The Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree prepares students for generalist social work practice to help improve the well-being of individuals, families, and communities with integrity. Students will also be able to integrate social work knowledge, values, and skills toward economic and social justice. The Texas State University Bachelor of Social Work program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and graduates will be able to engage in entry-level social work practice, apply for state social work licensure, and pursue graduate social work (MSW) studies. BSW level social workers help people of all ages and practice in such varied fields as child welfare, schools, long-term care, general social services, mental health care, and public assistance. Within the program, Social Work students must maintain high academic standards, develop the capacity to work with people from diverse backgrounds, and assist all people with any life difficulties and transitions they experience.

Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.)

- Major in Social Work (http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/undergraduate/applied-arts/social-work/social-work-bsw/)

Minor

- Social Work

Courses in Social Work (SOWK)

SOWK 1350 is a prerequisite to all other social work courses except SOWK 2375, SOWK 4315, SOWK 4318, SOWK 4320, and SOWK 4355.

SOWK 1350. Introduction to Social Work.
This introductory survey course includes the nature, function, and various types of social work practice, acquainting the student with the history, scope, and values of the profession.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
TCCN: SOCW 2361

SOWK 2320. Love and Relationships.
This elective course explores the nature of attraction, friendship, love, and human sexuality, enabling students to enhance their own personal and professional relationships.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOWK 2375. Social Services in the Community.
This undergraduate course introduces the organizations and policies involved in social services delivery. Students participate in 50 hours of work as supervised observers and volunteers in selected social service agencies.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
TCCN: SOCW 2362

SOWK 3305. Seminar in Human Behavior and Social Environment I.
This course provides an overview of human functioning in the environment by studying eco-systems and developmental frameworks. It builds knowledge and values for practice with task groups, organizations, and communities. Prerequisite: SOWK 2375 with a grade of ‘C’ or better. Corequisite: SOWK 3420 with a grade of ‘C’ or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOWK 3312. Alcoholism and Chemical Dependence.
This elective course focuses on commonly used and abused drugs as well as the dynamics and treatment of addiction and alcohol abuse. It emphasizes direct social work interventions aimed at addiction prevention and treatment.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOWK 3332. Helping Troops Transition Back to their Families and Communities: The Invisible Wounds of War.
The course examines topics at the individual, family, group, organizational, and community levels related to troops who are returning from current combat operations and their families. It reviews the needs, community resources, and policies in place for helping them and their families make this transition.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOWK 3340. Social Work Research.
This course builds foundation-level scientific research skills in critical thinking, knowledge of program and practice evaluation, and a philosophy of generalist social work practice. Prerequisite: [CJ 3347 or HP 3302 or HP 3325 or PSY 2301 or SOCI 3307] and SOWK 3425 both with grades of ‘C’ or better. Corequisite: SOWK 4356 and SOWK 4425 both with grades of ‘C’ or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOWK 3420. Social Work Practice I.
This course studies generalist theory and application of social work practice with individuals, families, and groups, including introductory data collection, assessment, intervention planning, and evaluation. (WI) Prerequisite: SOWK 2375 with a grade of ‘C’ or better. Corequisite: SOWK 3305 with a grade of ‘C’ or better.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 1 Lab Contact Hour.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required|Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOWK 3425. Social Work Practice II.
This undergraduate course emphasizes generalist social work practice with task groups, organizations, and communities, examining data collection, assessment, intervention, planning, implementation, and evaluation. Students develop and implement a community-based project. (WI) Prerequisites: SOWK 3420 with a grade of ‘C’ or better. Corequisites: SOWK 4305 with a grade of ‘C’ or better.
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 1 Lab Contact Hour.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required|Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
SOWK 4300F. International Social Work.
This course covers basic theoretical and practical approaches to empowerment, social and economic justice, and human rights. Particular cultures and specific global problems are examined in-depth to promote student acquisition of an international worldview for human global change based on social work values and research-informed practice.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

This undergraduate course will focus on applied social justice and human rights in a global context from an interdisciplinary standpoint in Ghana.
3 Credit Hours. 12 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

The purpose of this course is to assist the student in expanding a basic level of knowledge, values, and skills in the area of ethics in social work. The NASW Code of Ethics and the National Codes of Ethics from the International Federation of Social Workers are used.
3 Credit Hours. 12 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

This course is an overview of social services in schools. Topics covered include: educational issues, conceptual frameworks, education and mental health policies, and service delivery systems. Special attention is paid to cultural diversity, special populations within education, parent-school collaboration, community liaisons, referral systems, and educational systems change.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

In this course, Hip Hop culture is introduced within the context of human development over the life course with an emphasis on positive individual and community well-being. Cultural dynamics are viewed alongside art’s role in the social and political history of the United States including issues of equity and justice.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOWK 4303. Spirituality and Social Work Practice.
This course provides a basic framework of knowledge, values, and skills necessary for ethical and effective spiritually-relevant practice. It examines spirituality as an integral component of a strengths-based approach to social work practice with diverse and/or vulnerable clients. It integrates a contemporary global perspective with critical self-reflection.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOWK 4304. Animal-Assisted Therapy.
This course is an introduction to the human-animal bond and its therapeutic applications. The course connects students with an extensive network of handlers and facilities in a wide range of disciplines with applied animal-assisted therapy programs. Students learn to plan professional, ethical, goal-directed, individualized and group animal-assisted therapy activities and programs that incorporate peoples from a variety of populations, in a variety of settings, as well as animal welfare.
The course assists students in earning American Kennel Club (AKC) Canine Good Citizen certification so they may prepare for future therapy-dog training and certification. Prerequisite: SOWK 1350 with a grade of ‘C’ or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOWK 4305. Seminar in Human Behavior and Social Environment II.
This course integrates knowledge from social sciences and SOWK 3305, focusing on individuals, families, and small groups functioning in environments. It uses a bio-psychosocial perspective, expanding on eco-systems, developmental, and values frameworks. (WI) Prerequisite: SOWK 3305 with a grade of ‘C’ or better. Corequisite: SOWK 3425 with a grade of ‘C’ or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

This undergraduate course focuses on knowledge and skills necessary for effective, ethical, and just practice, exploring interpersonal and institutional dynamics of racism, sexism, heterosexism, homophobia, classism and other forms of oppression and their effects on providing social services to diverse populations. (MULT).
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Multicultural Content
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

This undergraduate elective course analyzes child welfare services available to abused and neglected children in their own homes, in substitute care, and through the community, emphasizing social work intervention with children and their families.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

This undergraduate elective course provides a generalist view of social work practice in mental health and public health, considering the social problems that affect health care, and ethical and effective intervention strategies and service delivery systems.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
SOWK 4320. Social Work with Older Adults.
This undergraduate elective gives a comprehensive introduction to contemporary social problems, values, and issues affecting older adults, and effective and ethical intervention strategies and service delivery systems.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOWK 4355. Policy Practice.
This course is an overview of social policy and legislation and the processes of influencing public policy. It links policy with a broad range of social work service areas.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

This course builds skills in self-presentation, in taking responsibility for personal and professional growth, in learning professional behaviors in organizations, and in presenting court testimony. Prerequisite: SOWK 3425 and SOWK 4305 both with grades of ‘C’ or better. Corequisite: SOWK 3340 and SOWK 4425 both with grades of ‘C’ or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

This one-semester undergraduate course highlights individualized reading, independent study and projects, and guided instruction. It is offered to superior students by the professor’s invitation and with the consent of the BSW Coordinator. This course may be repeated once for credit with different emphasis.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOWK 4374. Generalist Field Practicum I.
Students engage in generalist social work practice in agencies, supervised by degreed social worker professionals and the field liaison. Students complete a minimum of 210 contact hours in a field agency while concurrently attending an integrative field seminar and completing field/seminar assignments. Prerequisite: SOWK 3340 and SOWK 4356 and SOWK 4425 all with grades of ‘C’ or better. Corequisite: SOWK 4975 with a grade of ‘C’ or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

SOWK 4975. Generalist Field Practicum II.
This course provides students with experiential opportunities for generalist social work practice in social service agencies applying micro, mezzo, and macro level knowledge. Prerequisite: SOWK 3340 and SOWK 4356 and SOWK 4425 all with grades of ‘C’ or better. Corequisite: SOWK 4374 with a grade of ‘B’ or better.
9 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 40 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit