

Social Work Education

The Field of Social Work

Social work is a profession committed to enhancing, promoting, and improving the well-being of individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers are committed to social justice, consumer empowerment, and cultural awareness in working with diverse people and groups. Social workers are found in a broad range of public and private settings, including physical and mental health, child welfare, corrections, alcohol and drug abuse, and social welfare services and programs.

The Program

The bachelor's degree program prepares students to enter supervised professional social work practice and/or pursue admission to a range of graduate and professional schools, including graduate study in social work leading to a master's in social work. Both the bachelor's and master's degree programs are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

The faculty members of the Department of Social Work Education represent a wide variety of theoretical orientations and approaches to professional practice. All have substantive practical experience and research and/or public service interests. Several public and private social service agencies in the San Joaquin Valley have

made their facilities and staffs available for field internships in the department's program.

Career Opportunities

Social work job opportunities are increasing, especially in the areas of child welfare, mental health, substance abuse programs, and services for the elderly.

Graduates from the bachelor's degree program find employment in a variety of public and private human services agencies. They may work in programs that deal with poverty, mental and physical health needs, social rehabilitation, human resources development, and services to people with disabilities.

Future Education

Although students who earn a B.A. in social work may pursue graduate education in a number of fields, the B.A. in social work provides a good foundation for pursuing the master's degree in social work. The master's degree, coupled with supervised, post-graduate clinical experience, qualifies social workers to take the Licensed Clinical Social Worker Examination. A doctoral degree is usually required to teach at the college or university level; doctoral degrees can be earned in social work and social welfare.

General Preparation

The skills and characteristics needed for success in the social work major are academic aptitude, proficiency in writing, good interpersonal relationship skills, and the ability to work with people from many diverse backgrounds in a broad array of settings.

High School Preparation

Students should meet California State University's admission requirements in terms of college preparatory course requirements, grade point average, and test scores. Early development of good study habits is essential. Paid or volunteer work experience in a human service agency would be beneficial.

College Program

Students should consult the university's *General Catalog* for specific major and university requirements. Community college transfers should consult their catalogs to ensure that courses taken are CSU transferable (baccalaureate level). Additional information regarding courses that can transfer to California State University, Fresno may be found at www.assist.org.

**California State
University, Fresno**

**Department of
Social Work
Education**

559.278.3992

**B.A. in
Social Work**

**For M.S.W. program,
see Division of
Graduate Studies**

FRESNO STATE

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Social Work Education

General Education

Students should plan on completing all of the Fresno State lower-division General Education requirements during their freshman and sophomore years, whether they are attending Fresno State or a community college. Community colleges can certify up to 39 of the units required in Fresno State's General Education requirements. Students should consult the university's *General Catalog* for specific courses.

Course Requirements

The social work major is a sequenced program that requires four consecutive semesters to complete. Prerequisites for entering the sequence include completion of pre-social work major with a GPA of 2.7 or above, completion of all lower-division General Education courses, and a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or above.

Since program changes may occur, students should consult the *General Catalog* and a Fresno State adviser prior to registering for courses.

Lower Division

Freshman-Sophomore level courses
(may be taken at a community college)

Introduction to Social Work
(SWRK 20)

Principles of Economics

Health Education (Equivalent to PH 90)

Upper Division

Junior-Senior level courses
(to be taken at Fresno State)

Cultural Diversity and Oppression

Data Analysis and Presentation

Field Instruction

Human Behavior and the Social Environment

Quantitative and Qualitative Research

Social Work Practice I

Social Work Practice II

Macro Practice

Micro Practice

Social Welfare Policies and Programs

Social Work Elective

Upper-Division Electives

Anthropology

Chicano and Latin American Studies

Criminology

Gerontology

Philosophy

Psychology

Sociology

Ethnic Studies

Women's Studies

For additional information, visit

www.csufresno.edu/socialwork

California State University, Fresno Department of Social Work Education

5310 North Campus Drive

M/S PH102

Fresno, California

93740-8019

Visit or call

Department of Social Work Education

Professional Human

Services Building,

Room 128

559.278.3992



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PLEASE NOTE: This document is for general informational purposes only. The information is subject to change; consult the appropriate department or an academic adviser. Entering freshmen must follow the revised General Education program effective fall 1999 and thereafter. The university catalog and schedule of courses are available online at www.fresnostate.edu/ClassSchedule and www.fresnostate.edu/catalog.

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