

Schools of Social Work, Policy and Management

Social Work

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Social Work offers graduate and undergraduate studies leading to the Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Social Work. The School also offers a Ph.D. in Social Welfare.

This profession requires a high degree of knowledge, skill, and dedication; a desire and ability to work effectively with people and to help solve social problems; a scientific understanding of society and human behavior; skills of social work practice; and identification with values of the profession.

Bachelor of Science in Social Work

Degree Program Hours: 120

The program and courses listed in this catalog are under review and changes may be made without advance notice.

The program offers an integrated educational experience that combines the theoretical and the practical. It is designed to prepare the student for generalist practice as a beginning professional social worker, for entrance into a graduate school of social work, and for participation in society as an informed citizen. The curriculum applies a bio-psycho-social model within the context of a social systems framework to understand client systems, address problems and develop intervention.

The four semester program includes a sequence of academic courses as well as field instruction under qualified supervision in social agencies in South Florida.

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

Common Prerequisites

POS 2042	American Government
BSC 2023	Human Biology
	or
PCB 2700	Foundations of Human Physiology
ECO 2013	Macropinciples
	or
ECO 2023	Microprinciples
DEP 2000	Human Growth and Development
	or
PSY 2020	Introduction to Psychology
SYG 2000	Introduction to Sociology
	or
SYG 2010	Social Problems
STA 1013	Statistics for Social Services

Lower Division Preparation

The student desiring to major in Social Work must have completed the Associate in Arts degree at a Florida public community college, or the lower division core requirements of the university.

Required Courses

Before admission to the Social Work program, the student must complete college-level courses in biology (including coverage of Human Biology) and statistics, 12 semester hours in the social and behavioral sciences, which must include one course each in sociology, psychology, economics and American government and eight to ten hours in a foreign language.

To qualify for admission to the program, FIU undergraduates must have met all the lower division requirements including CLAST, completed 60 semester hours, have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 and must be otherwise acceptable into the program.

For additional information regarding the undergraduate social work program of study and degree program requirements, contact the School directly.

Upper Division Program (60)

Required Courses: (48)

Semester I

SOW 3113	Social Environment and Human Behavior I	3
SOW 3232	Social Welfare Policy and Services I	3
SOW 3203	Introduction to Social Work	3
SOW 3403	Social Work Research	3
SOW Elective		3

Semester II

SOW 3100	Social Environment and Human Behavior II	3
SOW 3233	Social Welfare Policy and Services II	3
SOW 3313	Methods of Social Work Practice I	3
SOW 3620	Social Work and Human Diversity	3
SOW Elective		3

Semester III

SOW 4322	Methods of Social Work Practice II	3
SOW 4511	Practicum I	9
SOW Elective		3

Semester IV

SOW 4332	Methods of Social Work Practice III	3
SOW 4512	Practicum II	9
SOW Elective		3

Remarks: Students should be aware that courses in this program are sequenced. Students must check with their advisors for pre and corequisite courses. A grade of 'C' or higher (a grade of 'C-' is not acceptable) in all courses required for the major is necessary for graduation. A passing grade in field courses is required for continuation in the program. Field courses cannot be repeated.

Minor in Social Welfare

A five-course minor in social welfare is available to baccalaureate degree-seeking students who are interested in careers in the human services field or who wish to study how common human needs are addressed within social welfare programs. The courses that comprise the minor will provide students with the opportunity to relate to the special concerns of our region, including poverty, crime and delinquency, child abuse and neglect, and family instability. The minor is available at University Park and Biscayne Bay Campus.

SOW 3113	The Social Environment and Human Behavior I	3
SOW 3100	The Social Environment and Human Behavior II	3
SOW 3232	Social Welfare Policy and Services I	3
SOW 3233	Social Welfare Policy and Services II	3
SOW 3203	Introduction to Social Work ¹	3
SOW 3350	Techniques of Interviewing	3
SOW 3313	Methods of Social Work Practice I	3
SOW 3801	Self-Awareness and Self-Modification for Practice	3
SOW 4272	Comparative Social Welfare Policy	3
SOW 4341	Behavioral Approaches to Social Work Practice	3
SOW 4654	Child Welfare Practice: Assessment and Planning	3
SOW 4658	Mental Health Services for Children and Adolescents in Child Welfare	3
SOW 4684	Professional Values in the Human Services	3
SOW 5109	Crises in the Lives of Women	3
SOW 5605	Medical Social Work	3
SOW 5641	Understanding the Processes of Aging	3
SOW 5672	Animal Assisted Treatment for Social Work	3
SOW 5155	Social Work Practice with Sexual Problems	3
SOW 5710	Current Issues in Addiction Practices	3
SOW 5932	Seminar in Social Work Practice	3
URS 3005	Service Learning: Social Change and Contemporary Social Issues	3

¹This course is required for the minor in social welfare. The remaining 12 semester hours are to be selected from the social work courses listed above.

Course Descriptions**Definition of Prefixes**

SOW - Social Work.

F-Fall semester offering; S-Spring semester offering; SS-Summer semester offering.

SOW 3100 The Social Environment and Human Behavior II (3). Study of individual development, personality, and behavior from a bio-psychological and sociocultural perspective with emphasis on the life cycle, giving attention to racial/ethnic, gender and sexual orientation variables. Prerequisites: SOW 3113 or equivalent, and one college-level course in biology (including coverage of human biology). (S)

SOW 3113 The Social Environment and Human Behavior I (3). Study of the socio-cultural factors (including racial, ethnic, and gender and sexual orientation variables) affecting human development and behavior in families, groups, organizations, and communities. Prerequisites: College level Biology (including coverage of Human Biology). (F)

SOW 3203 Introduction to Social Work (3). An overview of the profession of social work within the institution of social welfare. Historical and philosophical development, field of practice, values, and ethics. (F,S,SS)

SOW 3232 Social Welfare Policy and Services I (3). This course considers the major social welfare programs in the United States: how they emerged and developed, and how they operate today. Analysis of financial resources, decision-making processes, and structure of delivery systems serves as a basis for understanding policy assessment. Pre/Corequisites: American Government and Economics. (F)

SOW 3233 Social Welfare Policy and Services II (3). This course examines the frameworks and methods used to analyze social welfare policy and programs. Special attention is paid to current policy issues in the Social Welfare system and strategies that can be used to achieve policy change. Prerequisites: SOW 3232 and SOW 3203 or equivalent. (S)

SOW 3313 Methods of Social Work Practice I (3). An overview of social work intervention for beginning generalist practice. Generic values, attitudes, processes, and skills in client- worker relationship-building are discussed and analyzed. Case material is utilized to acquaint students with assessment, modes of intervention, goal setting, and implementation. Prerequisites: SOW 3113, SOW 3232, SOW 3203. Pre/Corequisite: SOW 3100. (F,S)

SOW 3350 Techniques of Interviewing (3). A competency-based course designed to provide students with basic interviewing skills. Emphasis is on acquisition of interview behavior rather than theory. Audio and videotaping, role-playing, simulations, and micro-counseling training methods will be utilized.

SOW 3403 Social Work Research (3). Introduction to the basic language, methods, and skills of scientific research for beginning social work practice. Problem formulation, literature review, definition of variables, sampling, data collection and analysis, and report writing are addressed. Prerequisites: STA 1013 or equivalent. (F,S)

SOW 3620 Social Work and Human Diversity (3). Prepares students for generalist social work practice with diverse populations focusing on knowledge, attitude, and skills. Prerequisite: SOW 3203. (S)

SOW 3801 Self-Awareness and Self-Modification for Practice (3). An experience oriented course directed toward helping students become aware of their own interpersonal processes and how these may influence their skill and effectiveness as professional helping persons. Emphasis is on personal learning.

SOW 4272 Comparative Social Welfare Policy (3). A combination seminar and lecture course in which students will analyze and compare social welfare policy, problems, and programs in various countries.

SOW 4322 Methods of Social Work Practice II (3). This generic skills course is designed to provide students with the theories and techniques of social work practice as applied to small groups and families. Prerequisites: SOW 3100, SOW 3233, and SOW 3313, or equivalents. Corequisite: SOW 4511. (F,S,SS)

SOW 4332 Methods of Social Work Practice III (3). Provides an understanding of planned change at the community level from a social work perspective, as well as strategies and methods utilized in community organization practice. Identification of generalist skills and prevalent models of groups and community organization in social work practice. Prerequisites: SOW 4322, SOW 4511. Corequisite: SOW 4512. (F,S,SS)

SOW 4341 Behavioral Approaches to Social Work Practice (3). An introduction to the basics of learning theory as applied to social work settings. A review of principles of cognitive and learning theory applied to generalist practice.

SOW 4511 Practicum I (9). The first of two field practicum courses and four integrative seminars that provide students with the opportunity to apply and integrate generalist social work knowledge and skills. Majors only. Prerequisites: SOW 3100, SOW 3233, SOW 3203, SOW 3313, and SOW 3403, SOW 3620, or equivalents. Corequisite: SOW 4322. (F,S,SS)

SOW 4512 Practicum II (9). The second of two field practicum courses and four integrative seminars that provide students with the opportunity to apply and integrate generalist social work knowledge and skills. Majors only. Prerequisites: SOW 4511, SOW 4322. Corequisite: SOW 4332. (F,S,SS)

SOW 4654 Child Welfare Practice: Assessment and Planning (3). This elective course will examine theories and models of intervention with children and adolescents within the context of the family. The main focus of the course will be on the special diagnostic and treatment skills of the social worker that are required for effective treatment and intervention with client populations. Pre/Corequisites: SOW 3313 or permission of the instructor.

SOW 4658 Mental Health Services for Children and Adolescents in Child Welfare (3). Evidenced-based child welfare interventions within an early childhood mental health model. Emphasis on the needs of high-risk children and adolescents who are in the child welfare system or at risk for entering the child welfare system. Areas addressed: (1) early child development and education; (2) child health and wellbeing; (3) prevention of child maltreatment and family violence; (4) parenting skills and parent education; and (5) transition to adulthood for young

people with challenging behaviors more consistent with content and with agreement with Department of Children and Families. Prerequisites: Students in the Certificate in Child Welfare Practice or permission of the instructor.

SOW 4684 Professional Values in the Human Services (3). This course is designed to assist students in identifying, exploring, and experiencing the values inherent in professionalism, as they are manifested in the various human service professions. Material will be presented in a didactic and experiential manner with emphasis upon student involvement in the value clarification process. Prerequisite: Senior standing.

SOW 4905 Individual Study (1-9). Individually selected program of supervised study related to specific social work issues. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor. (F,S,SS)

SOW 4932 Current Topics in Social Work (3). This course presents an extensive examination of current issues and problems in social work. Interventive technology to address these issues will be presented.

SOW 5109 Crises in the Lives of Women (3). An overview of special experiences in the lives of women which might lead women to seek professional assistance. Topics include pregnancy, rape, abortion, childbirth, sex discrimination, climacteric, widowhood. Prerequisites: Senior or graduate standing.

SOW 5155 Social Work Practice with Sexual Problems (3). Skills applicable to sex-related concerns encountered in social work practice. Presents theories of the etiology of common sexual problems and explores treatment intervention modalities. Prerequisites: Graduate level or permission of the instructor.

SOW 5235 Social Welfare Policy and Services I (3). This course analyzes major social welfare policies and programs in the United States, their emergence, development, contemporary operations and how they shaped the development of the Social Work profession. (F)

SOW 5354 Crisis Intervention in Social Work Practice (3). This course examines the etiology, structure, theory, and application of crisis intervention in social work practice. It provides assessment criteria for assignment to this form of treatment and techniques for intervention. Prerequisites: Senior or graduate level practice course, or permission of the instructor.

SOW 5455 Writing and Managing Grants for Social Service Programs (3). Prepare students to write, develop and manage grants for social services programs. Develop knowledge of grant sources, the grant making, writing and management of grant funded social welfare services. Prerequisite: SOW 5344.

SOW 5532 Clinical Practicum I (6). The first masters-level field practicum and four integrative seminars that provide students with the opportunity to apply and integrate generalist social work knowledge and skills. Prerequisites: SOW 5629, 5105, 5235, 5342, 5344, 5404. Corequisites: SOW 5125, 5324, 5629, and 5542. (S,SS)

SOW 5605 Medical Social Work (3). Principles of medical social work required in hospitals and communities. Focus on the social worker as part of the health care team,

with basic knowledge of medical problems of patients and their families. Prerequisites: Graduate or senior standing.

SOW 5614 Social Work Practice with Persons Affected by Domestic Violence (3). Course prepares students to appropriately identify, assess, and intervene with persons affected by domestic violence utilizing assessment and intervention strategies in practice. Prerequisites: Practicum I/Methods I.

SOW 5621 Social Work with Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants (3). Provides skills and knowledge responsive to the needs of immigrants and refugees and addresses influences of cultural, ethnic, gender, age, and class differences in acculturation and service delivery. Prerequisites: Practicum I/Methods I.

SOW 5624 Feminist Therapy in Social Work (3). Reviews basic principles of feminist therapy and focuses on the application of feminist therapy in clinical social work practice. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

SOW 5629 Social Work Practice with Diverse Populations (3). Prepares students for responsive practice with diverse populations, with emphasis on South Florida. Includes knowledge and skills in interviewing, assessment interventions, termination, and follow-up. Prerequisite: SOW 5342.

SOW 5635 School Social Work Practice (3). Designed to assist students in developing knowledge and skills necessary for effective social work practice in school settings. Promotes understanding of social work practice to improve the functioning of children. Prerequisites: Graduate or permission of the instructor.

SOW 5641 Understanding the Process of Aging (3). Study of the physical, psychosocial, and cultural factors affecting human development in late life, from a social work perspective. Prerequisites: Graduate or senior standing and permission of the instructor.

SOW 5672 Animal Assisted Treatment for Social Work (3) An introduction to the human animal bond and animal assisted treatment. There will be illustrations of programs using small animals, horses, and dolphins. Prerequisites: Graduate or permission of the instructor.

SOW 5710 Current Issues in Addiction Practices (3). An overview of chemical dependency in the social service delivery system including policy and program approaches, client assessment, treatment techniques and prevention issues. Prerequisites: Graduate or senior standing.

SOW 5932 Seminar in Social Work Practice (3). An exploration of various critical issues of concern to the social work profession. Prerequisites: Graduate or senior standing.