Nebraska Wesleyan University

Social Work (Undergraduate)

Catalog

2024-2025

About the Program

For the Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work, students are required to complete all courses listed for the major. Students desiring the Bachelor of Arts degree in social work will need to complete a minimum of 15 hours of a modern foreign language (Spanish is highly recommended) in addition to the required courses.

The mission of the Undergraduate Social Work Program at Nebraska Wesleyan University is to prepare students for competent generalist social work practice with a commitment to creating critical thinkers who are able to promote social justice and human well-being for diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

Provisional Admission to the social work program may be made by contacting the program director. Provisional admission requires:

- enrollment in SOCWK 1150 Introduction to Social Work,
- a minimum grade point average of 2.50 overall, and
- completion of a provisional admission application.

Declaration of a social work major and provisional admission to the program does not guarantee acceptance into Full Admission status. Only those accepted for Full Admission status may continue on in the program.

Full Admission status requires:

- a grade of “C+” or better in foundation-level social work courses (SOCWK 1150, SOCWK 2200, SOCWK 2270, SOCWK 2280),
- completion of a Full Admission application, and
- interview before the Social Work Executive Council. Full Admission interviews are conducted in October and March of each year.

A **Pre-Field Placement Consultation** is required before students may enroll in SOCWK 4970 Field Practicum. Prerequisites for the Pre-Field Placement Consultation are:

- SOCWK 3080 Micro Practice completed with a grade of "B-" or better
- SOCWK 3090 Group Practice or SOCWK 3100 Macro Practice completed with a grade of “B-” or better.
- a minimum 2.67 overall grade point average
- completion of a minimum of 60 approved volunteer/ shadowing hours prior to the consultation.

The social work program at Nebraska Wesleyan University complies with the standards of and is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (C.S.W.E.).

Council on Social Work Education
1725 Duke Street, Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314-3457
info@cswe.org
www.cswe.org

Majors, Minors & Degrees

Majors

1. Social Work (B.A.)
2. Social Work (B.S.)

Courses

SOCWK 1150 Introduction to Social Work

3 hours

Survey of the field of professional social work, including the roles, philosophy, values, skills, and knowledge base needed. Areas of practice and career expectations are explained.
(Normally offered each fall semester.)

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Diversity Instructive: Global
Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Diversity Instructive: U.S.
Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Gender and Sexuality Thread
Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Identity Thread
Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Power Thread
Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Experiential Learning: Exploratory

SOCWK 1200 Life Lessons

3 hours

The purpose of the course is to assist students in discovering and strengthening personal and professional identities around: shame and vulnerability; healthy relationships and boundary setting; wholehearted living including courage, compassion, and connection; loss and grief; mindfulness; exploring passion to help understand purpose; and joyful living.

This course focuses on the work of Dr. Brene Brown centered on courage, compassion, and connection; and how to be deliberate in thoughts and behaviors, how to be inspired to make new and different choices, and incorporating vulnerability into everyday living. It will also distinguish death from tangible and intangible losses, and define types of grief and how to move through toward healing. Conversations about healthy relationships and boundary setting will be included, while discussions of strengths, resiliency, and happiness will occur throughout the course. Finally, the work of Dr. Elisha Goldstein and his strategies to mindful moments and living will be addressed and implemented.

Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Identity Thread

SOCWK 1900 Selected Topics

1-4 hours

A topical course designed to investigate relevant subject matter not included in any standard courses. The title and the content will be determined by current mutual interests of students and faculty. This course may be offered to meet a requirement for a major only by approval of the department chair.

SOCWK 1950 Independent Study

1-4 hours

This is a research course. The student initially meets with the department chair to select a study topic and review research methods. At this time the student will be assigned a faculty resource person to guide his or her work and assist in an advisory capacity. A copy of the student's work is filed in the archives for the department. Independent Study may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department chair.

SOCWK 1960 Special Projects

1-15 hours

Supervised individual projects for students on topics selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.

SOCWK 1970 Internship

1-8 hours

This course allows students to participate at a meaningful level in an internship with a public official, political figure, public agency, campaign or interest group and to use that experience as the basis for an academic paper.
Pass/Fail only.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department chair.

SOCWK 2200 Social Welfare Policy, Services, and Delivery Systems

3 hours

This course studies the historical development of social welfare policies, services, and institutions and addresses contemporary policy and service delivery. The social, political, and value systems that create policies are studied. A systems perspective focuses on the relationship between policy, services, and institutions at the local, state, and federal levels. International perspectives on social policy are discussed for comparative purposes. Primary areas of focus are public welfare, aging, and mental health. Policy implementation and change are discussed.
(Normally offered each spring semester.)

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Discourse Instructive
Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Power Thread

SOCWK 2270 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I

3 hours

A course to synthesize and examine the body of knowledge concerning how the individual, group, family, and community systems interrelate with each other and the larger social context from the lifespan stages of birth through adolescence. Content will be drawn from the biological, psychological, sociological, eco-political, and cultural-environmental systems. The importance of professional ethics in the assessment process is also examined.
(Normally offered each fall semester.)

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Diversity Instructive: U.S.
Archway Curriculum: Foundational Literacies: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – U.S.

SOCWK 2280 Human Behavior and the Social Environment II

3 hours

A course to synthesize and examine the body of knowledge concerning how the individual, group, family, and community systems interrelate with each other and the larger social context from the lifespan stages of early adulthood through aging and death. Content will be drawn from the biological, psychological, sociological, eco-political, and cultural-environmental systems. The importance of professional ethics in the assessment process is also examined.
(Normally offered each spring semester.)

SOCWK 2350 Family Violence Across the Lifespan

3 hours

This course will expose students to the various types of violence experienced by individuals and families across their lifespan. An introduction to various theories used in working with survivors of abuse will be presented and students will learn about bruises and fractures associated with child abuse. The influence of societal "isms", culture, gender, and sexual orientation related to violence will be incorporated into the material being discussed.
Cross listed with GEND 2350.
(Normally offered each spring semester.)

Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Gender and Sexuality Thread

SOCWK 2410 Loss, Death and Grief

3 hours

This course will focus on helping participants identify the numerous losses suffered in their own lives and in the lives of others. We will address the relevant methods, theories and skill base needed to provide social work intervention to the bereaved. The assessment of grief reactions and social work roles and tasks in facilitating mourning will be presented. The concepts of companioning and hospice care will be addressed. Finally, students will increase their competency with death and demonstrate increased sensitivity, awareness, and skills in coping with grief and death.

Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Human Health and Disease Thread

SOCWK 2900 Selected Topics

3 hours

A course designed to treat subject matter not covered in other departmental courses or to provide study of subject matter introduced in other courses. The title, content, and credit hours will be determined by current mutual interests of faculty and students.

SOCWK 2950 Independent Study

1-4 hours

This is a research course. The student initially meets with the department chair to select a study topic and review research methods. At this time the student will be assigned a faculty resource person to guide his or her work and assist in an advisory capacity. A copy of the student's work is filed in the archives for the department. Independent Study may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department chair.

SOCWK 2960 Special Projects

1-15 hours

Supervised individual projects for students on topics selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.

SOCWK 2970 Internship

1-8 hours

This course allows students to participate at a meaningful level in an internship with a public official, political figure, public agency, campaign or interest group and to use that experience as the basis for an academic paper.
Pass/Fail only.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department chair.

SOCWK 3080 Micro Practice

3 hours

Emphasis on social work theory and practice skills. Study of communication patterns, empathic response and assessment of client situations. Experiential learning through role playing, observation, and discussion.
Prerequisite(s): SOCWK 1150 Introduction to Social Work and declared Social Work major.
(Normally offered each fall semester.)

SOCWK 3090 Group Practice

3 hours

This course provides an understanding of the theoretical underpinnings as well as the practical applications of group work as a vehicle for social work. It also explores how and why groups function and develop skills and techniques of membership and

leadership.
Prerequisite(s): SOCWK 1150 Introduction to Social Work and full admission to the social work program, or permission of the social work program director. (Normally offered each spring semester.)

SOCWK 3100 Macro Practice

3 hours

An introductory course to the administration and planning of social service organizations. Major emphasis upon community, organization, and legislative analysis; management skills; program planning; and evaluation. A practice-oriented course including simulations, in-class projects, volunteer experience, and personal introspection.
Prerequisite(s): SOCWK 1150 Introduction to Social Work and SOCWK 2200 Social Welfare Policy, Services, and Delivery Systems and full admission to social work program, or permission of the social work program director.
(Normally offered each spring semester.)

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Speaking Instructive
Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Writing Instructive

SOCWK 3250 Strengths Perspective Practice

3 hours

This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of strengths perspective theory, assessment, and intervention with individuals, families, and communities. Students are also introduced to concepts from related solution-oriented intervention approaches. Strategies and techniques for structuring the helping process in a way that maximizes client self-determination and the probability of successful goal attainments will be emphasized.
Prerequisite(s): SOCWK 1150 Introduction to Social Work and junior standing or permission of the social work program director.
(Normally offered alternate years.)

SOCWK 3350 Young Children and Trauma

3 hours

This course will study the importance of understanding the experience of children who are exposed to conditions that cause psychological trauma. The course will cover early childhood relationships, beginning with an overview of learning about the pioneers of the field and their contributions to our current understanding of trauma and its effects on children. Students will be provided with information on attachment theory, trauma theory, and a general discussion of trauma and its effects on neurological development in children. The course will also provide an understanding of how to intervene on behalf of traumatized children as a generalist social work practitioner.
Prerequisite(s): SOCWK 1150 Introduction to Social Work.

SOCWK 3450 Social Work in Health Care

3 hours

The course surveys the field of social work in the health care arena. A generalist social work perspective will be used to address the social work roles of assessment, intervention, advocacy, and policy analysis in the health care environment. Social work roles at the individual, group, and organizational/community levels will be addressed.
Prerequisite(s): SOCWK 1150 Introduction to Social Work and junior standing or permission of the social work program director.
(Normally offered alternate years.)

Archway Curriculum: Integrative Core: Human Health and Disease Thread

SOCWK 3900 Selected Topics

3 hours

A topical course designed to investigate relevant subject matter not included in any of the standard courses. The title and content will be determined by current mutual interests of students and faculty. This course may be offered to meet a requirement for a major only by approval of the department chair.

SOCWK 3910 Independent Advanced Readings

1-6 hours

Intensive readings in the discipline.

SOCWK 3930 Field Studies: Native American Life

3 hours

An opportunity for students to learn from direct experience and personal interaction guided by lectures in the field and selected readings. Students will be guided to formulate and carry out specific research and/or establish constructive relationships with the subjects.
Prerequisite(s): SOC 1110 Introduction to Sociology and ANTHR 1150 Cultural Anthropology or approval of the instructor.
Cross-listed with ANTHR-3930

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Diversity Instructive: U.S.
Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Experiential Learning: Intensive

SOCWK 3950 Independent Study

1-3 hours

See department for course description.

SOCWK 3960 Special Projects

1-3 hours

Supervised individual projects in conjunction with departmental research, community services and student interest. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
Prerequisite(s): Approval of the social work program director.

SOCWK 3970 Internship

1-8 hours

This course allows students to participate at a meaningful level in an internship with a public official, political figure, public agency, campaign or interest group and to use that experience as the basis for an academic paper.
Pass/Fail only.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department chair.

SOCWK 4650 Research Informed Practice

3 hours

An introduction and overview of research methods used in generalist social work practice. Course content includes both quantitative and qualitative methods and emphasizes critiquing research, program evaluation, methods of data collection and analysis, single-subject design, ethical considerations, and the application of evidence-based practice to improve policy and social service delivery.
Prerequisite(s): Junior standing, SOCWK 1150 Introduction to Social Work, full admission to social work program, and one of the following Statistics courses: SOC 2910 Social Statistics or PSYCH 2100 Psychological Statistics or ECON 2100/ BUSAD 2100 Business and Economic Statistics or MATH 1300 Statistics.
(Normally offered each semester.)

Archway Curriculum: Essential Connections: Writing Instructive

SOCWK 4900 Selected Topics

1-4 hours

A topical course designed to investigate relevant subject matter not included in any standard courses. The title and the content will be determined by current mutual interests of students and faculty. This course may be offered to meet a requirement for a major only by approval of the department chair.

SOCWK 4910 Directed Readings

1-6 hours

An opportunity for students, under the supervision of a faculty member, to pursue study of literature not covered in other coursework.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.

SOCWK 4950 Independent Study

2-4 hours

This is a research course. The student initially meets with the department chair to select a study topic and review research methods. At this time the student will be assigned a faculty resource person to guide his or her work and assist in an advisory capacity. A copy of the student's work is filed in the archives for the department. Independent study may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
Prerequisite(s): Senior standing or permission of the department chair.

SOCWK 4960 Special Projects

1-15 hours

Supervised individual projects for students on topics selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.

SOCWK 4970 Field Practicum

1-12 hours

Supervised learning experiences in selected social work agencies. The experience introduces a variety of social work practice roles and enables the student to apply social work knowledge, skills, and values in a real practice situation. May be taken as block placement for 9 credit hours or as a concurrent placement over two semesters for a total of 9 credit hours.
Prerequisite(s): SOCWK 3080 Micro Practice, SOCWK 3090 Group Practice, SOCWK 3100 Macro Practice, and SOCWK 4650 Research Informed Practice with grades of "B-" or better, and approved Pre-Field Placement Consultation.

SOCWK 4980 Senior Seminar

0-4 hours

A research seminar in which students conducting their research to satisfy the senior comprehensive requirement meet regularly to share insights, progress, and problems encountered along the way.

SOCWK 4990 Senior Project

0-4 hours

Independent field research for all majors.