

Social Workers

- Fight the effects of poverty
- Heal relationships
- Unite families
- Erase suffering
- Advocate and empower

The Bachelor of Social Work

The BSW program at Governors State University instills a unique and empowering philosophy in its students.

Our program is dedicated to the idea that social justice and human rights go hand-in-hand. Our curriculum is dedicated to the idea that the citizens of our communities – those who are vulnerable and marginalized – deserve the care and dignity they need for full and fulfilling lives.

Comprehensive Curriculum

In the BSW program, you'll learn about and understand substance abuse, human behavior and urban environments. You'll discover the legal aspects of Social Work and you'll explore the boundaries and ethics of the profession. You'll gain the insight you need to work with children, families and individuals who may be facing the most critical crises in their lives.

We also offer child welfare electives for students who are motivated to improve the welfare of children.

Full Accredited

The BSW program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

How to Apply

Apply through the Governors State University Admission at www.govst.edu/apply.
For information, call 708.534.4490.

To talk to a representative of the BSW program, call 708.235.3997.

To learn more, visit www.govst.edu/chhs/bsw.

Fact

Overall employment of social workers is projected to grow 7% from 2022 to 2032, faster than the average for all occupations. About 63,800 openings for social workers are projected each year, on average, over the decade.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2024 Edition, <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/social-workers.htm>



Bachelor of Social Work

College of Health & Human Services

Special Admission Requirements

In addition to meeting university admissions criteria, applicants must:

- Have obtained a minimum of 2.25 G.P.A. for the last 60 hours;
- Submit two completed recommendation forms, at least one of which must be from a current or former college instructor. Recommendation forms are available in the Admissions Office and on the website at www.govst.edu/uploadedFiles/Apply/Supplemental/SOCW/BSW_LRecForm.pdf;
- Interview with BSW faculty; and following the interview,
- Write and submit a personal statement in accordance with a prescribed format which will be provided at the interview.

Degree Requirements

Students must meet all university requirements for a bachelor's degree. In addition, students must:

- Take at least two courses a term. Special circumstances require program approval;
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher; and earn a grade of "C" or better in all courses;
- All undergraduate social work courses for which a student receives a grade lower than a "C" may be repeated a maximum of two times.

Liberal Arts Requirements (37 Hours)

The following courses must be taken to meet major and general education requirements; they may be taken at the lower division level:

American (or other) Literature Course (IAI H3 914 or 915) (3)
Logic or Critical Thinking (IAI H4 906) (3)
U.S. National Government (IAI S5 900) (3)
Cultural Anthropology (IAI S1 901N) (3)
Introduction or General Psychology (IAI S6 900) (3)
Human Biology (IAI L1 904 or 904L) (4) or General Education Biology and lab and a Human Development or Human Sexuality Course
Statistics (IAI M1 902) (3)
Sociology (3)
Macroeconomics (3)

Required Courses (45 Hours)

The following courses can be taken at either the lower or upper-division level:

SOCW 2100 Introduction to Social Work (3)
Addictions Course on lower or upper division or ADDS 3200, 4105, 4180 or 5100 at GSU (3)

The following courses must be taken at the upper-division level:

SOCW 3100 Social Welfare Policy I (3)

SOCW 3200 Interviewing Skills (3)
SOCW 3300 Diversity and Social Justice (3)
SOCW 3400 Human Behavior in the Social Environment I (3)
SOCW 3500 Human Behavior in the Social Environment II (3)
SOCW 3600 Generalist Social Work Practice I (3)
SOCW 3700 Generalist Social Work Practice II (3)
SOCW 4200 Social Welfare Policy II (3)
SOCW 4300 Social Work Research (3)
SOCW 4500 Field Practicum I (3)
SOCW 4501 Field Integrative Seminar I (3)
SOCW 4600 Field Practicum II (3)
SOCW 4601 Field Integrative Seminar II (3)

Upper-Division and Social Work Selectives (15 Hours)

Select 15 hours from among the following courses or other courses that support student interests, with approval of advisor:

SOCW 3101 Interprofessional Teamwork in Health and Human Services (3)
SOCW 3102 Children and Families: Problems, Issues and Services (3)
SOCW 3103 Aging: Policies, Problems and Services (3)
SOCW 4100 Social Work and the Law (3)
SOCW 4101 Urban Dynamics (3)
SOCW 4102 Child Welfare Practice: Knowledge, Skills and Values (3)
SOCW 4103 Management and Supervision in the Human Services (3)
SOCW 4104 Social Work in Health Care (3)
SOCW 5000 Topics in Social Work (1-3)

Child Welfare Selectives

Students interested in generalist practice in the field of child welfare have an opportunity to select a particular cluster of courses. To complete the cluster of child welfare courses, BSW majors must include these courses in their study plan, which is developed in consultation with the faculty advisor.

For students interested in child welfare-based generalist practice, the following courses must be completed:

SOCW 3102 Children and Families: Problems, Issues and Services* (3)
SOCW 4102 Child Welfare Practice: Knowledge, Skills and Values (3)

*SOCW 3102 is a prerequisite for SOCW 4102.

Electives (17 Hours) may be taken at the lower and/or upper division level.

Total – 120 Hours

