

## Social Work

### Social Work (SOWK) - School of Social Work

School of Social Work

Summit Classroom Building 201, (651) 962-5800

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A major in social work is available through a joint School of Social Work at both the College of St. Catherine and University of St. Thomas. Social work courses and electives are offered at both the College of St. Catherine and University of St. Thomas campuses and in Weekend College at the College of St. Catherine.

Graduating with a major in social work will prepare you to begin generalist professional practice with individuals, families, small groups, organizations and communities. You will be prepared to develop an identity which will incorporate the values and ethics of the social work profession. You will be prepared for practice with diverse, oppressed and at-risk populations and to link social research and social service practice. You will be prepared for lifelong learning and critical thinking through an educational process combining a liberal arts foundation with professional social work education. You also will be prepared for graduate education in social work.

Transfer students must be in social work courses for a minimum of three semesters, excluding summer sessions.

The program described below is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education at the baccalaureate level and qualifies graduates to take the Minnesota Board of Social Work examination for State of Minnesota licensure at the licensed social worker level.

#### Admission to the Major

When you declare a social work major, you will be assigned a social work adviser; however, there is a formal application to the major process in the second semester of junior year.

#### Social Work Honor Society

*Beta Epsilon*, the campus chapter of *Phi Alpha* National Social Work Honor Society, was established at the University of St. Thomas and the College of St. Catherine in 2002. The purpose of this organization is to advance excellence in social work practice and to encourage, stimulate and maintain scholarship of the individual members.

As a social work major, you are eligible for membership after achieving a junior or senior standing, earning a minimum of six semester hours or equivalent in social work, achieving an overall grade point average of 3.25 or above, and a social work grade point average of 3.50 or above.

#### International Study

As a social work student you will have an opportunity to study in Mexico in the spring semester of their junior year. This semester-long program will enable you to take all required social work courses as well as study Spanish.

#### Major in Social Work

SOWK 281 Introduction to Social Work (4 credits)

SOWK 340 Human Behavior and the Social Environment (4 credits)

SOWK 355 Communication and Interviewing Skills (4 credits)

SOWK 375 and 376 or 378 Junior Fieldwork in Social Work (4 credits)

SOWK 380 Social Research: Designs and Statistical Applications (4 credits)

SOWK 385 Working with Groups: Theory and Practice (4 credits)

SOWK 391 Social Policy for Social Change (4 credits)

SOWK 401 Generalist Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups (4 credits)

SOWK 402 Generalist Practice for Social Change (4 credits)

SOWK 405 and 406 Senior Fieldwork in Social Work (4 credits each)

#### Allied requirements

*Four credits from the following:*

BIOL 105 Human Biology (4 credits)

BIOL 1120C Biology of Women (4 credits)

*Plus:*

PSYC 111 General Psychology (4 credits)

PSYC 202 Lifespan Development (4 credits)

SOCI 100 Introduction to Sociology (4 credits)

#### Required Fieldwork Experience

These experiences, arranged by the School of Social Work, provide practical learning in social work agencies, institutions and, or departments to complement your academic work through integration of theory and practice.

*Junior year:*

Two semesters of approximately eight hours per week off campus field work totaling 200 hours, plus weekly seminar groups on campus. As a social work student, contact your social work adviser during the second semester of sophomore year so that placement can be discussed.

*Senior year:*

Two semesters of approximately 15 hours per week off campus field work totaling 400 hours, plus weekly seminar groups on campus.

*Elective courses*

Electives are updated frequently. Visit [www.stthomas.edu/socialwork/BSW/descriptions.cfm](http://www.stthomas.edu/socialwork/BSW/descriptions.cfm) for a current list of electives.

CDC 3000C Introduction to Chemical Dependency (4 credits)

CDC 3050C Chemical Dependency and the Family (4 credits)

IDSC 291T/INDI 2910C The Anatomy of Violence (4 credits)

IDSC 293T/INDI 2940C Grief, Loss and Coping (4 credits)

INDI 499C Multi-Professional Community Work and Learning Semester Abroad – Cuernavaca, Mexico

SOWK 2100C Relationships, Intimacy and Sexuality (4 credits)

SOWK 390T Faith, Social Transformation and Social Work (4 credits)\*

SOWK 441T Family Resilience and Diversity

SOWK 490T/4990C Practice with Older Adults and their Families (4 credits)

SOWK 490T Topics: Child Welfare

\*Crosslisted with THEO 397 which fulfills the 300 level theology course requirement at the University of St. Thomas. You must register for the course as THEO 397 in order to get THEO credit.

**Admission Process**

The School of Social Work requires you to be formally admitted to the major. This process takes place at the middle of the junior year. As a prospective major, you must have a GPA of 2.25 and be interviewed by faculty of the school. Contact your adviser for more details.

**Minor in Social Welfare**

A minor in social welfare is available through the joint School of Social Work at The College of St. Catherine and the University of St. Thomas. A minor in social welfare is not accepted by the Council on Social Work Education as preparation for beginning-level generalist social work practice. A minor is offered for your own learning in the area of social welfare.

SOWK 281 Introduction to Social Work (4 credits)

SOWK 340 Human Behavior and the Social Environment (4 credits)

SOWK 391 Social Policy for Social Change (4 credits)

*Plus eight credits from the following:*

PSYC 202 Lifespan Development (4 credits)

PSYC 207 Alcohol, Other Drugs and Behavior (4 credits)

SOCI 251 Race and Ethnicity (4 credits)

SOWK 380 Social Research: Designs and Statistical Application (4 credits)

(The C designation following a course number indicates the course is offered at the College of St. Catherine; the T designation indicates that the course is offered at the University of St. Thomas.)

**SOWK 2100C Relationships, Intimacy and Sexuality (4 credits)**

This course addresses three major areas: exploring values and societal influence on relationships, intimacy and sexuality – the influence of culture, religion, family and friends; understanding self-worth, communication patterns and the effect of family and other significant relationships on the development of one's needs/wants in relationships, intimacy and sexuality; discovering the basic attributes, purposes and powers of significant relationships, intimacy and sexuality. Participation in a structured small-group discussion is required. Open to non-majors.

**SOWK 2810C/281T Introduction to Social Work (4 credits)**

This course introduces the student to the profession of social work within the context of the social welfare system. It provides an overview of an integrative approach to generalist social work practice which emphasizes intervention on individual, environmental and societal levels. Special emphasis is placed on values, human diversity, social problems and social work fields of practice.

Prerequisites: SOCI 100 or PSYC 111 or permission of the instructor

SOWK 295T, 296T Topics (2 credits)

SOWK 297T, 298T Topics (4 credits)

The subject matter of these courses will vary from year to year, but will not duplicate existing courses. Descriptions of these courses are available in the Searchable Class Schedule on Murphy Online,

<https://banner.stthomas.edu/pls/banner/prod/bwckschd>.

**SOWK 3400C/340T Human Behavior and the Social Environment (4 credits)**

The primary focus of this course is to provide students with knowledge and understanding of human behavior and development from a social systems approach as affected by biological, cultural, environmental, and psycho-social factors. Emphasis is on the role of individual, family, small group, organization and community in human behavior as related to social work practice. Cultural, ethnic and life-style diversity and their effects on the development of human

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systems is stressed. This course fulfills the Human Diversity requirement in the core curriculum.  
Prerequisites or concurrent registration for majors: SOWK 281; PSYC 202; and BIOL 105 or 112C; or consent of the instructor

### **SOWK 3550C/355T Communication and Interviewing Skills (4 credits)**

This course is the first of a four-course practice sequence. The primary focus is on communication theory and skills as applied to social work with individuals, families, small groups, communities and organizations. There is an emphasis on self-awareness, beginning assessment skills and diversity issues. An integrative approach to generalist social work practice provides the context for intervention on individual, environmental and societal levels.

Prerequisite or concurrent registration: SOWK 281 or consent of the instructor

### **SOWK 3750C/375T and 3760C/376T, or 3780C/378T Junior Fieldwork in Social Work (4 credits)**

Junior fieldwork complements the student's academic work through practical experience in a social work agency, institution or department. Under the supervision of an agency field instructor, the student learns beginning social work tasks and functions while applying theory to actual social work situations. Students participate in an on-campus seminar with other junior social work majors while in placement. The placement is 10 hours per week during fall and spring semesters, totaling 200 hours. Fall 378 is only open to students going abroad spring semester. Also offered in Weekend College, with placement during fall and winter trimesters. This course fulfills the second-level Computer Competency requirement in the core curriculum.

Prerequisite: SOWK 281 or consent of the instructor

### **SOWK 380T Social Research: Designs and Statistical Application (4 credits)**

The purpose of this course is to assist students in gaining knowledge and skill to understand the problems/persons generalist social workers encounter. The goals of the course are to have social-work students understand and be able to apply research methods, techniques, and tools to behavior and the social environment. Application of theory and research techniques, including statistical applications, for evaluating change, needs assessment, assessment of client-system functioning, program evaluation and practice effectiveness. This course fulfills the second-level Computer Competency requirement in the core curriculum.

Prerequisites for majors: SOWK 281 and junior status or permission of the instructor

### **SOWK 3850C/385T Working with Groups: Theory and Practice (4 credits)**

This course is the second of the four-course practice sequence. The primary focus of the course is on the study of human behavior in groups with emphasis on the use of groups in generalist social work practice to accomplish individual, family, organizational and/or community goals. Extensive opportunities to practice the skills necessary to be an effective group member and leader are provided. The effects of diversity on group interaction are stressed.

Prerequisite: SOWK 355 or consent of the instructor

### **SOWK 390T Faith, Social Transformation and Social Work (4 credits)**

There are strong ties between the profession of social work and Christian social morality. Social workers promote social change, healthy human relationships and the enhancement of personal well-being. Many social workers see their work as a vocation. They are often moved to join the profession and are motivated in profession by spiritual beliefs. Christian social ethics affirms these goals. This course will explore the ties and the tensions between social work, social transformation and Christian ethics.

### **SOWK 3910C/391T Social Policy for Social Change (4 credits)**

This course equips students to understand and critically analyze current and past social policies. Policy alternatives are explored with a focus on the values and attitudes as well as the societal, economic and political dynamics from which they originate. Roles and responsibilities of citizens and professionals in formulating and implementing policies responsive to actual social needs are addressed.

Prerequisite: SOWK 281 or consent of the instructor

### **SOWK 4010C/401T Generalist Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups (4 credits)**

This is the third course in the four-part practice sequence. This course prepares students for generalist social work practice with individuals, families and groups in the context of their social environments with emphasis on aspects of diversity. A primary focus is the application of social work knowledge through increased development of skills. The overall goal of the course is integration and application of the stages of the generalist social work method.

Prerequisites: SOWK 385; senior major status and concurrent registrations in SOWK 405 are required

### **SOWK 4020C/402T Generalist Practice for Social Change (4 credits)**

This course is a continuation of 401 and the final of four courses in the practice sequence of the social work curriculum. The focus is on the development of intervention methods based on generalist social work knowledge that can be applied to all client systems. A special emphasis is placed on effects of oppression and strategies for social action. A combination of lecture, discussion, experiential learning, and small-group activities provide student with knowledge and skills for client advocacy and social change.

Prerequisites: SOWK 401; concurrent registration in SOWK 406 is required

### **SOWK 4050C/405T Senior Fieldwork in Social Work (4 credits)**

Senior fieldwork complements the student's academic work through practical experiences in a social work agency, institution or department. Under the supervision of an agency field instructor, the student learns social work tasks

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and functions while applying theory to actual social work situations. Students participate in an on-campus seminar with other senior social work majors while in placement. The placement is approximately 15 hours per week during fall and spring semesters, totaling 400 hours. Also offered in Weekend College, with placement in fall and winter trimester.

Prerequisite: Concurrent registration in SOWK 401

**SOWK 4060C/406T Senior Fieldwork in Social Work (4 credits)**

Prerequisite: Concurrent registration in SOWK 402

**SOWK 416T Child Welfare Policy (4 credits) (GRSW 516)**

This course is designed to give students an overview of important topics in child welfare practice and policy. Students will be asked to examine their own values about orientations toward child welfare, children's rights and responsibilities, the nature of maltreatment, and other issues facing the field today, as they affect diverse families. Additionally, students will be given tools to advocate for children, and an opportunity to exercise new advocacy skills.

**SOWK 441T Family Resilience and Diversity (4 credits) (GRSW 523)**

This course presents a family resilience framework for therapeutic and preventative efforts with families. The resilience lens shifts perspective from viewing distressed families as damaged to seeing them as challenged, affirming their potential for repair and growth. Students develop a knowledge base of experience of diversity through the study of cultural values, life style and family structure.

**SOWK 475T, 476T Experiential Learning (2 credits)**

**SOWK 477T, 478T Experiential Learning (4 credits)**

See the description of these courses at the beginning of the "Curricula" section of this catalog.

**SOWK 483T, 484T Seminar (2 credits)**

**SOWK 485T, 486T Seminar (4 credits)**

See the description of these courses at the beginning of the "Curricula" section of this catalog.

**SOWK 487T, 488T Topics (2 credits)**

**SOWK 489T, 490T Topics (4 credits)**

The subject matter of these courses will vary from year to year, but will not duplicate existing courses. Descriptions of these courses are available in the Searchable Class Schedule on Murphy Online,

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**SOWK 491T, 492T Research (2 credits)**

**SOWK 493T, 494T Research (4 credits)**

See the description of these courses at the beginning of the "Curricula" section of this catalog.

**SOWK 495T, 496T Individual Study (2 credits)**

**SOWK 497T, 498T Individual Study (4 credits)**

See the description of these courses at the beginning of the "Curricula" section of this catalog.

### **Sociology and Criminal Justice (SOCL)**

College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice

O'Shaughnessy Education Center (OEC) 431, (651) 962-5630

Waldner (chair), Gladney (Law Enforcement Education Coordinator), Karraker, Kinney, Parilla, Smith, Smith-Cunnien; Bruton, Caldie, Davis, Peterson, Plesha, Schuth

Sociology is the scientific study of society and social relations. A major in sociology provides knowledge and skills applicable to careers in business, education, government, law, public health, public policy, and social service. Additionally, an undergraduate degree prepares students for graduate study in sociology and other closely related fields.

Students who graduate with a major in sociology will understand the methodological and theoretical foundations of sociology and possess skills to apply this knowledge in a practical way. They will have the opportunity to specialize in crime and criminology, family and the life course, inequalities and stratification, and work and organizations, as well as individual course work in other areas such as anthropology, health, and urban sociology. We also offer courses with comparative perspectives on global issues such as crime, gender, immigration, and religion. The sociology curriculum reflects the breadth of the discipline, its place in the liberal arts tradition, and the application of sociological theories and methods to the critical issues and problems facing societies today.

Students who graduate with a major in criminal justice will know the main components of the criminal and juvenile justice systems and will know the basics of criminal law and criminal procedure in the U.S. system of justice. They will have the tools to understand the long standing and current dilemmas faced by society in trying to develop and maintain an effective and just criminal justice system. They will be prepared for employment in the field of criminal justice, including corrections or law enforcement.

Sociology and criminal justice majors pursue graduate and professional degrees in sociology and criminology, as well as business, law, public health, public policy, social work, and other fields. The Sociology Department and fac-