

SOCIAL WORK - BA, BS

Your spark of idealism, belief in social justice and love of working with people, together with a degree from our accredited social work program, will prepare you for one of the fastest growing careers of the future. At St. Kate's, you'll acquire professional knowledge, values and skills that will empower you for a challenging and rewarding career in social work.

St. Kate's social work major prepares students for work in a wide range of settings. Recent graduates have been hired in diverse places such as hospitals, community centers, human services departments, public schools, domestic abuse shelters, nursing homes and mental health centers. Other graduates find work in private industry, group homes, state and local government, chemical dependency programs, programs for the elderly, and privately supported family and children's agencies, just to name a few.

Our curriculum is rooted in a philosophy that promotes social justice and community engagement while recognizing and honoring the differences inherent in our local, national, and global communities. In this spirit, we prepare generalist social workers to lead and influence through a commitment to professional ethics of service, social justice, and the importance of human relationship. Students will learn how to use their social work knowledge, values and skills competently, with integrity, for the dignity and worth of all people.

Courses in the social work major will prepare students for generalist social work practice and for graduate study.

Majors will expand their knowledge of social work beyond the boundaries of the classroom through a field education placement in a social service agency. We have developed strong agency partners and guide students through the process of interviewing and placement with these agencies. Field placements include opportunities such as case management, shelter advocacy, supervised visitation for families, community education and organizing, school social work, senior housing, research and grant writing, and county social work.

Field placements complement the academic work through integration of theory, research and practice. Social work majors also take courses in biology of women, introduction to sociology, general psychology and lifespan developmental psychology. With this exceptional hands-on practice experience and meaningful course work, the vast majority of our social work graduates secure positions in their field within six months of graduation.

The Department of Social Work includes faculty who are recognized for their teaching excellence and scholarship and are eager to lend their expertise concerning academic and professional issues. Our faculty members hold leadership positions in local, regional and national professional organizations and have expertise in areas such as anti-racist and multicultural practice, chemical dependency counseling, child welfare, community organizing, LGBTQ rights, mental health, and social welfare policy. Our professors will enthusiastically challenge students and encourage them to reach their full potential.

The Social Work program requires students to be formally admitted to the major. This process takes place during a student's junior year. Prospective majors must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.25 and must be approved by the BSW program social work faculty.

St. Kate's master's and bachelor of social work programs are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) (<http://www.cswe.org/>) Commission on Accreditation.

Accreditation of a baccalaureate or master's social work program by the Council on Social Work Education's Commission on Accreditation indicates that it meets or exceeds criteria for the assessment of program quality evaluated through a peer review process. An accredited program has sufficient resources to meet its mission and goals and the Commission on Accreditation has verified that it demonstrates compliance with all sections of the Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards.

Accreditation applies to all program sites and program delivery methods of an accredited program. Accreditation provides reasonable assurance about the quality of the program and the competence of students graduating from the program.

St. Catherine University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association: www.ncahlc.org.

The Department of Social Work offers three minors: Social Welfare (for non-social work majors), Chemical Dependency Counseling: Addiction and Recovery, and Nonprofit Strategies and Operations (offered through the Department of Economics). The minors are not accredited by the Council of Social Work Education. Students who do not major in Social Work will not be able to apply to take the ASWB Licensing Exam for licensure as a LSW (Licensed Social Worker).

Social Work Honor Society

Delta Epsilon Zeta, the campus chapter of *Phi Alpha* National Social Work Honor Society, was established at St. Catherine University in 2002. The purpose of this organization is to advance excellence in social work practice and to encourage, stimulate and maintain scholarship of the individual members.

As a social work major, students are eligible for membership after achieving a junior or senior standing, earning a minimum of six semester hours or equivalent in social work, achieving an overall grade point average of 3.0 or above, and a social work grade point average of 3.50 or above.

Justice Team

The Department of Social Work club supports a student social work club consisting of both Bachelor and Master's students. The club focuses on social justice issues and is called the Justice Team. The club is advised by faculty from the Department of Social Work.

See also: Master of Social Work (<http://catalog.stkate.edu/graduate/health/social-work/>) (graduate catalog)

This major is offered in the College for Women and the College for Adults.

Curriculum

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
SOWK 2810	Introduction to Social Work	4
SOWK 3400	Human Behavior and the Social Environment	4
SOWK 3550	Communication and Interviewing Skills	4

SOWK 3750	Junior Field Placement and Integrative Seminar	2
SOWK 3760	Junior Field Placement and Integrative Seminar	2
CFA students take SOWK 3780 in place of SOWK 3750/3760. CFW students studying abroad fall or spring semester should take SOWK 3780		
SOWK 3780	Junior Field Placement and Integrative Seminar	
SOWK 3800W	Social Work Research	4
SOWK 3850	Group Work Skills	4
SOWK 3910	Social Policy for Social Change	4
SOWK 4010	Generalist Practice I: Small Client Systems	4
SOWK 4020	Generalist Practice II: Large Client Systems	4
SOWK 4050 & SOWK 4060	Senior Field Placement and Integrative Seminar and Senior Field Placement and Integrative Seminar	8
Total Credits		44

Code	Title	Credits
Required Supporting Courses		
BIOL 1120	Biology of Women with Lab	4
PSYC 1001	General Psychology with Lab	4
PSYC 2025	Lifespan Developmental Psychology	4
SOCI 1000	Principles and Concepts of Sociology	4
Total Credits		16

Code	Title	Credits
Recommended Courses		
CDC 3000	Chemical Dependency/Addiction and Recovery - Assessment and Intervention	4
CDC 3050	Chemical Dependency/Addiction and Recovery - Families and Cultural Diversity	4
CDC 3550	Practicum and Seminar I	2
CDC 4250	Addiction and Recovery: Practicum and Seminar II	2
CDC 4350	Co-Occurring Disorders and Pharmacology	4
WOST 2910	The Anatomy of Violence	4
NPSO 4300	Development and Fundraising for Social Service Organizations	4
or SOWK 4300	Development and Fundraising for Social Service Organizations	

Required Fieldwork Placement

The Fieldwork Placements are arranged by the Department of Social Work. They provide practical learning in social work agencies to complement the student's academic work through integration of theory and practice.

Junior year: Two semesters of approximately 5-8 hours per week learning about and working with social service agencies. Preparation for Senior level internship includes weekly seminar groups on campus.

Senior year: Two semesters of approximately 12-15 hours per week interning in a social service agency off campus. 400 hours required, including weekly seminar groups on campus.

Social work majors satisfy the Writing Requirement for Majors in SOWK 3800W Social Work Research. They complete the Liberal Arts and Sciences Core Writing Requirement with three other writing-intensive courses (CORE 1000W The Reflective Woman or CORE 2000W The Reflective Woman, CORE 3990W Global Search for Justice, and any other writing-intensive course in another department).

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