Social Work, B.A.

DEPARTMENT

BA in Social Work, B.A.
MSW in Social Work, M.S.W.
CRED in Pupil Personnel Services - School Social Work and Child Welfare and Attendance, Credential
CRED in Pupil Personnel Services - School Social Work, Credential

REQUIREMENTS

Department

The Bachelor of Arts Program

The bachelor's degree program prepares students to enter supervised professional social work practice and/or pursue admission to a range of graduate study programs and professional schools. This includes graduate study in social work leading to a master's in social work.

The bachelor's degree program in social work is a sequenced program that requires four consecutive semesters to complete. All prerequisites must be completed prior to entry into the social work program. A cohort of social work students begins the program in the fall semester of an academic year. No social work students are permitted to begin the program in the spring semester. Students majoring in social work must complete the following prerequisites, including successful application/admission, before being permitted to enroll in restricted and sequenced 100-level social work courses. Students who begin at Fresno State as freshman will enter the major after demonstrating competence and fit through success in the pre-health major. The application date for native students and transfer students will be available on the Department of Social Work Education website.

a. Complete all lower-division General Education courses.
b. Earn a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.7.
c. Formally apply for upper-division social work major status.
d. The following eight prerequisite courses must be completed:
   - G.E. Area A1 (COMM 3, 7, or 8) (3 units)
   - G.E. Area A2 (ENGL 10/ENGL 5B) (3 units)
   - G.E. Area A3* Critical Thinking (3 units)
   - G.E. Area B4* Quantitative Reasoning (3 units)
   - G.E. Area D2 American Government (PLSI 2) (3 units)
   - G.E. Area D3 Social Science (ECON 25, 40 or 50) (3 units)
   - G.E. Area E Life-long Understanding (PH 90) (3 units)
   - SWRK 20 (3 units)
Total (24 units)
* See lower-division General Education list for university approved courses. Each prerequisite must be completed with a minimum C grade. CR/NC grades are not acceptable. A GPA of 2.7 or above is required in the eight prerequisite courses.

Students may enroll in upper-division social work major status in the Social Work Education Department office upon successful completion of the above prerequisite requirements. Eligibility for enrollment will be contingent upon satisfactory fulfillment of these requirements.

Social Work, B.A. Requirements

1. Major requirements (42 units)
   - SWRK 20, 123, 135, 136, 160, 161 (or 161S), 170, 171, 180, 181I, 182I, 183
Note: Students must attain a minimum grade of C in each required course in social work major. Students who receive a grade of less than C in any of the above courses must meet with their Social Work Education academic advisor and develop a plan for repeating the course and continuing the major. Refer to the Undergraduate Advising Booklet for complete information on policies. See Advising Notes.
Additional requirements (18 units)
May also count toward General Education

- Select one: GERON 100, 103; PHIL 1, 20 (3 units)
- Select one: GERON 134, 139; PHIL 120, 131, 150 (3 units)
- Approved upper-division electives (see list in department office) (9 units)
  Cultural Diversity Ethnic Studies including Africana Studies and American Indian Studies; Chicano and Latin American Studies, Asian American Studies, or Women's Studies (3 units)
  Six units from two of the following areas: Anthropology, Criminology, Psychology, or Sociology (6 units)
- Select three units from the following: SWRK 124, 125, 128, 129, 137, or 152 (3 units)

2. General Education requirements (49 units)

3. Other requirements (6 units)
   Upper-division writing and Multicultural and International (MI)

4. Sufficient elective units to meet required total units (varies)
   (See Degree Requirements); may include a double major or minor

5. Total units (120)*
   * G.E. and MI courses can be double-counted with major requirements. The writing requirement may be met by taking the upper-division writing exam. See advisor for details.

Advising Notes

1. Foundational social work major courses must be taken in the sequence specified below:
   Junior year (semester 1): SWRK 123, 135, and 160
   Junior year (semester 2): SWRK 136, 161/161S, and 170
   Senior year (semester 1): SWRK 171, 180, 181I
   Senior year (semester 2): SWRK 182I, 183, and SWRK elective
2. Approved course listings are available in the department office and on the Web. Consult your faculty advisor for assistance in selecting a pattern of courses to fit your particular interests and goals.
3. CR/NC grading is not permitted in the social work major with the exception of SWRK 181I and 182I.
4. General Education, additional requirements, and elective units may be used toward a double major or minor (see Double Major or departmental minor). Consult the appropriate department chair, program coordinator, or faculty advisor for further information.
5. Senior year internships are arranged by the field coordinator. Applications must be filed and interviews with the field coordinator and interviews for agency selection must be completed in the semester prior to entering the field.
6. Students who have prior knowledge of Spanish or Southeast Asian languages but lack fluency are encouraged to take additional coursework in the languages.
7. A booklet describing the program more fully is available in the department office and on the Web.

FACULTY

The faculty members of the department represent a wide spectrum of theoretical orientations and approaches to professional social work practice. All have substantive practice experience and many engage in active research programs and social policy interests. In addition to the on-campus facilities of the university, the department uses the San Joaquin Valley’s unique urban-rural configuration of people, social-political institutions, and the accompanying host of social service needs as the setting for field internships.

Numerous public and private social service agencies in our region make their facilities and professional social work staff available for the internship requirements of the programs. Internship experiences are available in the schools, healthcare settings, behavioral health, probation, and social services departments in the counties of Fresno, Kings, Madera, Tulare, and San Luis Obispo. A representative sample of settings include Community Regional Medical Centers of Central California, Valley Children’s Hospital, Fresno Unified School District, Focus Forward, and Kings County Human Services Agency.

For more on the faculty, see the faculty pages.

The faculty pages are updated by the department or program.