

About the Bachelor of Social Work

Social Workers have the opportunity to change the lives of individuals and families as well as improve the quality of life in the communities they serve. The Bachelor of Social Work [BSW] at LSU focuses on preparing students for entry-level careers in social service agencies, schools, corrections and criminal justice departments, and the military. In particular, active faculty research projects in addictive disorders, behavioral health, child attachment, child welfare, criminal justice, gerontology, HIV, LGBT studies, poverty, provide our students the unique opportunity to learn about the many social justice challenges in our community and as well as the major social problems in Louisiana and the nation.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS, 2017) expects social work jobs to increase at a rate of 12 percent between 2014 and 2024. **This faster-than-average growth rate indicates positive employment prospects for students in this field.**

The BSW major courses build upon a general liberal arts foundation obtained during the first two years at the university. These general education courses prepare students for the two years of concentrated courses that teach professional competencies delineated by the Council of Social Work Education. One of the strengths of the Bachelor of Social Work degree is the 480 hours of fieldwork required during the last semester of study. This practice based educational approach offers the student the opportunity to transfer knowledge gained in the classroom to skills working with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. The LSU School of Social Work has good relationships with hundreds of community agencies where students work under the supervision of a licensed social worker.

BSW ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The student must be admissible to the College of Human Sciences & Education [CHSE] as follows...

Have earned at least 24 semester hours

Have a cumulative and LSU GPA of 2.5 or higher

Have completed English 1001, Math 1021, and Social Work 2000 with a C or better

BSW APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants must submit a BSW application to the College of Human Sciences & Education in 236 Peabody Hall. Applications may be found at lsu.edu/bsw and also at lsu.edu/chse/applications. Applicants must include a letter of recommendation from a faculty member or academic counselor/advisor. **Priority admission is February 2018. Professional classes in the School of Social Work start in the Fall of 2018.**

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-17 Edition, Social Workers, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/social-workers.htm> (visited October 19, 2017).

The following courses in other departments are required to obtain a BSW.

BIOL 1001 General Biology1 [3]
General Education course Physical Sciences [3]
Second General Education course in Natural Sciences or Life Science [3]
CMST 1061 Fundamentals of Communication [3] OR
CMST 2040 Introduction to Performing Literature [3]
OR CMST 2060 Public Speaking [3]
ENGL 1001 English Composition [3]
ENGL 2000 English Composition [3]
ENGL 2012 Practical Grammar and Usage [3] OR
ENGL 2002 Business Writing [3] OR ENGL 3003
Technical Writing for Nontechnical Majors [3] OR
ENGL 3101 Legal Writing [3]
General Education Arts [3]
General Education Foreign Language Sequence [8]
EXST 2201 Introduction to Statistical Analysis [4]
Humanities [3]
MATH 1021 College Algebra [3]
PHIL 1021 Introduction to Logic [3]
ECON 2030 Economic Principles [3] OR AGECE 2003
Introduction to Agricultural Economics [3]
POLI 2051 American Government [3] OR POLI 2070
Public Policy Making: An Introduction [3]
PSYC 2000 Introduction to Psychology [3] OR PSYC
2040 Social Psychology [3]
SOCL 2001 Introductory Sociology [3]
Electives [21]

The following courses are Social Work major courses.

SW 2000 Introduction to Social Work [3]
SW 3001 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I [3]
SW 3008 Human Behavior and the Social Environment II [3]
SW 3004 Diversity [3]
SW 3005 Practice with Individuals & Families [3]
SW 3006 Practice with Groups [3]
SW 4007 Practice with Organizations and Communities [3]
SW 3103 Social Work History and Policy [3]
SW 4009 Research Methods [3]
SW Elective [3]
SW 4100 Field Internship [9]
SW 4200 Integrative Seminar [3]

For Gen. Ed. Natural Sciences, both physical and life sciences must be taken: 6 hours in a physical/life sciences sequence; 3 hours in an area [physical/life] not previously selected. This major requires students to take BIOL 1001.