that promote social well-being, utilize critical thinking and scientific inquiry, and advocate for social, economic and environmental justice - particularly for those who identify with vulnerable populations. Grounded in a liberal arts education, we are committed to promoting leadership development through character, scholarship, cultural awareness and service to humanity. Our emphasis on teaching, research, service and community engagement seeks to promote positive change and social justice for diverse communities, organizations, groups, families, and individuals.

1.1.2 Program's Purpose

The program offers a Bachelor of Science in Social Work (BSSW) degree that provides the academic credentials for graduates to take the Bachelor examination for social work licensure through the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB).

Graduates of the program are prepared to be entry-level generalist social work practitioners. Graduates are also eligible to apply for advanced standing in Master of Social Work (MSW) or equivalent programs throughout the United States.

1.1.3 Program's Themes

The program's goals, objectives, competencies and curriculum are organized around six themes that emerge in the implementation of the program and are seen in course syllabi and various learning activities. These themes include the generalist model as the framework for professional social work education and practice, a strengths perspective, empowerment, social justice, diversity, and the development of social workers that embrace the core values and ethics of the profession and regularly reflect on how these are to me manifested in their work.

1. The generalist practice model.

Generalist social workers have knowledge of and are capable of utilizing a broad range of evidence-based social work interventions. In addition, the generalist has an increased awareness and knowledge of individuals and collectives, which help to link various client systems with both internal and external resources. An important concept related to this is the person-in-environment context of professional social work practice. Yet another important concept related to the generalist is his or her ability to use their professional-self in working with others. Finally, the generalist has a broad knowledge perspective and utilizes practice skills and principles that are guided by the values of the profession.

2. The strengths perspective.

This perspective offers a view of clients suggesting that the human condition exists from a strengths-based position rather than deficits. Further, the strengths perspective originates from a range of theories that helps to inform the social worker's understanding of people and institutions both subjectively and objectively. This view takes into account the idea that people and institutions are capable of utilizing resources, supports present in the environment, and previous coping strategies to improve current functioning.

3. Client system empowerment.

This concept suggests that social workers are an important link in understanding oppression, poverty, and disenfranchisement. This link is beneficial in aiding social workers to help alleviate these conditions. Of particular importance in the empowerment concept is the understanding of groups of people who are frequently defined as oppressed and therefore at-risk. Included here are women, children, people that identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community, people of color, older adults, and persons who may be mentally and physically challenged.

4. Social Justice

This concept emerges based on understanding the nature of collectives and an understanding of community and equity. Further, the program curriculum teaches the importance of social workers striving toward equity for those defined as at-risk in society.

5. Diversity

Social workers must be prepared to practice in a diverse environment. In order to prepare for practice with diverse client systems, knowledge of other cultures, and mechanisms of cultural derisiveness is crucial. Thus, the curriculum is designed to teach an understanding of

constructive theories in order to reach shared understanding and meanings for all cultures present in society.

6. Values & Ethics

Entry-level social workers need to embrace the core values of the profession and regularly reflect on how these values are to be expressed through their ethical responsibilities to clients, colleagues, practice settings, the social work profession, and the broader society. Such social workers will develop a habit of self-examination and will continually strive to increase their professional knowledge and skills and apply them in practice. They will also contribute to the knowledge base of the profession and the enhancement of human well-being.

1.1.4 Program's Goals, Objectives, and Outcomes & Competencies

Program goals and objectives are guided by the competencies set forth by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and the University Learning Outcomes utilized by the Student Achievement Assessment Committee at BGSU. The competencies, goals, objectives and outcomes are implemented in the curriculum through a series of signature assignments in combination with the Field Practicum experience. We offer syllabi as evidence to demonstrate this process. Finally, we identify acceptable mechanisms for measuring outcomes and describe a feedback process based on the results from outcomes. The following specifies the program's approach to assessing CSWE competency and university program learning outcomes (Competencies 6-9).

Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior
Course Assessed: SOWK 3500 (Practice I)

Competency 2: Advance Human Rights and Social, Racial, Economic, and Environmental Justice
Course Assessed: SOWK 3700: Practice III

Competency 3: Engage Anti-racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI) in Practice
Course: SOWK 2200: Diversity, Oppression, & Social Justice

Competency 4: Engage In Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice
Course: SOWK 3700: Practice III

Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice
Course: 3220: Social Policy

Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Course: SOWK 4550 Field Seminar

Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and

Course: SOWK 4550 Field Seminar

Competency 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Course: SOWK 4550 Field Seminar

Competency 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Course: SOWK 4550 Field Seminar

1.2 Policies and Procedures Affecting Students

The policies that appear in this handbook apply to students who plan to major in social work and are consistent with the mission, goals and objectives of the program, BGSU and the accreditation standards of CSWE.

1.2.1 Application & Admission to BSSW Program

When a student first enrolls at BGSU with the goal of completing the BSSW program, the student is classified as a pre-BSSW major. The student needs to apply for admission to gain BSSW major status. There are minimum requirements that need to be met by all students who want to be admitted to the BSSW program. Also, admission to the BSSW major is a competitive process, and meeting minimum requirements does not entitle nor guarantee admission.

The minimum requirements for admission into the BSSW program are:

- 1. A minimum GPA of 2.5.**

Students can access their GPA at any time using the Degree Audit system through the Student Center portal on myBGSU. Students should meet with an academic advisor to plan for how to improve GPA if their current GPA is below a 2.5.

- 2. Completion of 30 credit hours.**

Students that will have 30 or more credits hours at the end of the semester in-progress should still apply. If a student is applying during the semester in which they will achieve the 30 credit hours standard, admittance will be contingent on successful completion of the semester courses.

- 3. Earn a grade of 'C' or better in SOWK 1100 – Introduction to Social Work and SOC 1010 – Introduction to Sociology, or their equivalent at another college or university.**

If you do not obtain a C or higher, the course will need to be repeated until an appropriate grade is obtained.

5. One supportive reference.

The program asks that a reference be someone that can attest to your professionalism, commitment to social work values, and/or academic potential.

For example, references may come from volunteer and/or employment experiences, coaches, mentors, professors, etc. Your personal counselor or therapist would not be an appropriate reference due to unethical boundary concerns. Family members and friends are also not appropriate references for program admissions.

6. Completing and submitting all application documents.

Applications to the major are accepted and reviewed twice a year. Late applications will not be accepted. Deadlines for submitting applications are:

- Fall Semester Deadline - September 30th.
- Spring Semester Deadline - January 30th.
- Summer Admissions – By Request.
-

If a student has not completed the required courses, they may still be admitted to the major with a “provisional” status. Provisional means the student will be accepted to the major but dismissed if the final grades for SOWK 1100 or SOC 1100 are not ‘C’ or above.

Click the following link to access the Application for Admission to BSSW Program Major, https://bgsu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eeBx9vvauSv32qG

1.2.2 Re-application to Major

If a student applies for major, and their application is denied, the student will be notified by email from the Program Coordinator outlining why admission was denied. The student has the right to re-apply to the major using the above process. The Program Coordinator will review any re-applications and make an admission decision in collaboration with program faculty if needed, based on the admission criteria previously outlined in this handbook. This may require an interview with the Program Coordinator and available faculty.

1.2.3 Non-discrimination

The program supports the University’s position on discrimination as stated in the University Student Handbook: “Bowling Green State University is committed to providing equal educational opportunity. The University provides access to educational programs and activities without regard to race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, color, national origin, ancestry, genetic information, pregnancy, religion, age, disability, or status as a veteran. Any grievance regarding alleged discrimination due to race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, color, national origin, ancestry, genetic information, pregnancy, religion, age, disability, or status as a veteran shall be reported to the Office of Human Resources, 1851 N.

Research Drive, 419-372-8421. If both parties are students, complaints should be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students, 301 Bowen-Thompson Student Union, 419-372-2843.”.

As advocates for fair treatment and just services, the program maintains a comprehensive position on non-discrimination consistent with CSWE standards and the NASW *Code of Ethics*. The program provides learning content with respect for all persons, promoting the practice of cultural competence and understanding of diversity that is nondiscriminatory on the basis of age, class, race, ethnicity, color, sex, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or differing mental or physical abilities.

1.2.4 Transfer Credit

The program utilizes the University’s transfer credit policy and procedures.

“Bowling Green State University awards transfer credit for formal coursework of baccalaureate level from an acceptable collegiate source as described in the "Acceptable collegiate sources for credit transfer" section of this catalog. All courses with passing grades, including grades of "D" that carry quality points of 1.0 or greater (on a 4.0 scale) will transfer. Individual degree or program requirements may demand a higher grade than "D" in selected courses. Those standards will apply equally to transfer courses and to courses taken at BGSU.” The process is as follows:

1. An initial review of transfer courses will be completed by the Admissions Department of the University and the Central Advising Department. Students will need to submit a transcript from each previous College or University as part of the admissions process to the University for this step to occur.
2. The program recognizes courses that are identified as TAGs (Transfer Assurance Guides) and will accept transfer courses into the major that meet those requirements.
3. No transfer credit is accepted for Field Education courses.
4. No transfer credit will be awarded for courses identified as major requirements with grades less than a “C” on BGSU’s grading scale.
5. Students should be prepared to provide course syllabi and/or catalog descriptions of courses taken elsewhere for review by the Program Coordinator for final decision on social work transfer credit equivalencies.

1.2.5 Work or Life Experience Credit

CSWE does not allow any accredited program to award experiential learning credit or credit for noncollegiate sponsored learning programs for any required social work courses.

1.2.6 Academic Advising/Faculty Mentoring

From the time a student enters the University until the time they are officially admitted to the BSSW program, the student will receive advising services through the Central Advising Department. Once admitted to the major, the student will be assigned a “Faculty Mentor” for academic and career advising for the remainder of their time as a student. The student will be told their assigned Faculty Mentor when they receive a letter of admission to the program. The student will be provided the contact information, and the Faculty Mentor will

have posted office hours in which they are available for individual meetings. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty Mentor at least once a semester to review their academic and potential career plans.

1.2.7 Class Attendance

In the BSSW Program, the classroom serves as a professional learning environment where every class meeting is valuable. Consequently, consistent attendance and timeliness are important. Attendance will be taken at the start of each class session. BSSW students are expected to attend 85% of scheduled classes. After this, students will receive a minimum of a 5% penalty on their final grade. Individual faculty may increase the penalty amount. There are no excused absences outside of university policy. An absence due to a medical condition must have an excuse from a doctor's office. The excuse must provide the date(s) you missed or will miss class. The excuse must be you were physically unable to attend class. Misses due to medical reasons excuse only class attendance, not assignments. Faculty reserves the right to accept or reject medical excuses. It is the student's decision to miss a class. Do not ask for exceptions or explain special circumstances. If some event or circumstance arises that interferes in your attending class, it is your choice to attend or not. Absences not discussed with the professor prior to or within a week of the absence will be considered unexcused. If an exceptional circumstance necessitates leaving early or arriving late, please notify the professor before the start time for class via email.

1.2.8 Grade Scale

The Department of Social Work uses the following grade scale to evaluate the academic performance of students in social work courses:

A	= 90-100
B	= 89-80
C	= 79-70
D	= 69-60
F	= 59-0

Quality points for each semester of credit are assigned by BGSU according to the following scale of scholarship:

<u>Grade Achievement</u>	<u>Quality Points Per Hour</u>
A: Superior Quality	4.00
B: High Quality	3.00
C: Average	2.00
D: Passing, but below average quality	1.00
F: Failing, no credit earned	0.00

- S: Satisfactory (credit earned but no effect on GPA)
- U: Unsatisfactory (no credit earned, no effect on GPA)
- I: Incomplete (no credit earned)

1.2.9: Requirements for Papers

Papers that are written by students for social work courses must adhere to the format created by the American Psychological Association (APA). Instructors may provide other guidance for assignments that are not research based. Students are strongly encouraged to become familiar with the APA format and should consult the most recent edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th Edition*.

1.2.10 Academic Requirements

Academic standards a student must meet in order to remain a Social Work major, including entering field education (internship):

- a 2.5 G.P.A. (overall) on a 4-point scale;
- a 2.5 G.P.A. in the required courses within the BSSW program.
- a final grade of 'C' or better in all core BSSW program courses.

Should a student's accumulative GPA fall below 2.50, our policy is to place the student on academic probation for a semester. If your GPA remains below 2.5 by the end of the probationary semester, we will rescind your registration as a Social Work major. You may reapply once your GPA is above 2.50 should you choose to do so.

1.2.11 Student Conduct

In the BSSW Program, the classroom serves as a professional learning environment. Students should act accordingly and not in a manner that interferes with the class learning environment or shows disrespect for the instructor or fellow classmates. Repeatedly arriving at class more than a couple of minutes late, carrying on side conversations, or leaving early are examples of disruptive behavior. In addition, laptops, cell phones and any other personal communication devices should be off. Texting tells the instructor you are not participating in class. It disrupts the instructor's efforts to engage the class. Instructors have the right to dismiss or downgrade a student for disruptive behavior. BGSU has policies governing student conduct in the classroom, <http://www.bgsu.edu/student-handbook/code-of-conduct.html>.

1.2.12 Program's Code of Ethics

I. Rationale

Social Workers are professionals guided by the values and ethical principles embodied in the

NASW's Code of Ethics. The Code of Ethics establishes the standards of acceptable practice. Practitioners must abide by the conduct dictated by the Code of Ethics. Many of these standards also appear in state laws governing the conduct of social workers and other professional helpers. Failure to abide by the Code of Ethics may result in professional sanctions, loss of licensure, criminal prosecution or civil litigation. Please read the NASW Code of Ethics,

- English version, <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics>
- Spanish version, <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-Spanish.aspx>

In preparation for practice, we expect students to abide by the NASW Code of Ethics. Failure to do so will result in a review of your major standing and the possibility of dismissal from the major.

The Social Work Program's goal is to graduate professionally competent practitioners. Achieving this goal requires the program to maintain an environment that assists student's learning professional behavior. Our explicit curriculum, which refers to the courses in the major, provides the knowledge, skills and values for professional social work. Supporting this is an implicit curriculum. The implicit curriculum involves maintaining a program atmosphere that enables students to enact and experience the professional atmosphere that exists in actual practice. The CSWE mandates that social work programs maintain a professional program environment- an implicit curriculum that assists in professional socialization.

II. Policies

- a. Students must abide by the NASW Code of Ethics not only in their service and field placements but in the program environment. Failure to abide by the NASW Code of Ethics may result in dismissal from the major.
- b. Students are to treat fellow students and all departmental staff and faculty with civility, respect and dignity in interactions including electronic communications. The principles of collaboration and cooperation should guide all interactions. The Social Work program requires students to resolve interpersonal problems in a direct, problem-solving fashion following program policies related to conflict resolution.
- c. Students must demonstrate professional conduct in the classroom.
 - i. The following are examples of behavior that fail to demonstrate professional conduct in the classroom:
 1. lack of attendance, preparation and participation in classes;
 2. creating a disturbance or distraction by arriving late to class, texting, ringing cell phones, carrying on side conversations with peers, packing up prior to the end of class and leaving early;
 3. behaving in a hostile, aggressive fashion, verbally or physically, to faculty, staff and other students, disrespectful demeanor, excessive argumentativeness, rudeness, and verbal abuse.

- d. Students who consistently behave in an unprofessional manner will be counseled out of the Social Work Program (see Counseling Out Policy).

1.2.13 Termination from Program

Termination refers to the process of discontinuing a student's enrollment in the social work program. The decision to discontinue a student as a social work major is typically a permanent one. In certain circumstances, termination may involve specific remedial steps for a student to complete before they may re-apply to the program. Termination from the social work program does not affect the student's standing as a BGSU student.

Counseling out of the major occurs when students fail to meet the program's expectations or abide by the NASW Code of Ethics and the Social Work Program's Code of Ethics.

Expectations of Social Work Majors:

1. Academic Performance: Students must maintain grade requirements, a 2.5 GPA, and academic honesty.
2. Attendance & Participation: Students must meet the requirements of class and practicum. Generally, the program's policy is that students must prepare, attend and positively participate in all classes.
3. Professional Behavior: Students must behave professionally with peers, faculty, agency personnel, and clients. They must abide by the NASW Code of Ethics. Doing so includes behaving towards others with respect, genuineness and honesty. Students must demonstrate respect for diversity and act with integrity. They must demonstrate respect for the learning process and refrain from behavior that disrupts, undermines, and degrades it. They must do this in the classroom, practicum, volunteer service, and service-learning projects.
4. Assaultive or Threatening Behavior: Students must not behave in ways that intimidate, terrorize, menace, harass, physically harm or injure clients, colleagues, or instructors.
5. Competent Practice: Student must demonstrate practice competencies as described in our CSWE accreditation and course syllabi. They must demonstrate these competencies in classroom assignments, service learning, and practicum. Please refer to the program's academic probation policy specific to demonstration of academic competencies (section 1.2.10)

Termination is a process aimed at facilitating the removal of a student from the social work major who fails to meet program expectations. The steps in the process are as follows:

1. A faculty member who wishes to recommend termination of a student makes a recommendation in writing to the BSSW Program Coordinator (BPC). The document must provide specific information that describes the student's failure to behave according to the program's expectations as stated above.
 - a. Prior to writing the letter, faculty must have met with the student to discuss the behavior(s) that fails to meet expectations and describe specific steps to improve. This should include the creation of a formalized success plan

outlining the steps the student must take and their expected timeline for accomplishment. This plan should also state what actions the instructor is prepared to take when those steps are accomplished.

- b. If the student fails to improve or refuses to agree to the suggested plan, the faculty member must meet with the student and inform them that they will write a letter to the BPC initiating the termination process. Faculty should also communicate to students the process for filing an academic grievance should the student disagree with the faculty member's actions.
 - c. The faculty member's letter to the BPC must include the details regarding the professor's attempt to work with the student through the success plan process. This should include documentation of the expectations the student failed to meet, the steps formulated to meet those expectations, and the student's failure to satisfactorily complete the plan or documentation of the student's refusal to engage in the success plan process.
2. The BPC will review the letter and supporting documentation, and will notify the student, in writing, of its receipt within three working days and provide them with a copy of it.
 - a. The BPC shall set up an appointment with the student as soon as schedules allow. The meeting's purpose is to review the letter and hear the student's perspective on the information contained in the letter. Should the faculty member involved be the BPC an alternative faculty member or Department Chair will be asked to fill in for the role of the BPC as appropriate or necessary to support a fair process for the student. The alternative faculty members cannot include the faculty member initiating the termination request.
 - b. Students may submit their own document contesting the faculty member's claims.
3. The BPC will call a faculty panel to review the process. The panel should include an odd number and exclude the faculty members involved in the case. After reviewing the information, a majority vote will be needed to terminate the student from the program. meeting and review their findings.
4. If the faculty vote to terminate the student's position in the program, the BPC will communicate, by email, the decision and offer to counsel and advise the students on next steps. However, the BPC will withdraw the student's BSSW major standing. The student may appeal the decision utilizing the Academic Grievance Procedure as outlined by the College of Health & Human Services. Refer to the College's website for further information about appeals, <https://www.bgsu.edu/health-and-human-services/academic-advising-center/appeals.html>
5. If the faculty vote not to terminate the student's position, the BPC will communicate the decision to the student by email. The email will include information regarding program policies and expectations, including that further behaviors that violate these policies may again initiate a termination process.

1.2.14 Readmission to Program After Involuntary Termination

A student who wants to be considered for readmission must meet the following criteria:

1. Submit an email to the BPC requesting readmission. The letter should include the following information:
 - Reason for initial removal from the program.
 - Corrective action student has taken to address the reasons for initial removal. (Please provide documentation of action(s) if available.)
 - Updated information regarding academic performance since dismissal and demonstration that the program minimum expectation of a 2.5 GPA is achieved.
2. Participate in an interview with the faculty of the BSSW program and actively engage in dialogue regarding reasons for readmission to program and plan for degree completion.

The Social Work faculty will consider all of the above when planning regarding readmission to the program. The student will be notified in writing of the decision. If they are not satisfied with the outcome, the student may appeal the decision through the Academic Grievance Procedure as outlined by the College of Health & Human Services. The website for filing academic grievance is, <https://www.bgsu.edu/health-and-human-services/academic-advisingcenter/appeals.html>

1.2.15 Voluntary Exit from Program

A student can choose to leave the BSSW program at any time. The student should submit a change of major form in the College's Advising Office if they decide to no longer pursue the BSSW degree but remain a student at BGSU.

Also, if a student disenrolls from the University and is no longer admitted to the institution, the student will have to go through the University's process for being re-admitted to BGSU. Once a student is re-admitted to the University, the student will have to meet with the BSSW Program Coordinator to resolve any academic or ethical issues before being re-admitted to the major. If a student never had major status and was in pre-major status before exiting the University, the student will remain in pre-major status upon their return to the University. The student can apply for major status once they meet the minimum eligibility criteria for consideration into the major.

1.2.16 Sexual Misconduct and/or Harassment

The sexual harassment policy of BGSU is found in the Student Handbook, available at the University web site, <https://www.bgsu.edu/student-handbook/policies-and-procedures.html>. The Department of Social Work supports and enforces this institutional policy.

1.2.17 Criminal Background Checks

The BSSW Program does not require students undergo a criminal background check in order to be admitted and complete the undergraduate degree program. However, criminal background can be a limiting factor in securing a field placement (internship) and gaining professional

licensure post-graduation. Many agencies that host students for internship require a student pass a State of Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) and/or Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) background check in order to be placed at the agency. Individual agencies have a right to refuse students field education opportunities based on criminal background. Also, social work licensing boards in each state have specific requirements regarding disclosure and limitations on licensure due to criminal history. Students who have a felony conviction are urged to contact the state licensing board for clarification in this area.

1.2.18 Grievance Procedure

The general grievance and appeal procedures for both academic and nonacademic issues and other institutional policies that are applicable to all students are outlined on the University's website, <https://www.bgsu.edu/student-handbook/policies-and-procedures.html>.

Academic grievances are processed through the College of Health and Human Services. Please go to the following website for more information about academic grievances, <https://www.bgsu.edu/health-and-human-services/academic-advising-center/appeals.html>

1.3 Social Work Program Curriculum

The outcomes of the Social Work program are demonstrated through a curriculum of 122 credits, 36 Bowling Green Perspective (BGP) which fulfill the general education requirements of BGSU, and 78 credits of specific credits (SOWK prefix) that fulfill the requirement of the BSSW major. The remainder of the credits remaining to complete the degree are general electives. The degree plan adopted by the Social Work program in fall 2018 can be reviewed through the following link, <https://www.bgsu.edu/content/dam/BGSU/catalog/check-sheets/Social-Work.pdf>

1.3.1 Content Areas

The social work curriculum is grounded in the liberal arts and provides education specific to the knowledge, values and skills of professional social work. The liberal arts component and the coursework and training of the Social Work program support a foundation for generalist social work practice, graduate education and lifelong learning.

This generalist practice includes content areas of social work practice, policy and services, social, economic & environmental justice, populations at-risk, multiculturalism and diversity, human behavior in the social environment, values and ethics, research and field education. It is expected that students study all content areas in order to prepare for a role as a professional social worker. The Social Work program at BGSU offers courses in each of the following content area:

Introduction to Social Work Profession: Origins of the profession and its relationship to social welfare. Generalist knowledge base of social work and professional values which guide social work practice.

Diversity, Oppression and Social Justice: Examines the influence of diversity on identity development and human experience. Central to the course is an analysis of how human differences serve as a basis for inequality and injustice. Informed by this analysis, we explore the methods that social workers use to achieve social justice.

Social Welfare Institutions: The institutions of social welfare; basic concepts of social welfare as a response to unmet human need. Issues of diversity, growth of the profession and related values.

Research Methods: Includes content specific to the needs of the generalist social worker. Topics include single subject design, program evaluation, quantitative and qualitative methodologies, ethics and critical evaluation of existing research.

Human Behavior in the Social Environment: Theories and research on various systems (family, groups, organizations) which influence human growth and development.

Social Welfare Policy: Social problems, social policy and social services as interrelated areas. Basic models for evaluating and influencing social policy.

Social Work Practice I: Emphasis on direct (micro) practice skills including: needs and strengths identification, assessment, intervention strategies and evaluation.

Social Work Practice II: Examination of the various types of groups (mezzo) encountered in practice and the conceptual frameworks needed for understanding group process. Special emphasis is placed on working with groups from disenfranchised and vulnerable populations.

Social Work Practice III: Content from organizational and community (macro) practice skills including: leadership, advocacy, fundraising, education and lobbying.

Mental Health: An introduction to the knowledge essential for generalist practice in the mental health field. Various theories and models of mental illness are presented, with an emphasis on a holistic, strengths model as a foundation for social work practice. Services offered for the prevention and treatments of mental illness are examined, especially case management within a community mental health context.

Field Instruction & Field Seminar: Includes training and skill development in an agency setting as an experience that promotes the integration of classroom knowledge with professional competence.

Courses specific to a major in social work are outlined in sequence in the Degree Plan (Appendix: forms). Course descriptions are available in the course catalog and course outlines are available through the University website, <https://www.bgsu.edu/registration-records/courses-andclasses/class-course-information.html>

1.3.2 Course Descriptions

SOWK 1100- Introduction to Social Work Profession

Origins of the profession and its relationship to social welfare. Generalist knowledge base of social work and professional values which guide social work practice.

SOWK 2200- Diversity, Oppression, and Social Justice

Examines the influence of diversity on identity development and human experience. Central to the course is an analysis of how human differences serve as a basis for inequality and injustice. Informed by this analysis, we explore the methods that social workers use to achieve social justice.

Prerequisites: SOWK 1100, SOWK major standing, or Firelands Human Services major.

SOWK 2320- Social Welfare Institutions

The institutions of social welfare; basic concepts of social welfare as a response to unmet human need. Issues of diversity, growth of the profession and related values. Prerequisites: social work major, POLS 1100 or consent of instructor.

DHS 3000- Research Methods for Human Services

Includes content specific to the needs of the generalist social worker. Topics include single subject design, program evaluation, quantitative and qualitative methodologies, ethics and critical evaluation of existing research. Prerequisite: SOC 3690, MATH 1150 or PSYC 2700.

SOWK 3200- Human Behavior and Social Environment

Examination of theories and conceptual frameworks needed for generalist practice. Prerequisites: social work major, SOC 1010, PSYC 1010.

SOWK 3220- Social Policy

Social problems, social policy and social services as interrelated areas. Basic models for evaluating and influencing social policy. Prerequisites: social work major and SOWK 2320.

DHS 3300- Interviewing & Observation

Development of interviewing and observational skills used in working with diverse populations in human service fields. Examine interviewing from various perspectives for different purposes: clinical, forensic, organizational, and social.

SOWK 3500- Social Work Practice I

Components of generalist social work practice; needs and strengths identification, assessment, intervention strategies, and evaluation with emphasis on direct (micro) practice. Prerequisites: junior standing, social work major and DHS 3300.

SOWK 3600- Social Work Practice II

Builds competencies for generalist practice with small groups. Examination of the various types of groups encountered in practice and the conceptual frameworks needed for understanding group process. Special emphasis is placed on working with groups from disenfranchised and vulnerable

populations. Prerequisites: social work major, DHS 3300, SOWK 3500. Can be taken concurrently with SOWK 3700.

SOWK 3700- Social Work Practice III

Course builds on previous practice courses covering material from mezzo through macro practice. Content includes social work treatment and task group, organizational and community practice. Community practice skills include: advocacy, fundraising, education, lobbying. Prerequisite or corequisite: Social Work major and SOWK 3500.

SOWK 4000- Topics in Social Work

On demand. Courses being considered for offering on regular basis. May be repeated.

SOWK 4100- Mental Health

The course presents students with an introduction to the knowledge essential for generalist practice in the mental health field. Various theories and models of mental illness are presented, with an emphasis on a holistic, strengths model as a foundation for social work practice. Services offered for the prevention and treatments of mental illness are examined, especially case management within a community mental health context. Prerequisites: major standing or permission of instructor.

SOWK 4200- Social Work with Older Adults

Focus on the interactive nature of physical, social, psychological, cultural, and spiritual aspects of aging and the effects on the total well-being of older adults. Prerequisites: major standing or instructor permission. Approved for distance education.

SOWK 4400- Introduction to Addictions and Substance Abuse Treatment

An introduction to substance abuse. Provides specific information regarding the use, abuse, and dependency issues related to chemical substances and an overview of the policy and practice issues related to working with substance abusers and their families. Approved for distance education.

SOWK 4500- Field Instruction

Required social work capstone course, practice experience in selected social agency and monitored by faculty liaison. Minimum of 420 hours. Field practice assignments are made via coordination with prospective social service agency, the program's Field Coordinator and the faculty liaison. Prerequisites: all core courses completed prior to enrollment, senior standing, social work major and 2.50 GPA in core and accumulative. Graded S/U.

SOWK 4550- Integrative Seminar

Faculty and field instructors conjointly teach this course. Conceptual frameworks, precise techniques and practitioner styles are considered as they underlie the student's problem solving in field instruction.

1.3.3 Minors and Concentrations

Although students do not need to declare a minor, many students often choose minors to augment their education. The general rule is that you need at least 20-21 hours to complete a minor, and a true minor has to be identified at the University. Minors that are typical for Social Work majors include: Gerontology, Sociology, Psychology, and Human Development and Family Studies. Sometimes students will want to minor in a language, art, music, political science, or business. Some minors, like GERO and PSYC, require specific coursework for completion to get credit with having a minor. Many others just tell them they need 20 hours of credit.

Students are only allowed to count up to 5 credit hours of **major core classes** toward their minor. So for example, a student who wants a PSYC minor can count the PSYC 1010 **OR** PSYC 4050 but they cannot count both classes.

Students can put together a concentration of study if they want. Some common concentrations are:

- Criminal Justice: CRJU 2100 (introduction to criminal justice); SOC 4410 (criminology); SOC 3400 (deviance and social control); SOC 3410 (juvenile delinquency); SOC 4420 (crime and punishment)
- Addictions: SOWK 4400 (substance abuse); SOC 3190 (alcohol, drugs and society); HP 3400 (drug use and abuse); PSYC 3300 (introduction to neuroscience); PSYC 3310 (psychopharmacology and neuroscience); CHEM 1770 (introduction to forensic science), PSYC 4160 (addictions)
- Youth: SOC 3410 (juvenile delinquency); PSYC 3030 (child development); PSYC 3040 (adolescent development); HDFS 2200 (infant and toddler development); HDFS 2210 (child development); HDFS 3250 (children and families under stress---need to meet additional prerequisites for this course)

1.4 Student Organizations

1.4.1 Student Organization of Social Workers (SOSW)

Students play an integral part in acting on the mission of BGSU and the BSSW program. In demonstrating a commitment to serve, students can choose to join the many service opportunities that are available through the Office of Campus Activities and the Center for Community and Civic Engagement. SOSW is one student organization that is inclusive of social work and the other related disciplines. SOSW is a student lead organization open to students of any major who have a passion for professional development and volunteering in their community and on campus. SOSW strives to provide connection among our members and provide a support system through their school career.

1.4.1 Social Work Honor Society

Phi Alpha Delta Alpha Chapter



"Through knowledge - the challenge to serve"

The purposes of Phi Alpha Honor Society are to provide a closer bond among students of social work and promote humanitarian goals and ideals. Phi Alpha fosters high standards of education for social workers and invites into membership those who have attained excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work.

An undergraduate student is eligible for membership after achieving the following requirements:

- Received acceptance into the social work major
- Achieved sophomore status
- Completed 9 semester hours of required social work courses
- Achieved an overall grade point average of 3.0 and
- Achieved a 3.25 grade point average in major courses

All social work students will be notified in spring semester of application process. Information about Phi Alpha can be found at www.phialpha.org.

1.5 Social Work Advisory Council

The Social Work Advisory Council provides consultation and support to the program by evaluating curricula and policies, and recommending strategies or plans. Council members share community interests and needs, discuss current trends in social work practice, and assist in interpreting academic requirements to best fit the current expectations of the profession. The Council plays a significant role for the program in promoting and maintaining ongoing and reciprocal relationships with the practice community. The Council meets on campus at twice each academic year.