

SOCIAL WORK

Program Description

Social Work is a profession dedicated to social and economic justice through a commitment to anti-oppressive and anti-racist practice. Social workers focus primarily on the needs and empowerment of vulnerable, oppressed, and those living in poverty. Social workers help people overcome some of life's most difficult challenges: poverty, discrimination, abuse, addiction, physical illness, divorce, educational problems, disability, and mental illness. Social workers who graduate from a generalist Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program gain the education and training to work with individuals, families, communities and organization across the micro, mezzo, and macro levels of intervention. The CMU BSW program is fully accredited by the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE).

The practice of social work requires knowledge of human development and behavior; of social, economic, and cultural institutions, and of the interaction of all these factors as well as skills in developing relationships, assessing needs and services while facilitating change. Social workers seek to strengthen relationships among people to promote, restore, maintain, and enhance the well-being of individuals, families, social groups, organizations, and communities (<http://www.socialworkers.org/>).

All CMU baccalaureate graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in specialized knowledge/applied learning, quantitative fluency, communication fluency, critical thinking, personal and social responsibility, and information literacy. In addition to these campus-wide student learning outcomes, graduates of this major will be able to:

- a. Demonstrate proficiency in utilizing the social work professions 9 core competencies and 20 practice behaviors through a senior-year practicum in a social service agency in our community (Specialized Knowledge/Applied Learning).
- b. Demonstrate the ability to use practice informed research and practice the use of the scientific method to develop research informed practice in academic assignments and at practicum (Quantitative Fluency).
- c. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication in working with individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities and colleagues through practicum, required classes, and oral presentations (Communication Fluency).
- d. Demonstrate critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments through distinguishing, appraising, and integrating multiple sources of knowledge; and through analyzing models of assessment, prevention, intervention, and evaluation (Critical Thinking),
- e. Engage with anti-racism, diversity, equity and inclusion (ADEI) in social work classes and practicum; Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior in classes, with peers, and in practicum by adhering to the NASW Code of Ethics (Personal and Social responsibility).
- f. Demonstrate effective skills in evaluating information and applying the information to specific purposes; demonstrate ethical use of social media and technology in the classroom, in assignments, and in practicum (Information literacy).

Contact Information

Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Houston Hall
970.248.1696

Programs of Study Bachelors/Minors

- [Social Work \(BSW\)](#)
- [Social Work \(Minor\)](#)

Graduate

- [Social Work: Advanced Standing \(MSW\)](#)
- [Social Work: Foundation \(MSW\)](#)