The LSU School of Social Work was founded in 1937 in the era of the “New Deal” programs, reflecting a growing need for professional social workers. The school has a reputation for excellence in professional education and a long tradition of service to the professional community. The focus of the school is to educate competent, professional social workers and to use research to enhance the effectiveness of social work practice. The school has a commitment to culturally competent practice, an equally strong commitment to the social work profession’s core values of social and economic justice, respect for the dignity and worth of each individual, and the centrality of human relationships to well-being. The research infrastructure of the school includes active programs in the areas of juvenile justice, poverty, mental health, addictions, gerontology, community development, and child welfare. The school is a charter member of the Council on Social Work Education and its master’s program has maintained continuous accreditation with this body since its inception.

LEADING
- A nationally ranked master’s program
- The only social work PhD program in Louisiana
- The state’s only graduate program in a public university with a research office
- Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholar. The first faculty member from LSU to be selected as well as the first from the state of Louisiana
- Graduate selected as a Presidential Management Fellow by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management

TRANSFORMING
- Establishing the Louisiana Poverty Initiative for research on the causes and outcomes of poverty, which focuses on academic research and individual and community actions to create pathways out of poverty for children and families
- Improving Louisiana’s child welfare professionals through the Louisiana Child Welfare Comprehensive Workforce Project to improve safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for children and youth by building the capacity of Louisiana’s child welfare professionals and by improving the systems to recruit, train, supervise, manage, and retain them
- Truancy Assessment and Service Centers (TASC) operate in over 20 parishes to prevent truancy in kindergarten through fifth grade

DEGREE PROGRAMS
Master of Social Work (MSW)

The MSW curriculum consists of 60 hours of graduate study, including field internship. The School offers full-time, part-time, distance education, or advanced standing program options. Students with a Bachelor of Social Work may be eligible for the advanced standing program, which consists of 33 hours of graduate study including three required hours taken in the summer term on the main campus. The first year of the program is structured to provide the knowledge, skills, and values required for all social work practice. This includes courses in social work practice, social research methods, social policy, human diversity, human behavior in the social environment, and field instruction. The advanced year provides instruction in advanced direct practice, advanced social policy, program evaluation, 12 hours of electives, and advanced field internship. The field education office places students in an internship in the Baton Rouge area or an agency near the student’s home that will provide a good educational experience in a supervised setting. The period of study cannot exceed four years. No life or work experience can be counted toward degree credit.

Field Education

Professional social work education has a strong tradition of interweaving theory and practice through a field internship program. In addition to classroom studies, students in the MSW program at LSU normally spend about 240 hours each semester in a social service agency. All placements are arranged by the field office within the school. The school has a large number of field placements in a wide variety of settings, including family and children's services, hospitals, counseling centers, mental health...
agencies, community centers, legislative offices, and advocacy groups. The internship program allows students to develop their practice skills and to apply theory and knowledge in real-life settings.

The degree requires successful completion of a thesis or non-thesis option. Sixty hours of credit at the graduate level must be earned including a minimum of six hours of credit for the thesis. Candidates for the MSW degree will be required to pass a final examination during the semester in which they intend to graduate. This examination will consist of either a defense of a thesis or completion of the non-thesis option. The non-thesis option is an integrative and reflective capstone experience composed of three major components, all of which must be satisfactorily completed by students:

- Comprehensive Exam
- Portfolio of Representative Work
- Integrative Seminar

The curricular requirements include:

- Successfully complete at least 60 hours at the graduate level with the exception of advanced standing students, who must complete at least 33 hours at the graduate level;
- A minimum core requirement of 48 credit hours and 12 hours of elective credit;
- Maintain an overall grade point average of 3.00, with no grade less than “C” in any course offered for the degree. No more than six hours of credit received with a grade of “C” can be counted toward the MSW degree; and
- Successfully complete the exit requirement: a thesis or a non-thesis option.

**Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work (Ph.D)**

The PhD in social work is aimed at providing an advanced interdisciplinary degree that will equip graduates for important roles in policy analysis and development, research, and teaching. The period of study for the doctoral degree in social work is typically three to five years, but is not to exceed seven years.

The individualized program of study for each student will be developed in consultation with and approved by the student’s graduate advisory committee. The committee will include the student’s major advisor and at least two additional members of the graduate faculty such that the LSU Graduate School’s requirements of the LSU Graduate School for graduate committees are satisfied.

The degree requires students to:

- Successfully complete 48 semester hours of study, including nine hours of dissertation, which must be completed within seven years from being classified as a doctoral student.
- Spend one academic year (comprised of two consecutive semesters) in residence in full-time study (nine hours).
- Maintain an overall grade point average of 3.00, with no grade less than “C” in any course offered for the degree.

- Demonstrate mastery of a broad major field (i.e., social work) as evidenced by passing the General Exam.
- Satisfactorily complete the exit requirement: the dissertation and the dissertation defense.

The curricular requirements include:

- Successfully complete at least 48 hours of graduate level work maintaining an overall grade point average of 3.00, with no grade less than “C” in any course offered for the degree. No more than six hours of credit received with a grade of “C” can be counted toward the Ph.D. degree.
- A minimum core requirement of 15 credit hours in social work foundation courses, 12 credit hours in research & statistics, 12 hours of interdisciplinary course work and at least 9 hours of dissertation credit.
- The student must pass a general exam consisting of a written exam and oral exam.

Applications for admission are received and evaluated by the department. Application to both the MSW and Ph.D. Programs consists of online application to the LSU Graduate School and supplemental materials to the School of Social Work. Applicants must adhere to the application deadlines established by the Graduate School and the School of Social Work. Students seeking admission must submit satisfactory credentials from previous study, acceptable GRE scores, and three letters of recommendation. International students whose native language is not English must also submit an acceptable TOEFL or IELTS score. When all admission requirements are met, full admission will be granted.

The MSW Program has a deadline date of March 31st and admits students for the fall semester of each year. Admission decisions are based on the applicant’s academic record, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, letter of intent, work and volunteer experience, as well as a personal interview. A genuine interest in people and life experiences is also important qualifications for admission to the school. No academic credit is granted for work or life experiences.

The PhD Program has a priority deadline date of February 1st and admits students for the fall semester of each year. Applications received before February 1 will receive priority in admissions decisions; Applications received between February 1 and May 15 will be considered on a space-available basis; Applications received after May 15 cannot be guaranteed consideration for admission for the fall semester. Admission decisions are based on the applicant's academic record, GRE scores, personal qualifications, and proposed program of study.

For more information on admission to the MSW or PhD program, please visit our Web site at www.socialwork.lsu.edu

Admission to the MSW and PhD programs is granted by the school’s faculty on the basis of the applicant’s undergraduate record and personal qualifications. No academic credit is granted for work or life experiences. Admission requirements and procedures are described in the School of Social Work Bulletin and the Graduate Bulletin. Students enrolled in other divisions of the University who have appropriate standing may register for social work courses numbered below 5000 for which they have the specific prerequisites.

Graduate students in other departments who have the necessary prerequisites may register for social work courses with the permission of the instructor and the associate dean of the school. They may not register for social work practice or field internship courses.

**Undergraduate Minor in Social Work**

The minor in social work provides undergraduate students an opportunity to acquire substantive academic emphasis in social work practice covering the lifespan from children to older adults. Students minor in social work must complete a total of 18 hours.

**Required 9 hours:**

- SW 2000 (3) Introduction to Social Work
- SW 3002 (3) Child & Community
- SW 3003 (3) Skills in Working with People

Select nine hours from the list of electives below:

- SW 3007 Juvenile Delinquency
- SW 3011 Community Services & the Aged
- SW 4003 Penology
- SW 4500 Crisis Intervention
- SW 4070 Special Topics in Social Work

**Undergraduate Minor in Social Work Bulletin**

The minor in social work provides undergraduate students an opportunity to acquire substantive academic emphasis in social work practice covering the lifespan from children to older adults. Students minor in social work must complete a total of 18 hours.

**Required 9 hours:**

- SW 2000 (3) Introduction to Social Work
- SW 3002 (3) Child & Community
- SW 3003 (3) Skills in Working with People

Select nine hours from the list of electives below:

- SW 3007 Juvenile Delinquency
- SW 3011 Community Services & the Aged
- SW 4003 Penology
- SW 4500 Crisis Intervention
- SW 4070 Special Topics in Social Work

**Undergraduate Minor in Social Work Bulletin**

The minor in social work provides undergraduate students an opportunity to acquire substantive academic emphasis in social work practice covering the lifespan from children to older adults. Students minor in social work must complete a total of 18 hours.

**Required 9 hours:**

- SW 2000 (3) Introduction to Social Work
- SW 3002 (3) Child & Community
- SW 3003 (3) Skills in Working with People

Select nine hours from the list of electives below:

- SW 3007 Juvenile Delinquency
- SW 3011 Community Services & the Aged
- SW 4003 Penology
- SW 4500 Crisis Intervention
- SW 4070 Special Topics in Social Work