

SOCIAL WORK

Program Description

Social work is a profession dedicated to social and economic justice. Social workers focus primarily on the needs and empowerment of vulnerable, oppressed, at-risk populations, and those living in poverty.

The CMU BSW Program Mission is: "To educate students as generalist social work practitioners who embrace the mission and core values of the social work profession, including issues of diversity, service, the dignity and worth of all people, and social and economic justice."

Program Goals

The Social Work program will:

- Educate students as generalist social work practitioners with knowledge and understanding of the ecological perspective, the strengths perspective, the empowerment approach, and solid problem solving and case management skills.
- Assist students in viewing complex human and social issues from a multi-dimensional, multi-level approach involving micro-, mezzo-, and macro-level interventions.
- Provide opportunities for the application of the social work mission and core values of service, the dignity and worth of all people, the importance of human relationships, integrity, competency, and social and economic justice.
- Maintain high professional standards and knowledge of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics.
- Help students strengthen the relationship between theory and practice by engaging them in various service learning projects, leadership development, strong field education placements, and involvement in the social work club.

Professional social workers are found in every facet of community life—in schools, hospitals, mental health clinics, senior centers, elected office, private practices, prisons, military, corporations, and in numerous public and private agencies that serve individuals and families in need.

Special Requirements

Admission to the University does not guarantee admission to the BSW program; a separate admission application to the BSW program is required, as discussed below.

Admission Requirements

Students must apply to get accepted into the Social Work Program. The application packet is completed during the spring semester of a student's sophomore year. The application packet and admissions criteria includes:

- Completion of at least 60 credits of coursework before admission into the program (junior status).
- Maintenance of a minimum overall GPA of 2.0 and a minimum GPA of 2.5 in social work classes.
- Personal statement and essay that includes why you would like to choose social work as a major, extracurricular and volunteer activities, work experience, career goals and interests, and a commitment to the social work mission, core values, and the NASW Code of Ethics.¹

- Quality of written material (on application, personal statement, and essay).
- Faculty evaluations, as indicated by class attendance, participation, communication skills, and ability to work together with other classmates.
- Student will be notified in writing if they have been accepted into the social work program.
- If accepted into the program, students will be a part of a cohort program that will complete course work together in a sequential format, for their junior and senior years.
- Faculty interview.

¹ The social work program at CMU does not grant course credit for life experience or previous work experience.

The 15 credit-hour minor in Social Work can be combined with a major in any field. No application process is required for the minor. This minor will help equip students who desire to work in a human services field upon graduation. A minor in Social Work is also beneficial for any student hoping to gain admissions into a master's degree in Social Work (MSW) program.

Contact Information

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Programs of Study Bachelors/Minors

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

Graduate

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