SOCIAL WORK

St. Kate’s Social Work Office: Fontbonne Hall 113, (651) 690-6704

Since 1974, St. Catherine University and the University of St. Thomas (formerly the Colleges of St. Catherine and St. Thomas) have offered a combined major in Social Work. The program has been accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) since 1975 and in 2012, CSWE reaffirmed its accreditation through 2020. The joint Social Work major has grown to over one hundred junior and senior women and men. There are now over 1700 alumni of our Bachelor of Social Work program and over 3500 total School alumni.

The St. Kate’s - St. Thomas School of Social Work is the largest school of social work in the state. As a joint program between two faith-based, liberal arts universities, we share commitments to teaching excellence, community engagement, and social justice. Our students benefit from the small class sizes and strong student-centered approach that characterize each of our universities. In addition, they benefit from the resources and network of a large, well-established program, including access to 30 full-time faculty members with myriad areas of interest and expertise, a large number of elective course offerings and areas of specialization, three social work minor options, interprofessional learning opportunities with colleagues at both universities, and a well-organized and highly respected field education program with an unrivaled regional network of community partners.

How Does it Work?
The School of Social Work has administrative and faculty offices located on both campuses. The BSW Program Director has an office on each campus and can meet with students at the location most convenient for them. All social work faculty teach on both campuses.

St. Kate’s and St. Thomas day students take their social work classes on both campuses, alternating between the two campuses each semester. For example, Juniors typically take their fall social work courses at St. Thomas and their spring social work courses at St. Kate’s. The College for Adult and Applied Learning’s social work courses are offered only at St. Kate’s, but may be open to St. Kate’s and St. Thomas day students as space and schedules allow. Students from both universities participate in the joint undergraduate social work clubs & organizations. In this way, students participate in a rich learning environment comprised of a large, diverse student body.

Major
- Social Work - BA, BS (catalog.stkate.edu/undergraduate/social-work/social-work/ba-bs)

Minors
- Chemical Dependency Counseling: Addiction and Recovery - Minor (catalog.stkate.edu/undergraduate/social-work/social-work/cdc-addiction-recovery-minor)
- Social Services Management - Minor (catalog.stkate.edu/undergraduate/social-work/social-work/social-services-management-minor)

SOWK 2100 Relationship, Intimacy, Sexuality — 4 credits
This course addresses three major areas: exploring values and societal influence on relationships, intimacy and sexuality — the influence of culture, religion, family and friends; understanding self-worth, communication patterns and the effect of family and other significant relationships on the development of one’s needs/wants in relationships, intimacy and sexuality; discovering the basic attributes, purposes and powers of significant relationships, intimacy and sexuality. Participation in a structured small-group discussion is required. Open to non-majors. SOWK 2100 at St. Catherine University is the same course as SOWK 210 at the University of St. Thomas.

SOWK 2810 Introduction to Social Work — 4 credits
This course introduces the student to the profession of social work within the context of the social welfare system. It provides an overview of an integrative approach to generalist social work practice which emphasizes intervention on individual, community and societal levels. Special emphasis is placed on values, human diversity, social justice and social work fields of practice. SOWK 2810 at St. Catherine University is the same course as SOWK 281 at the University of St. Thomas.

SOWK 3400 Human Behavior and the Social Environment — 4 credits
The primary focus of this course is to investigate how humans interact with their social environments. This is a theory-heavy course focusing on metacognition- training students to think about the way we think. The course provides students with knowledge of theories of the social environments and how they impact, as well as are impacted, by human behavior. Further, theories on human behavior are examined through the multidimensional framework constituting biological, psychological, spiritual, socio-cultural, political, and economic factors. Emphasis is on the role of and interaction between these multiple factors at the level of various systems: the individual, family, small group, organization, community, and society, including political and economic systems. The course consists of five modules: interpersonal relations and empowerment; social systems; political and economic systems; justice; and multiculturalism. The course investigates the multiple dimensions and intersections of diversity including gender, race/ethnicity, age, religion, ability, sexual orientation, nationality, and global and international perspectives. Students leave the class with a holistic understanding of the human experience within the environments that surround them. SOWK 3400 at St. Catherine University is the same course as SOWK 340 at the University of St. Thomas.
Prerequisites: PSYC 2025 (202 at UST), BIOL 1120 (105 or 106 at UST) or consent of the program director.
Prerequisite with concurrency: SOWK 2810 (281 at UST).

SOWK 3550 Communication and Interviewing Skills — 4 credits
This course is the first of a four-course practice sequence. The primary focus is on communication theory and skills as applied to social work with individuals, families, small groups, communities and organizations. There is an emphasis on self-awareness, beginning assessment skills and diversity issues. An integrative approach to generalist social work practice provides the context for intervention on individual, environmental and societal levels. SOWK 3550 at St. Catherine University is the same course as SOWK 355 at University of St. Thomas. SOWK 3550/355 is taken with SOWK 3750/375 (or 3780/378) in the fall for students in the College for Women at St. Catherine University. College for Adults bachelor’s students take SOWK 3550 in the fall and SOWK 3780 in the spring.
Prerequisites with concurrency: SOWK 2810 (281 at UST) and SOWK 3400 (340 at UST) or by consent of the program director.
SOWK 3750 Junior Field Placement and Integrative Seminar — 2 credits
Junior Fieldwork complements students’ academic work through practical experience in a social work agency, institution or department. Under the supervision of an agency field instructor, the student learns beginning social work tasks and functions while applying theory to actual social work situations. Students participate in an on-campus seminar with other junior social work majors while in placement. The placement is 10–12 hours per week throughout two consecutive terms (fall and spring semesters) for College for Women social work students. SOWK 3750 at St. Catherine University is the same course as SOWK 375 at University of St. Thomas. Prerequisites with concurrency: SOWK 2810/281 and SOWK 3400/340. SOWK 3780/378 (4 credits) is designed for College for Women students taking a semester abroad in their junior year and for College for Adults students. It combines SOWK 3750/375 and SOWK 3760/376 into a single semester. College for Women students must consult with the department chair before registering for this course. 201610.

SOWK 3760 Junior Field Placement and Integrative Seminar — 2 credits
Junior Fieldwork complements students’ academic work through practical experience in a social work agency, institution or department. Under the supervision of an agency field instructor, the student learns beginning social work tasks and functions while applying theory to actual social work situations. Students participate in an on-campus seminar with other junior social work majors while in placement. The placement is 10–12 hours per week throughout two consecutive terms (fall and spring semesters) for College for Women social work students. SOWK 3760 at St. Catherine University is the same course as SOWK 376 at University of St. Thomas. Prerequisites with concurrency: SOWK 2810/281 and SOWK 3400/340. SOWK 3780/378 (4 credits) is designed for students taking a semester abroad in their junior year and for College for Adults students. It combines SOWK 3750/375 and SOWK 3760/376 into a single semester. Students must consult with the department chair before registering for this course.

SOWK 3780 Junior Field Placement and Integrative Seminar — 4 credits
Junior Fieldwork complements students’ academic work through practical experience in a social work agency, institution or department. Under the supervision of an agency field instructor, the student learns beginning social work tasks and functions while applying theory to actual social work situations. Students participate in an on-campus seminar with other junior social work majors while in placement. The placement is 12–16 hours per week over one term. College for Adults students take SOWK 3780 (4 credits) in the spring of their junior year. College for Women students are only eligible for SOWK 3780/378 if they are taking a semester abroad in their junior year and can register in the fall or the spring. It combines SOWK 3750/375 and SOWK 3760/376 into a single semester. College for Women students must consult with the department chair before registering for this course. SOWK 3780 at St. Catherine University is the same course as SOWK 378 at University of St. Thomas. Prerequisites with concurrency: SOWK 2810/281 and SOWK 3400/340.

SOWK 3800 Social Work Research — 4 credits
This course fosters competence in the research skills needed for generalist social work practice. Students will gain knowledge in the steps of conducting research; practice evaluation; conducting research with vulnerable participants; locating and critically evaluating relevant research to inform practice; and evidence-based practice. They will learn values of ethical research practice, using the Belmont Report and the NASW Code of Ethics as guidelines. Particular emphasis is placed on protecting vulnerable research participants. Students will also gain skills in writing and presenting a literature review, developing a research proposal, and applying relevant research to practice. This course serves as the writing intensive course in the major. SOWK 3800 is the same course as SOWK 380 at the University of St. Thomas. Prerequisites: SOWK 2810 (281 at UST) and junior status or consent of the program director.

SOWK 3850 Group Work Skills — 4 credits
This course is the second of the four-course practice sequence. The primary focus of the course is on the study of human behavior in groups with emphasis on the use of groups in generalist social work practice to accomplish individual, family, organizational and/or community goals. This course provides experiential learning opportunities to integrate knowledge, values and skills as both a group leader and a group member. The effects of diversity on group interaction are stressed. SOWK 3850 is the same course as SOWK 385 at University of St. Thomas. SOWK 3850 is taken with 3760 for College for Women students or 3780 for College for Adults students in the spring semester. Prerequisite: SOWK 3550 (355 at UST) or consent of the Program Director, 201610.

SOWK 3910 Social Policy for Social Change — 4 credits
This course equips students to understand and critically analyze current and past social policies. Policy alternatives are explored with a focus on the values and attitudes as well as the societal, economic and political dynamics from which they originate. Roles and responsibilities of citizens and professionals in formulating and implementing policies responsive to actual social needs are addressed. SOWK 3910 is the same course as SOWK 391 at the University of St. Thomas. Prerequisite: SOWK 2810 (281 at UST) or consent of the Program Director.

SOWK 4010 Generalist Practice I: Small Client Systems — 4 credits
This is the third course in the four-part practice sequence. This course prepares students for generalist social work practice with individuals, families and groups in the context of their social environments with emphasis on aspects of diversity. A primary focus is the application of social work knowledge through increased development of skills. The overall goal of the course is integration and application of the stages of the generalist social work method. SOWK 4010 is taken with SOWK 4050 in the fall by seniors. SOWK 4010 is the same course as SOWK 401 at the University of St. Thomas. Prerequisites: SOWK 3550 (355 at UST) and SOWK 3850 (385 at UST) and senior status in the major. Corequisite: SOWK 4050 (405 at UST).
SOWK 4020 Generalist Practice II: Large Client Systems — 4 credits
This course is a continuation of SOWK 4010 and the final of four courses in the practice sequence of the social work curriculum. The focus is on prevention/intervention methods based on generalist social work knowledge that can be applied to client systems of all sizes. A special emphasis is placed on effecting planned change in groups, organizations, communities, and national and global society toward the pursuit of social justice. A combination of lecture, discussion, experiential learning, and small group activities provides students with knowledge and skills for client advocacy and social change. SOWK 4020 is taken with 4060 in the spring semester. SOWK 4020 is the same course as SOWK 402 at the University of St. Thomas.
Prerequisite: SOWK 4010 (401 at UST).
Corequisite: SOWK 4060 (406 at UST).

SOWK 4050 Senior Field Placement and Integrative Seminar — 4 credits
Senior Fieldwork complements the student’s academic work through practical experiences in a social work agency, institution or department. Under the supervision of an agency field instructor, the student learns social work tasks and functions while applying theory to actual social work situations. Students participate in an on-campus seminar with other senior social work majors while in placement. The placement is approximately 15-20 hours per week throughout two consecutive terms (fall and spring semesters). Offered fall semester. SOWK 4050 is the same course as SOWK 405 at the University of St. Thomas.
Corequisite: SOWK 4010 (401 at UST).

SOWK 4060 Senior Field Placement and Integrative Seminar — 4 credits
Senior Fieldwork complements the student’s academic work through practical experiences in a social work agency, institution or department. Under the supervision of an agency field instructor, the student learns social work tasks and functions while applying theory to actual social work situations. Students participate in an on-campus seminar with other senior social work majors while in placement. The placement is approximately 15-20 hours per week throughout two consecutive terms (fall and spring semesters). Offered spring semester. SOWK 4060 is the same course as SOWK 406 at the University of St. Thomas.
Corequisite: SOWK 4020 (402 at UST).

SOWK 4140 School Social Work — 4 credits
This course examines the school as a social institution which serves to educate and socialize children into American society and the role of the Social Worker in such a setting. Emphasis is placed on discovering similarities and differences between social work and education values and tasks and the process of integrating social work values into a school setting. Social work with special and at-risk populations is discussed. This course also examines specific handicaps to learning and the role of the social worker in helping students, schools and families adjust to and cope with special needs. Emphasis will be placed on evaluation of school social work practice. Interventions with children which fit within a school setting are included.

SOWK 4300 Development and Fundraising for Social Service Organizations — 4 credits
The purpose of this class is to provide students with an overview of key elements of supporting and expanding social service programs in nonprofit and public agencies. Topics covered include nonprofit governance and administrative structures, fundraising, program design and development, philanthropy, supervision of paid staff and volunteers, and grant-writing and program evaluation. An emphasis will be placed on linking agency work and agency mission. The course will emphasize application and synthesis of course concepts through community-based projects.

SOWK 4602 Internship — 2 credits
This course is a structured out-of-class learning experience that takes place on or off campus and includes a substantial work component. It is not to be confused with the required internships for juniors and seniors who are majoring in social work. An internship involves you in the profession in an exploratory way to test career interests and potential. To initiate an internship experience, meet with the internship coordinator in the Career Development Office. Also offered in Evening/Weekend/Online Program.
Prerequisites: Faculty sponsorship and approval by department chair.

SOWK 4604 Internship — 4 credits
This course is a structured out-of-class learning experience that takes place on or off campus and includes a substantial work component. It is not to be confused with the required internships for juniors and seniors who are majoring in social work. An internship involves you in the profession in an exploratory way to test career interests and potential. To initiate an internship experience, meet with the internship coordinator in the Career Development Office. Also offered in Evening/Weekend/Online Program.
Prerequisites: Faculty sponsorship and approval by department chair.

SOWK 4850 Seminar — 4 credits
This is an opportunity to explore advanced areas of the social work profession in small groups under departmental supervision.
Prerequisites: Admission to the major or permission of the instructor.

SOWK 4952 Independent Study — 2 credits
Independent study is also offered in Evening/Weekend/Online Program. Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor and department chair.

SOWK 4954 Independent Study — 4 credits
Independent study is also offered in Evening/Weekend/Online Program. Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor and department chair.

SOWK 4994 Topics — 4 credits
The subject matter of the course is announced in the annual schedule of classes. Content varies from year to year but does not duplicate existing courses. Also offered in Evening/Weekend/Online Program.