

Bachelor of Social Work

Bachelor of Social Work Program

The School of Social Welfare provides the education and experience necessary for a career in social work. By helping shape students' capacity for anti-racist, anti-oppressive, and socially-just practice, the School prepares social workers to carry out the unique purposes of the profession — to develop human potential, to promote individual well-being, and to bring about a more just society.

Social work is a major professional discipline in the Social Sciences. The term social welfare denotes organized public or private social services pertaining to human needs: adequate nutrition and safe housing, health and mental health, education, economic security, social participation, dignity, and civil and political rights for disadvantaged people.

The undergraduate program prepares graduates for generalist social work practice. The program defines generalist practice as maintaining focus on practice and advocacy, based on ethical principles, scientific inquiry, and best practices at the interface between systems (i.e., individual, family, groups, organizations, and communities), with particular emphasis on:

- The strengths inherent in these systems.
- The need to understand the role of gender, age, race/ethnicity, class, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, disability, and culture in all phases of the social work process.
- The promotion of human rights and social, racial, economic, and environmental justice for those disenfranchised based on some of the attributes listed above.
- The assumption of an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, socially just, and critical perspective regarding social work practice, policy, and research.

Beginning generalist practice uses multilevel prevention and intervention methods, depending on the needs of the client system, and incorporates knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes that are transferable between and among diverse contexts and locations.

The BSW program is offered on the Lawrence and Edwards campuses.

Advising

Once a student is admitted to the School of Social Welfare, an academic adviser called a Success Coach will be assigned to assist students in the enrollment process and with other academic program requirements. Students consult with their Success Coach before enrollment each semester and have their advising hold removed. In addition, a member of the School's faculty is assigned as a professional/career adviser. Current students can view their advisers on Jayhawk GPS (<https://jayhawkgps.ku.edu/>).

For more information on BSW advising, review the student handbook (<https://socwel.ku.edu/current-students/>) (<http://socwel.ku.edu/resources/forstudents/academic-handbooks/>).

Transfer Students

For undergraduates who plan to transfer to KU but currently attend another college, advising is available by appointment. The school works closely with counselors from all Kansas colleges.

Degree Progress Report

The Degree Progress Report (DPR) is a computerized advising and degree-audit system, used to assist students and advisers in tracking progress toward completion of general education degree and major requirements. Students should review their DPR each semester and be prepared to review and discuss information contained in the DPR at all advising appointments. The DPR can be accessed through the student's account in the myKU portal (<https://my.ku.edu/uPortal/f/welcome/normal/render.uP>) under the Advising tab. Although the DPR provides a list of courses taken and grades earned, it is not an official transcript and can be used only for internal advising.

Certificate Programs

Certificate in Child Welfare

The School of Social Welfare's Certificate in Child Welfare (<https://socwel.ku.edu/child-welfare-certificate/>) provides seniors in the BSW program with specialized knowledge and skills to prepare them for a career in the field of child welfare. The certificate offers specialized training in social work practice with children and families who are involved with the child welfare system and provides a child welfare practicum as part of the experience.

Undergraduate Experiential Learning Certificate Programs

The university offers several experiential learning certificate programs that work well with the undergraduate social work major. Students who complete an engaged learning certificate program receive a notation of it on their transcripts. Learn more about KU certificate programs (<https://experience.ku.edu/experiential-learning-certificates/>). (<https://experience.ku.edu/>)

Undergraduate Admission to KU

Students are directly admitted to the School of Social Welfare as new freshmen and transfer students. Visit the Office of Admissions (<http://admissions.ku.edu/>) for information about admission to KU. Visit the Office of International Support Services (<http://www.iss.ku.edu/>) for information about international admissions.

Current KU students changing from another major to Social Welfare should complete a Change of School form and must meet the advancement requirements

Undergraduate Advancement Review for the School of Social Welfare

Advancement Requirements

For students to advance into 500 and 600 level Social Welfare coursework, they must complete the BSW Advancement Review (<https://socwel.ku.edu/bsw/apply/>) prior to beginning 500 level classes. The Advancement Review includes the following:

- 54 hours of General Education requirements or elective hours including:
 - Math 101 (College Algebra) or LA&S 108 (Personal Numeracy)
 - English 101 (Composition)
 - English 102 (Critical Reading and Writing)
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50.
- Earned grade of B or higher in SW 220.

- One reference form from a professor, work supervisor, volunteer supervisor or other professional colleague who are familiar with your work and/or know your potential as a social worker. Reference information will be emailed to the individual for completion.
- Submitted signed electronic copy of School of Social Welfare Standards and Advancement Policies and Procedures, NASW Code of Ethics, and the KU Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

If all the above criteria are met, students are successfully advanced into 500 level coursework.

Note: Students must complete all general education requirements including electives prior to the start of 600 level course work and practicum.

Grade-Point Average

A student must maintain a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.5 and a 2.5 in social work required courses. Evaluation of transcripts submitted as part of the application for admission includes computation of grade-point average for all work completed. This admission grade-point average is adjusted to include only courses that transfer to KU. Both transferable credits and all work taken at KU count in the grade-point average when advancement requirements are reviewed.

Bachelor of Social Work Degree Requirements

Primary responsibility for meeting graduation requirements rests with the student.

- A minimum of 120 credit hours of course work, including 12 credit hours of field practicum and field preparation & seminar.
 - 51 Social Welfare hours including SW 220.
 - 37 hours of general education requirements.
 - 32 hours of electives.
- A 2.5 minimum grade-point average for all classroom work.
- A 2.5 minimum grade-point average in required social work courses.
- Successful completion of field practicum.
- Recommendation by the faculty of the school to the chancellor and the Kansas Board of Regents that the degree be granted.

Curriculum

Code	Title	Hours
SW 220	Intro to Social Work, Social Welfare and U.S. Society (Must earn a B or higher.)	3
SW 510	Introduction to Social Work Practice: Interviewing Skills	1.5
SW 512	Skills-Based Policy Advocacy	1.5
SW 530	Introduction to Theory for Multi-level Social Work	3
SW 534	Introduction to Social Policy and Advocacy	3
SW 540	Introduction to Social Work Research	3
SW 555	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Social Work Practice	3
Topics - 500 Level Mini Courses:		3
SW 570	Centering on Decolonization in Social Work	
SW 572	Substance Use	
SW 573	Intergenerational and Historical Trauma	

SW 574	Social Work Across and Among Borders: International SW and SW with Immigrant Populations	
SW 600	Field Education Seminar	1
SW 601	Field Practicum	5
SW 610	Multilevel Engagement and Assessment in Social Work Practice	3
SW 612	Multilevel Intervention and Evaluation in Social Work Practice	3
SW 622	Human Rights, Social, Economic and Environmental Justice	3
SW 623	Capstone: Social Work Professional Issues	3
Topics - 600 Level Mini Courses		6
SW 634	Child Welfare - Protecting Children, Strengthening Families	
SW 635	Gender and Sexual Diversity	
SW 637	Criminal Justice System: Abolish or Reform	
SW 638	Responding to Suicide and Self-Harm	
SW 640	Grant Writing and Program Development	
SW 641	Dismantling White Supremacy	
SW 642	Financial Capability and Social Work Practice	
SW 643	Gender-based Violence: What It Is and What Social Workers Can Do To Prevent and Respond To It	

Field Practicum (SW 600 & SW 601)

The field education office works with community agencies to provide field practicum opportunities for students. Students are placed in these agencies through a collaborative process among the field education office, the student, and the agency. The field education office is responsible for ensuring that all field placements are able to provide the appropriate learning opportunities for students and that qualified field instructors will be available to the student.

Learn more about field education (<https://socwel.ku.edu/field-education/>).

Required Hours for Field Practicum

Students with 9 or more remaining elective or general education requirement credit hours in the fall of the senior year may be required complete these hours before beginning field placement. Students who are completing these hours may take SW 622 and the mini-courses, but they cannot enroll in SW 610, SW 612, or SW 623.

Liberal Arts Requirements for a broad base of understanding

Learn more about the BSW curriculum (<https://socwel.ku.edu/bsw-curriculum/>) and liberal arts prerequisites.

Code	Title	Hours
English		
ENGL 101	Composition	
ENGL 102	Critical Reading and Writing	
Speech Communications		
COMS 130	Speaker-Audience Communication	
COMS 322	Audience Centered Public Speaking in the Workplace	

THR 120 Public Speaking as Performance

MATHEMATICS

MATH 101 College Algebra: _____
 LA&S 108 Personal Numeracy

WESTERN CIVILIZATION or ANTHROPOLOGY

May not be used for Intercultural Studies Requirement

One of the following:

HUM 204 Western Civilization I
 HUM 205 Western Civilization II
 ANTH 160 The Varieties of Human Experience

INTERCULTURAL STUDIES

One of the following:

Approved course from the KU Core meeting Goal 4 Outcome 2.
 (Western Civilization is excluded from fulfilling the Intercultural
 requirement.)
 COMS 246 Introduction to Intercultural Communication

CHILD & ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT

One of the following:

ABSC 160 Introduction to Child Behavior and Development
 ABSC 250 Human Development
 EPSY 305 Development and Learning of the Child
 PSYC 250 Human Development
 PSYC 333 Child Development

BIOLOGY

BIOL 100 Principles of Biology
 & BIOL 102 and Principles of Biology Laboratory

ECONOMICS

One of the following:

ECON 104 Introductory Economics
 ECON 142 Principles of Microeconomics
 ECON 144 Principles of Macroeconomics

POLITICAL SCIENCE

POLS 110 Introduction to U.S. Politics

PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC 104 General Psychology

SOCIOLOGY

SOC 104 Elements of Sociology

Requirements for the Major in Social Work

Code	Title	Hours
Preprofessional course		
SW 220	Intro to Social Work, Social Welfare and U.S. Society	3

Students must complete SW 220 before entering 500 level classes and must earn a grade of B or higher.

Junior

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
SW 530	3	SW 510	1.5
SW 540	3	SW 512	1.5
SW 555	3	SW 534	3
		Topics Mini Courses - Choose 2 of the following:	3

SW 570

SW 572

SW 573

SW 574

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Senior

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
SW 600	1	SW 600	1
SW 601	5	SW 601	5
SW 610	3	SW 612	3
SW 622	3	SW 623	3
Topics Mini Courses - Choose 2 of the following:	3	Topics Mini Courses - choose 2 of the following:	3
SW 634		SW 640	
SW 635		SW 641	
SW 637		SW 642	
SW 638		SW 643	
		15	15

Total Hours 48

B.S.W. Sample 4-Year Degree Plan

120 hours are required for the degree.

Freshman

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENGL 101	3	ENGL 102	3
MATH 101 or LA&S 108	3	BIOL 100	3
SW 220	3	BIOL 102	1
PSYC 104	3	SOC 104	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
		Elective	2
		15	15

Sophomore

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
POLS 110	3	HUM 204, 205, or ANTH 160	3
ECON 104, 142, or 144	3-4	COMS 130, 322, or THR 120	3
Intercultural (KU Core Goal 4.2)	3	Child/Adolescent/Human Development Requirement	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
		15-16	15

Junior

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
SW 530	3	SW 510	1.5
SW 540	3	SW 512	1.5
SW 555	3	SW 534	3
Elective	3	SW 572	1.5
Elective	3	SW 573	1.5
		Elective	3
		Elective	3
		15	15

Senior		
Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
SW 600	1 SW 600	1
SW 601	5 SW 601	5
SW 610	3 SW 612	3
SW 622	3 SW 623	3
SW 634	1.5 SW 640	1.5
SW 635	1.5 SW 642	1.5
	15	15
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Total Hours 120-121		