

Social Work

Program Director: Dr. Mark Lynch

Established at Saint Francis University in 1974, the Social Work major provides a general education as well as career preparation.

The primary educational objective of the Social Work Program is to prepare its students for entry into generalist social work practice at the beginning professional level. Further, the program seeks to assist students in understanding social welfare as a system of social institutions that has been developed to meet human needs. Based on a strong foundation of courses in the arts, social sciences, natural sciences, math, and the humanities, the social work curriculum is conceived as a broad orientation to the human and helping services which will enable the student to: seek employment in the field of social work upon graduation; continue one's education on the graduate level in social work; the behavioral sciences or one of the numerous areas of human services; and/or support social and economic justice through service and citizenship participation.

There are opportunities for employment in such areas as individual therapy, group therapy, community organization, family counseling, foster care and adoption services, child welfare, public welfare, hospital and home nursing social services, mental health and mental retardation programs, programs for the elderly, school social work, drug and alcohol programs, and community action programs.

The Saint Francis University Social Work major is accredited for the baccalaureate degree in social work by the Council on Social Work Education. The program has been accredited since 1974. Upon graduation, majors are eligible for regular membership in the National Association of Social Workers.

Students and other interested individuals should consult the Social Work handbook for detailed information on program policies and standards, located on the program's website.

The Field Instruction sequence provides the practice experience to prepare students to work with individuals, families, small groups, organizations and communities served by both governmental and voluntary programs. It constitutes an integral component of the total curriculum, reinforcing and integrating the entire curriculum. Some current cooperating senior Field Instruction agencies are as follows:

*Aids Intervention/Home Nursing Agency
Alternatives Community Resource Program
Altoona Base Services Unit MR Program
Altoona Hospital Drug and Alcohol Program
Altoona Hospital Social Services
Altoona Hospital Crisis Center
Appalachian Youth Services, Education Program
Blair County Children and Youth Services
Blair County Commissioner's Office
Blair County Community Action Program
Blair County Head Start Program
Blair County Mental Health
Blair County Senior Service
Cambria County Children and Youth Services*

Cambria County Community Medical Center
Cambria County Juvenile Detention Shelter/Emergency Care Facility
Cambria County Office on Aging
Cambria County Probation Bureau
Cambrian Hills, Treatment Center
Career Services - Saint Francis University
Catholic Charities, Altoona
Cedar Manor Treatment Center
Community Support Alternative Program
Conemaugh Counseling Associates
Conemaugh Neuropsychiatric Unit
Dorothy Day Center - Saint Francis University
Early Intervention Center, CCCMHC
Early Interventive Services
Ebensburg Center
Emergency Shelter Project, Inc.
Exceptional Children Intermediate Unit 8, Duncansville Office
Family Services of Blair County
Garvey Manor
Hillview Care Center
Health South Rehabilitation Hospital
Human Services
Intermediate Unit 08, Social Services, Ebensburg Location
Johnstown Board of Public Assistance
Kids Read
Laurel Crest Manor
Lutheran Social Services, Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries
Mom's House
Nason Hospital
Pittsburgh Rehabilitation Institute
Professional Family Care Services
Rosemary House
S.K.I.L.L.S. of Central PA, Inc.
Teen Link
Teen Shelter
Upward Bound Program - Saint Francis University
Valley View Nursing Home
Veterans Administration Medical Center, Altoona, Pa.
Veterans Home
Windber Hospice
Women's Help Center, Johnstown
Y.E.S. Youth Agency (Community Action), Altoona, Pa.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Social Work 203, 310, 314, 315, 316, 425, 426; Biology 105; Computer Science 101; Economics 101; Political Science 102; Psychology 101, 209, and one additional Psychology elective at the 200-level or higher or a Social Work 450 or above class; Sociology 101, 201, 302, 310 (same as SCWK 310), 402 (same as SCWK 402); and Statistics 101. History 103-104 recommended.

SOCIAL WORK — COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

202. Introduction to Women and Society (same as Sociology 202) (3 credits)

The historical, cultural, institutional, and sociological sources circumscribing the role women play in today's society; myths and misunderstandings about women; the contributions of women in society. Open to men and women. *Fall and Spring.*

203. Introduction to Social Welfare (same as Sociology 203) (3 credits)

Social welfare and the institutional approach to social work; a brief historical introduction to social services; social work values; an analysis of social welfare as a social system related to other systems; and an overview of settings in which social work is practiced. *Fall.*

205. Gerontology (3 credits)

This course provides the student with an introduction to the study of the aged and aging in the context of contemporary American society. The student will derive both a theoretical and practical understanding of aging individuals and families and the aged as an increasing segment of society. Since gerontology is an interdisciplinary field of study, course content includes the social, psychological, physical/health, political and economic aspects of growing old. *Spring.*

310. Human Behavior in the Social Environment (same as Sociology 310) (3 credits)

Systems approach to study of interaction of the individual and his environment in relation to families, groups, and larger social systems; the interrelationship between the biological and cultural characteristics of diverse groups and their life chances and life styles; the framework of social work practice which utilizes existing human and social resources in helping individuals and groups. *Prerequisite: Sociology 101 or 102 or Social Work 203. Corequisite for Social Work majors: Social Work 315. Fall.*

314. Social Welfare Policies, Programs, and Issues (3 credits)

An analytical approach to social welfare policies and issues, evaluated in the context of changing social systems and of social work's concern with the development of human potential; conceptions of social welfare; the historical development of social welfare policies; emerging issues in social welfare; economic, socio-legal-political changes as they relate to policy formation; and the tasks, resources, and roles of the social work professional. *Open to social work majors only. Prerequisite: Social Work 203. Corequisite: Social Work 316. Spring.*

315. Social Work Processes I (6 credits)

Integrates a systems/problem-solving/social justice approach to social work practice. Content includes knowledge, values and skills necessary for acquisition of basic competencies of the generalist professional social worker. Emphasis on assessment and intervention at the BSW entry level. Students attend class six hours per week and participate in volunteer service in an agency or a service project. Open to Social Work majors only. *Prerequisite: Social Work 203. Corequisite: Social Work 310. Fall.*

316. Social Work Processes II (5 credits)

A continuation of assessment and interventive methods applicable for generalist social work practice at entry level with individuals, families, groups, and communities. Further development of practice skills with particular emphasis on developing an eclectic approach, role of the social worker, analysis of situation assessment, plan development, implementation and evaluation within a systems frame of reference. Students attend classes two days weekly for four hours and work in an agency for a full day weekly. This dual theory-practice approach serves as a link to the block field placement in the senior year. Open to Social Work majors only. *Prerequisite: Social Work 315. Corequisite: Social Work 314. Spring.*

**320. Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
(same as Sociology 320)
(3 credits)**

Substance abuse, sociological factors concerning usage; supportive legislation, consumption levels, models of alcoholism, the psychosocial and medical aspects of addiction; treatment services and modalities in the context of comprehensive care; the problems of special populations; prevention and current research findings. *Prerequisite: 100- or 200-level course in Social Work or Sociology and sophomore standing or above. Does not fulfill Sociology core requirement. Spring.*

**402. Cultural Diversity in American Society
(same as Sociology 402)
(3 credits)**

Explore issues of race, social class, and gender inequality from national as well as global perspectives. Examine the social structures that create systems of power and oppression. Investigate the intersection of gender, race, and social class, by taking into account multiple standpoints. Study concepts such as race-ethnicity, racism, white privilege, sexism, male privilege, institutionalized racism and sexism as well as policies, people, and practices aimed at social change. *Prerequisite: Social Work 203 or Sociology 101 or 102 or 202. Spring.*

**425. Social Work Field Instruction
(16 credits)**

Integrates systems/problem-solving/social justice approach to professional practice. Supervised experience in the application of social interventive methods in a social agency or community development program, integrated with a two-hour weekly seminar on campus. Tasks and responsibilities of social work and social welfare, in preparation for work in a human service area normally associated with social work, following completion of formal classroom instruction. *Open to Social Work majors only. Prerequisites Social Work 314, 316. Fall.*

**426. Senior Seminar
(3 credits)**

Designed to enhance transition from block placement (Social Work 425) to employment and/or graduate studies stressing competencies of the baccalaureate social worker. Expansion of organization and community practice via integration of systems/problem-solving/social justice approach. Involvement in community project. *Prerequisite: Social Work 425. Spring.*

**450-452. Special Topics
(3 credits each)**

Including issues in public health, crisis intervention, mental health treatment and intervention, death and dying, practice with diverse populations as well as others.

**501. Independent Study in Social Work
(1-8 credits)**