

School of Social Work

Director: Vincent Faherty, Masterton Hall, Portland

Coordinator of Baccalaureate Program: Paul Johnson

Professors: Faherty, Wagner; *Associate Professors:* Andonian, Doe, Fineran, Healy, Johnson, Lazar, Rich; *Assistant Professors:* Kohli, Moyo; *Lecturer:* Belicose; *Field Work Coordinator:* Richfield; *Field Work Associate:* Murton

The University of Southern Maine's School of Social Work is committed to educating culturally competent generalist social work practitioners prepared for multi-level, strengths-based practice that values the centrality of community in enhancing the well-being of diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

The School serves southern Maine by responding to the social work education, leadership, service, and evaluation and research needs of the region. The commitment to social and economic justice, and diversity and multiculturalism are integrated. The School strives for excellence in teaching and learning. Graduates are prepared for multi-level professional practice recognizing the centrality of the role of community in the lives of its constituents.

The program in social work prepares the student for the professional practice of social work at the entry level. The social work curriculum of the School is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education at the baccalaureate level. Students who receive a degree from an accredited undergraduate program in social work may apply to selected graduate schools of social work for advanced standing. It is important to consult individual institutions for their acceptance criteria and procedures, which may vary.

During the first years at the University, with the assistance of faculty advisors, students enroll in a combination of classes fulfilling their Core curriculum requirements, required foundation courses for social work (classes in other fields required by the major), and the major itself. Because many classes are prerequisites for other classes, students must carefully sequence their courses. The model below indicates the desired program for social work majors; starred (*) classes indicate the class is a prerequisite for other social work requirements.

Model Schedule

Year 1

Proficiency in writing, math if needed

ENG 100C College Writing

PSY 101J General Psychology I*

PSY 102 General Psychology II

SOC 100J Introduction to Sociology*

Biology and Biology Lab* (also fulfills K Core requirement)

Core "F" Fine Arts

Core "I" Other Times/Other Cultures

General Electives

Year 2

ECO 101J Introduction to Macroeconomics*

HRD 200J Human Growth and Development*

POS 101J Introduction to American Government*

SWO 201 Introduction to Social Work*

SWO 250J Introduction to Social Welfare*

Statistics (in math, psychology, sociology, or SBS at Lewiston-Auburn College)* (also fulfills D Core requirement)

Core "E" Skills of Analysis/Philosophy

Core "G" History Centered Arts

General Electives

Year 3

SWO 301 Social Work Methods I (spring semester)

SWO 333 Social Work Research I

SWO 334 Social Work Research II
SWO 350 Social Welfare Policy
SWO 365 Examining Oppression and Valuing Diversity
SWO 370 Human Behavior and Social Environment
Electives in sociology, psychology, criminology or SBS
General electives

Year 4

SWO 403, 404 Social Work Methods II and III
SWO 411, 412 Field Work (full year)
Social Work elective, 300-level or higher
General electives
Any remaining sociology, psychology, criminology, SBS electives

Students transferring to USM from another college or university must have completed these courses, or their equivalent, as recorded on their Transcript Evaluation form.

To assure consistency and avoid confusion, it is important that social work majors meet with their advisors on a regular basis. Advising in the School of Social Work is a mutual process of exploring career objectives, reviewing School requirements, designing the best possible combination of required courses and electives, determining proper course sequencing, and facilitating a collaborative relationship between the student and the School.

During the field work year, each student is placed in a community social service agency approved by the School of Social Work. Placements begin only in the fall semester and continue throughout the academic year. By the end of the spring semester, each student will have completed 480 hours of field work. A large number of social and community agencies in the Greater Portland area and in cities and towns of southern Maine have been most generous in their cooperation with the School and in making available field instruction resources including supervision for students of the School. All students should refer to School guidelines governing field work for more information and directions.

To major in social work, all students must maintain a 2.0 cumulative grade point average, and a grade of C (2.0) or better in all major and foundation classes. In order to prepare for the field work component in the School of Social Work, students must take SWO 301 Methods of Social Work I in the spring semester preceding their field work year. To qualify for enrollment in SWO 301, students must: 1) have at least 54 credits at the time of pre-registration; 2) have a 2.5 cumulative GPA overall; and 3) have a C or 2.0 grade in all social work and required foundation classes. Students must maintain the 2.5 GPA and a grade of C or better in all social work and required foundation courses to complete the major. Please see the Student Handbook and Field Work manual for additional information about requirements of field work.

Because social work is a values-based profession whose principal commitment is to vulnerable clients, a student's suitability for the profession will be assessed during the process of his or her education.

The students of the School have organized a Social Work Student Organization. The organization seeks to facilitate communication between students and faculty, ensure student involvement in Departmental activities, provide for professional growth, and respond to issues and problems in the community. Student representatives may attend faculty meetings and may serve as advisory members on the Department's curriculum committees. Within the School, a chapter of the Phi Alpha Honor Society exists.

Programs and Requirements

Bachelor of Arts in Social Work

The minimum number of credits (exclusive of the University's Core curriculum) required for the major: 45.

The major in social work consists of 45 credits in required social work courses. In addition, 40 credits of foundation courses must be completed in other departments. Some of these foundation courses may also be used to satisfy the Core curriculum requirements as appropriate. Students shall not be eligible to repeat a class more than once without the written permission of the director of the School of Social Work.

Required Social Work Courses

SWO 201	Introduction to Social Work
SWO 250J	Introduction to Social Welfare
SWO 301	Methods of Social Work Practice I
SWO 333	Social Work Research I
SWO 334	Social Work Research II
SWO 350	Social Welfare Policy
SWO 365	Examining Oppression and Valuing Diversity
SWO 370	Human Behavior in the Social Environment
SWO 403	Methods of Social Work Practice II
SWO 404	Methods of Social Work Practice III
SWO 411	Field Work I
SWO 412	Field Work II
SWO	Elective

Required Foundation Courses in Other Departments

ENG 100C	College Writing
ECO 101J	Introduction to Macroeconomics
BIO 100K	Biological Basis of Human Activity (or BIO 101K Biological Foundations, or BIO 105K Biological Principles I)
BIO 102K	Biological Experiences (or BIO 106K Laboratory Biology)
POS 101J	Introduction to Government
PSY 101J	General Psychology I
An introductory statistics course (MAT 120D, PSY 201D, SOC 307D or SBS 328D)	
PSY 102	General Psychology II
SOC 100J	Introduction to Sociology
Core "E" Skills of Analysis/Philosophy	
HRD 200J	Human Growth and Development

Three other intermediate-level (200-399) sociology, psychology, criminology courses, or SBS courses at Lewiston-Auburn College, selected in consultation with the student's advisor, are required. No more than two classes taken for this requirement may be in the same discipline, with the exception of either external transfer students or Lewiston-Auburn College students.

Students are required to achieve a grade of C or better in all required social work and required foundation courses; and attain a cumulative grade point average of 2.50 at the point of application for the social work major.

SWO 201 Introduction to Social Work

This course is an introduction to the profession of social work. Students are introduced to the core values of social work and the code of ethics that emanates from those values. Oppression and social justice are central themes of this course. The practice of social work is considered from the perspective of a collaborative strengths-based model working with complex social service systems. The course familiarizes students with various roles, functions, and tasks which social workers perform in a variety of settings, and acquaints students with the primary skills and practices of professional social work. Taking this course will help students make a more informed decision about social work as a career. Cr 3.

SWO 250J Introduction to Social Welfare

Provides an introduction to the institution of social welfare through a review of social welfare history; the values and philosophy in America of treating the poor, the ill, and others in need; contemporary approaches to social policy; and possible alternative models of social welfare. Cr 3.

SWO 266 Perspectives on Disabilities

To enhance effective interaction and communication with disabled persons, issues are examined from the perspectives of society and of the individual (disabled and non-disabled). Topics include basic human needs and self-image, independence-dependence, anger-frustration, failure, the power of guilt and shame. All students participate in sensory exercises. Cr 3.

SWO 301 Methods of Social Work Practice I

This course is an introduction to the basic concepts and skills of interviewing and assessment within the framework of a strengths perspective. Emphasis will be placed on the integration of ethics and the process of reflection within a generalist practice of social work. Prerequisites: SWO 201, SWO 250J, junior status at the time of preregistration for SWO 301, grade of C or better in all required social work and foundation courses, and overall GPA of 2.5. Offered spring semester only. This course has a service-learning component that requires students to have some time available for work in the community. Cr 3.

SWO 333 Social Work Research I

A study of the methods of social work research for social policy and social work practice. The course emphasizes both quantitative and qualitative research processes with the goal of enabling the student to be competent as a "practitioner-researcher." Prerequisites: SWO 201, SWO 250J; any introductory statistics course (MAT 120D, PSY 201D, SOC 307D, or SBS 328D). Cr 3.

SWO 334 Social Work Research II

In this continuation of SWO 333, students complete an empirical research project. Class members serve as a review committee for all research instruments used, learn the practical aspects of writing quantitative and qualitative research reports, and function as a research support group for one another. Prerequisite: SWO 333. Cr 3.

SWO 350 Social Welfare Policy

A critical examination of social welfare institutions, the social problems and social needs to which they are addressed, and the policy decisions which determine the organization and direction of social welfare programs. Prerequisites: ECO 101J, SWO 250J, POS 101J, or permission of instructor. Cr 3.

SWO 365 Examining Oppression and Valuing Diversity

This course is designed to provide a framework for understanding and respecting cultural diversity. The cultural aspects of race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and ableness will be discussed. A central theme in organizing the course is the examination of the role of oppression in shaping lives of members of various cultural groups. Prerequisites: SWO 201 or permission of instructor. Cr 3.

SWO 367 Sexual Diversity and Gender Identity in Social Work Practice

Provides an understanding of varying concepts of homosexuality. Employs recent theoretical, empirical and clinical literature to assess attitudes toward homosexuality. Examines motivation and skills to achieve constructive interaction between the professional and the homosexual. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission of instructor. Cr 3.

SWO 370 Human Behavior in the Social Environment

This course examines the ways in which normative and predictable human behavior throughout the life cycle is mediated by gender, race, age, sexual preference, class and culture. The implication of this knowledge for social work practice will be explored. Prerequisites: SWO 201, SWO 250J; PSY 101J, PSY 102 and introductory course in biology. Cr 3.

SWO 374 Sexual Harassment in Education and Work

This course examines sexual harassment in the workplace and education from three perspectives:

mental health, sexual violence, and social justice. Students apply concepts from the behavioral and social sciences, from clinical and community practice to contemporary education and corporate environments. Environmental and cultural forces that influence discriminatory behavior are explored. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission of instructor. Cr 3.

SWO 375 Gender and Aging

A theoretical and practical course that informs students about aging issues affecting women and men differentially. Students will analyze the manifestations of aging and apply concepts drawn from the behavioral and social sciences. Service learning experience may be available. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission of instructor. Cr 3.

SWO 378 Professional Practice with Older People

Enhances skills in human service practice with older people. Analyzes the sources and manifestations of both healthy and problematic aging. Applies concepts drawn from the behavioral and social sciences, and from clinical and community practice. Translates a developmental rather than a custodial view into everyday direct service. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission of instructor. Cr 3.

SWO 380 Child Welfare

A study of the policy and practice issues affecting children in current society, including implications for social services and institutional change. Prerequisites: SWO 201 and SWO 250J or permission of the instructor. Cr 3.

SWO 381 Social Work with Children

This course explores the application of social work skills and knowledge in professional interactions with children and adolescents within the context of social welfare agencies. The focus is on the skills involved in treatment as well as knowledge about family and community systems. Prerequisites: SWO 201, SWO 250J or permission of the instructor. Cr 3.

SWO 385 Sexual Abuse of Children and Adolescents

This course will examine the application of social work skills and knowledge to the issue of sexual abuse of children and adolescents. An up-to-date review of the latest research and clinical findings will be presented. Attention will be given to a variety of issues as well as the value dilemmas presented by client situations. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission of the instructor. Cr 3.

SWO 388 Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Issues

Examines the use and abuse of psychoactive substances: street drugs, prescription drugs, alcohol, caffeine, and nicotine. Consideration of the history, pharmacology, and physical and psychological affects of each substance. Exploration of prevention

and treatment models, with special reference to those in use locally. Prerequisite: junior standing or permission of instructor. Cr 3.

SWO 391 Mind/Body/Spirit Connections in Social Work Practice

Examines mind/body/spirit connections in social work practice with regard to stress and its management (meditation, breath control, other relaxation techniques), stress-related illness and personalities, contemporary therapies (mainstream and culturally specific), and spirituality. Prerequisite: SWO 201. Cr 3.

SWO 397 Department Projects

Individual or group projects, requiring independent study or field work in some aspect of social welfare, to be selected by students in consultation with a particular faculty member. Prerequisites: Department permission and application prior to registration. Cr var.

SWO 403 Methods of Social Work Practice II

Examines the dilemmas of professional human service workers in bureaucratic systems and the effects of professionalization and the bureaucracy on consumers. Develops a range of methods aimed at better meeting client need with particular reference to strategies of organizational change and community organization. Class discussions and assignments are based on field work experiences. Prerequisites: SWO 301 and a C or better in all required social work and foundation courses, and an overall 2.5 GPA. SWO 411 taken concurrently. Cr 3.

SWO 404 Methods of Social Work Practice III

This course is a continuation of Methods of Social Work Practice II. It explores the contextual nature of generalist social work practice within a strengths perspective. Emphasis will be placed on the processes of engagement, assessment, and intervention with individuals, families, and groups. Family systems, group, and crisis models of intervention will be presented. This course must be taken concurrently with SWO 412 (Field Work II). Prerequisites: SWO 301, SWO 403. Spring semester only. Cr 3.

SWO 411 Field Work I

For social work majors: a required internship of 16 hours per week in approved agency settings, designed to relate social work theory to practice under professional supervision. Fall semester only. Must be taken as the first in a two-course sequence. Prerequisites: SWO 201; SWO 301; a C or better in all required social work and foundation courses, and an overall 2.5 GPA. SWO 403 taken concurrently. Fall semester only. Cr 6.

SWO 412 Field Work II

A continuation of SWO 411. Spring term only. Must be taken as the second in a two-course sequence. Prerequisites: SWO 301, SWO 403, SWO 411, and SWO 404 (concurrent). Cr 6.

SWO 456 Issues in Social Welfare and Social Work

A seminar for social work majors that addresses significant issues confronting the social welfare system and the profession. Prerequisite: social work major or permission of instructor. Cr 3.