

Bachelor of Social Work



Governors State
UNIVERSITY

**College of Health and
Human Services**

Bachelor of Social Work

The BSW program at Governors State University equips students with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to create meaningful change in individuals, families, and communities. Rooted in the principles of social justice and human rights, our program prepares graduates to advocate for and support historically underrepresented people.

A BSW from GovState provides the foundation for a career in social work, offering graduates the opportunity to become a Licensed Social Worker (LSW) in Illinois. With an LSW, social workers can:

- Provide case management services to individuals and families
- Support mental health and substance use treatment in clinical and community settings
- Advocate for social policies that promote equity and inclusion
- Work in hospitals, nonprofits, and government agencies to connect people with essential services
- Address housing insecurity, food access, and economic challenges
- Promote child welfare and family stabilization
- Assist older adults and individuals with disabilities in healthcare and long-term care settings

With a BSW, graduates are also well-prepared for advanced standing in Master of Social Work (MSW) programs, leading to further career opportunities, including clinical licensure (LCSW).

Comprehensive Curriculum

In the BSW program, you'll develop a deep understanding of human behavior, social systems, and the challenges faced by diverse populations. Our curriculum emphasizes

trauma-informed care, healthcare, aging, children and families, domestic violence, forensic social work, and social service leadership. You'll explore ethics, professional boundaries, and advocacy strategies that prepare you to support individuals and communities in crisis.

We also offer a three-course sequence for students motivated to work in the child welfare field. This sequence is designed to prepare students for the Child Welfare Employee License (CWEL), a requirement for employment with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS).

Fully Accredited

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

How to Apply

Apply through the Governors State University Admission at www.govst.edu/apply for freshman or transfer students. For information, call 708.534.4490.

FACT

Social work is one of the fastest growing careers in the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics. There were more than 700,000 social work jobs in 2018. The profession is expected to grow by 11 percent by 2028.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition, Social Workers on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/.../mobile/social-workers.htm> (Visited August 5, 2021)

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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 or employment supervisor. Recommendation forms are available in the Admissions Office and on the website at https://www.govst.edu/uploadedFiles/Academics/Colleges_and_Programs/CHHS/Departments/Social_Work/gsu/BSW%20Letter%20of%20Rec%20Form.pdf

Once admitted, students will meet with the BSW Program Coordinator to create their unique Plan of Study.

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 (43 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 (47 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 3000 Professionalism in Social Work (2)(Beginning Fall 2022)
- SOCW 3099 Diversity and Social Justice (3)
- SOCW 3100 Social Welfare Policy I (3)
- SOCW 3200 Interviewing Skills (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 3104 Forensic Social Work (3)
- SOCW 4000 Topics in Social Work (1-3)
- SOCW 4101 Urban Dynamics (3)
- SOCW 4103 Management and Supervision in the Human Services (3)
- SOCW 4104 Social Work in Health Care (3)

Child Welfare

Employee Licensure (CWEL) Sequence:

- 3102 Children and Families: Problems, Issues and Services* (3)

Child Welfare Certification:

Through a partnership between GovState's Social Work Department and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS), students can earn the Child Welfare Employee Licensure while receiving credit toward their degree. The required course sequence is:

- SOCW 3102– Children and Families: Problems, Issues, and Services (Spring only)
- SOCW 4000 – Child Welfare Licensure I (CWEL I) (Fall only)
- SOCW 4000 – Child Welfare Licensure II (CWEL II) (Spring only)

Electives (15 Hours) may be taken at the lower and/or upper division level.

Total – 120 Hours