

Bachelor of Social Work Program

The SUNO Bachelor of Social Work program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Associations of Colleges and Schools. The Bachelor of Social Work is four-year undergraduate professional degree program which provides social work education in preparation for beginning generalist professional practice.

The undergraduate social work program began in 1965 as a minor sequence within the Sociology Department. A social welfare department was created in 1972 to administer the newly established BSW program. The BSW program has been accredited since 1974.

Social Work BSW Administrative Team

Rebecca Chaisson, Ph.D., Dean

Office: Millie M. Charles School of Social Work Building – Room 207

Phone: (504) 286-5376

Email: rchaisson@suno.edu

Claude Montegut, M.S.W., Interim BSW Program Director

Office: Millie M. Charles School of Social Work Building – Room 232

Phone: (504) 286-5078

Email: cmontegut@suno.edu

Catherine Kalob, L.M.S.W., Director of Field Education

Office: Millie M. Charles School of Social Building – Room 260

Phone; (504) 286-5051

Email: ckalob@suno.edu

Robert Sevalia, L.C.S.W., Field Education Liaison

Office: Millie M. Charles School of Social Building – Room 223

Phone; (504) 286-5278

Email: rsevalia@suno.edu

**Millie M. Charles School of Social Work Building
6801 Press Drive
Room 206
New Orleans, LA 70126
504.286.5376**

Educational Philosophy

Holding firm to the belief and philosophy of the School of Social Work founder, Millie M. Charles, the Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) School of Social Work is committed to a view of social work practice that is holistic and transcending in its approach. Emphasis is placed on the strengths and growth potential of people, individually and collectively. Drawing on this view, the School provides learning experiences that direct students to: 1) explore contemporary problems; 2) acquire knowledge and skills essential to restoring or improving social functioning; and 3) effect constructive social change.

Further, the School of Social Work is committed to advocacy, empowerment, and transformation, as both themes and methods, which promote the processes of social change and social and economic justice. Emphasis is placed individually and collectively upon the strengths and growth potential of people. The educational goals of the School of Social Work support the University's mission and goals.

Central to the School's view of social practice is the concept of "empowerment."

Dr. Barbara Solomon refers to "empowerment" as a process and goal in social workers' practice. It is defined in her book, *Black Empowerment* "as a process whereby the social worker engages in a set of activities with the client and client system that aim to reduce the powerlessness that has been created by negative valuations based on membership in a stigmatized group."

Advocacy activities are directed towards the realignment of power to effect change and achieve freedom from oppression--whatever the nature or source of that oppression. The School stresses that individuals and groups must be assisted to change the structure of systems and organizations that adversely affect their lives and inhibit their ability to achieve liberation. It is through the processes of empowerment and advocacy that transformation is achieved.

We have determined that we must go beyond the limits of our current realities in foresight and planning. It is the intention of this School to educate social activists to be social workers prepared to create a better future. We must educate people to be social activists, i.e., persons who "know and act" in contrast to being "acted upon."

MISSION

The BSW Program's mission is to guide and prepare students to develop the capacity for generalist social work practice with an emphasis on developing and implementing empowerment-based strategies to advance human well-being, inclusion and social justice in the local, regional, national and global community. Such practice and transformative educational experiences are further guided by the program's dedication to critical practice knowledge and skills and the essential values of the profession: service, social and economic justice, the dignity and worth of the individual, the importance of human relationships, competence and integrity.

GOALS

Teaching

1. To use learning approaches that prepare students to integrate the values, ethics, knowledge, and skill base of the social work profession with systems of all sizes and with respect for all people aimed toward social change and promotion of social and economic justice.
2. To anchor social work knowledge in our program's themes of advocacy, empowerment and transformation.

Service

1. To provide leadership to the university, the community, and the profession.
2. To serve the local, national and international areas by preparing students to fill the dynamic social welfare resource needs for generalist and advanced practitioners.
3. To foster the commitment of students and faculty to active involvement in improving the quality of life in the community in which they live.

Scholarship

1. To effectively assist the process of professional development among faculty and students.
2. To contribute to the knowledge base of the strengths of diverse client populations.

COMPETENCIES: Upon completion, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior
2. Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice
3. Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic and Environmental Justice
4. Engage in Practice Informed Research and Research Informed Practice
5. Engage in Policy Practice
6. Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations and Communities
7. Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
8. Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations and Communities
9. Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations and Communities

Provisions of these programs are subject to change without notice and do not constitute an irrevocable contract between the University and any student.

THE PROFESSION OF SOCIAL WORK

The profession of social work is concerned with enhancing social functioning and improving the human condition through the promotion of social and institutional change and the provision of opportunities and resources to individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. The fundamental concern of social work is the relationship between individuals and social institutions. Of central importance is the development of these relationships in such a way as to promote social and economic justice and protect the opportunities for people to live with dignity and freedom. Professional practice focuses on the transactions between people and their environments that affect their ability to accomplish life tasks.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY AND THEMES

The Southern University School of Social Work is committed to a view of social work that is holistic and transcending in its approach. Emphasis is placed on the strengths and growth potentials of people, individually and collectively. The BSW and MSW curricula focus on generalist and advanced social work practice, respectively, which are concerned with enhancing and improving the human condition through the promotion of social and institutional change and the provision of opportunities and resources to individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.

The themes of **ADVOCACY, EMPOWERMENT, and TRANSFORMATION** provide a pivotal and integrating link between the educational objectives of the program and the curriculum content. These themes embrace a view of the individual, family, group, organization and community, as responsible actors in the self-actualization and change processes.

ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE OF THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

The SUNO School of Social Work administers two programs: (1) a four-year bachelor of Social Work program (BSW) which provides social work education in preparation for beginning generalist professional practice; and (2) graduate Social Work program (MSW) which provides social work education in preparation for advanced specialized professional practice.

ACCREDITATION AND PROGRAM APPROVAL

The School of Social Work in compliance with its' accrediting body, CSWE, provides social work education designed to enrich students' professional abilities by tailoring education around the nine (9) 2015 EPAS competencies. Educational instructions are designed to positively impact students' professional dimensions in areas of knowledge, values/ethics, skills, and cognitive/affective aptitude. The CSWE Competencies are:

1. Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior
2. Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice
3. Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic and Environmental Justice
4. Engage in Practice informed Research and Research Informed Practice
5. Engage in Policy Practice
6. Engage in Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations and Communities
7. Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations and Communities
8. Intervene with Individuals, families, Groups, Organizations and Communities
9. Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Bachelor of Social Work Program

REQUIREMENTS OF BSW PROGRAM

The Bachelor of Social Work degree (BSW) is an academic as well as a professional degree. Students entering the University and declaring Social Work as a major are considered Pre-Social Work majors. In the School of Social Work, students become social work majors during their junior year after they have completed 60 hours of University requirements with a 2.3 GPA. Students must complete a BSW application, transcript evaluation and an interview. They cannot take junior level social work courses until they have been accepted by the School of Social Work admissions committee.

Students majoring in social work must complete a minimum of 52 credit hours within the department, including SOWK 100, 211, 241, 311, 341, 343, 350, 351, 352, 431, 432, 443, 4810/481G, 4820/482H, 492, six credit hours of social work electives, and six credit hours of non-social work electives and 3 hours of either psychology or sociology electives beyond introductory courses.

Grades earned in social work courses lower than a C cannot be accepted for graduation. Grades earned in each English course must be no lower than a C. The grade point average for graduation must be a least 2.0 overall and 2.5 within the program. All students are required to actively participate in at least one (1) personal growth experience (Annual Spring Retreat), and at least four (4) seminars for majors which meet once during the fall, summer and spring semesters.

Students can be suspended or expelled from the program based on academic failure (which includes plagiarism & cheating) and/or based on violations of the NASW code of ethics.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BSW FIELD INSTRUCTION

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Students must apply for the Field Practicum during the Spring Semester prior to beginning the practicum in the Fall semester. Field faculty will discuss Field education during Direct Service and HBSE classes to familiarize students with the application process.
2. Students must submit an application with a resume and transcript before February 15 reflecting pre-requisites taken.
3. All applications must be reviewed and signed by the student's faculty advisor prior to submission to the designated Field Faculty.
4. Students will be notified by April 1st to pre-register for Field Education contingent upon successful completion of Spring Semester. Students will be notified of final approval for Field by July 15th. Thereafter, students will be assigned to Field Placement sites before August 1st.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Students must complete seven social work courses by the end of the spring semester prior to entry to the Field Practicum. These courses are: SW100 (Introduction to Social work); SW211 and SW311 (Social Welfare as a Social Institution I & II); SW241 (Communication Skills); SW341 (Human Behavior I); SW443 (Diversity and Empowerment); and SW350 (Direct Service I). Individual considerations will be made by the Field Director.
2. Students must have earned a cumulative grade average of 2.0 or better. An earned cumulative GPA average of 2.5 or better in School of Social Work courses is required.
3. Selection of the practicum site will be made by the Field Seminar Instructor, with approval from the Director of Field.
4. Each student is expected to complete two (2) semesters in field practicum. A minimum of 225 clock hours, approximately 16 hours per week, in the practicum setting is required each semester.
5. If the practicum experience is terminated for any reason during the semester, the student must agree to an extended practicum period.