



Florida State University College of Social Work

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK
DEGREE PROGRAM GUIDE

CSW.FSU.EDU





WHY FSU? WHY THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK?

Florida State University (FSU) is a nationally recognized, student-centric institution that takes pride in offering challenging, yet invigorating academic programs, open communication with students, and opportunities to assume leadership roles that help them develop leadership skills. On FSU's main campus, there are 16 colleges offering more than 275 undergraduate, graduate, professional, and doctorate programs.

The FSU College of Social Work recruits one of the most diverse student cohorts on FSU's campus, giving each student the opportunity to learn from colleagues who bring invaluable professional experiences and life histories to the classrooms and field placements. Professors and students collaborate and embrace the robust conversations and intellectual adventures that cultural and social diversity bring.



College of Social Work
University Center, Building C

Student-Centric

- More than 40,000 students are enrolled at FSU each year.
- The BSW Program was ranked #21 in the U.S. by "The Best Schools.org" in 2016 (www.thebestschools.org). TheBestSchools.org provides in-depth ranking of degree programs based on: balancing academic excellence, return on investment, and indirect or secondary benefits in evaluating schools or programs.
- The MSW Program is ranked as one of the top graduate programs in social work (*No. 38 U.S. News & World Report*).
- The FSU College of Social Work is ranked as a top 25 social work program at a public university. (*U.S. News & World Report*).
- Enjoy working and collaborating closely with faculty and staff in a warm, caring environment.

Legacy of Excellence

- FSU has offered classes on social welfare/ social work since 1928.
- The College of Social Work programs have been continuously accredited by the Council on Social Work Education since 1950.
- The FSU College of Social Work is the first university in the United States to offer a Master of Social Work online program.
- An emphasis on classroom theory applied to real world scenarios makes the FSU College of Social Work one of the top programs accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools as well as the Council on Social Work Education.
- FSU ranks among the 50 Top Public Universities. (*U.S. News & World Report*).



"The College of Social Work is committed to preparing the next generation of social work professionals through our BSW, MSW, and PhD programs. We share the moral idea best expressed by one of the profession's founders, Nobel Laureate Jane Addams: 'The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life.'"

Jim Clark, PhD, LCSW
Dean and Professor

Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)

Social work is a profession committed to serving individuals, families, and communities that reflect a wide cross section of humanity, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, marital status, political belief, mental or physical handicap, or any other preference or personal characteristic, condition, or status. In the interest of serving these diverse populations, the College of Social Work places a strong emphasis on recruiting a student body which reflects these values. The Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree is most suited for entry-level positions in areas such as family services, child welfare, public health and substance abuse. The Bachelor of Social Work program at Florida State is **LIMITED ACCESS**, requiring you to meet minimum admission requirements and to submit an application.

Programs of Study

The BSW program requires at least four semesters to complete all course requirements for the major. A minimum of 50 credit hours in social work is required for graduation: 38 credit hours of coursework and 12 credit hours of field education; which constitutes a minimum of 512 clock hours at the end of the program of studies in a supervised internship. While our program is 50 credit hours, you will need a total of 120 credits to earn a bachelor's degree at FSU.

Note:

The College of Social Work makes decisions about transfer of credit towards requirements specifically for the social work major. The College of Social Work only accepts social work course work from 1) a CSWE-accredited institution 2) a maximum of 24 social work credit hours and 3) with a grade of 3.0 ("B") or better.

Locations

Tallahassee - Main Campus

The BSW program is primarily designed for full-time students in the last two years of their baccalaureate education, following completion of liberal studies requirements and other prerequisites. You may take courses on a part-time basis, but most courses are offered during daytime hours.

Panama City, Florida

The College of Social Work also offers the social work major at FSU's Panama City Campus. Both part-time and full-time programs of study are available. All policies regarding sequencing and other educational requirements apply to students on both campuses. For further information about the program offerings in Panama City, please contact the main BSW Program Office or the website for the Panama City Campus at <http://www.pc.fsu.edu>.





WHAT A BSW CAN DO FOR YOU

What sets a BSW apart from a degree in another major?

- It makes you eligible to apply for an advanced standing MSW degree that can be completed in one year.
- It is a nationally-recognized degree accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.
- Accreditation is based upon rigorous national academic standards and evaluated on a regular basis.
- It prepares you to enhance human well-being with particular attention to the empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and/or living in poverty. You will gain an understanding of our professional history, values and ethics, a respect for dignity, and a commitment to work to achieve social and economic justice.

Did You Know?

- Professional social workers are the **nation's largest group of mental health service providers**, offering more services than psychologists, psychiatrists, and psychiatric nurses combined.
- Social workers help people challenge their circumstances and change their lives, pushing institutions to value and support persons in need.
- CareerCast.com recently ranked social work **#49 on a list of 200 Best Jobs in 2013**. The site stated an **average salary of \$46,174** for social workers.
- More than 600,000 people in the United States hold social work degrees.
- Social workers are college-educated and skilled professionals with bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees.
- According to **the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the need for social workers is expected to grow twice as fast as any other occupation**; especially in the areas of gerontology/aging, home healthcare, substance abuse, private social service agencies, and school social work.
- For over 100 years the social work profession has helped millions of people.





STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



Samantha Rust

“From the first day of class, I made lifelong friends that share many of the same views and dreams as I do. My mind and heart have expanded drastically, and I have learned how to be open to views that differ from mine. Through the respect, integrity, and love I have received from this program, I believe I can help make a difference in a child’s life.”



Algenon White

“My experience has been incredible. All of our professors are very hands on and have taught us the fundamentals of social work. The program offers an array of interactive courses where our professors use class discussion as a part of student development to enhance our individual awareness of our human condition.”



Morgan Lodes

“The College of Social Work has provided me with a supportive and caring environment for me to grow and thrive. My interactions with faculty, staff members, and classmates have taught me how to become a more compassionate, understanding, and kind person. I will never forget my time as a student here because in many ways it has served as a second home for me.”



AWARDS, TUITION, & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Tuition information for FSU is available at controller.vpfa.fsu.edu/student-business/tuition-fees.

College of Social Work Scholarships are available on an annual basis through one application process during the early Spring semester. (csw.fsu.edu)



Social Work Undergraduate Research Award

The SWURA introduces undergraduates to the discipline and rewards of scholarly research with awardees working with or under the direction of a faculty mentor on that faculty member's own research. Awardees work closely with a faculty member outside the classroom, have the opportunity to make significant contributions to research, and provides them with the conceptual and practical tools to develop their own independent research project in the future.

Certificate Programs

- **Child Welfare Practice Certificate**
The Child Welfare Practice Certificate program is designed for undergraduate and graduate social work students who wish to develop knowledge and skills in child welfare practice and children's mental health.
- **Gerontology/Aging Studies Certificate**
The Gerontology/Aging Studies Certificate is designed to educate students about gerontological theories and practices, and to provide students with gerontological internship and service learning experiences.

Garnet & Gold Scholar Society

The Garnet and Gold Scholar Society facilitates involvement and recognizes the engaged, well-rounded undergraduate student who excels within and beyond the classroom in the areas of **Leadership, Internship, Service, International, and Research**. An undergraduate student who meets the criteria in three of the five areas and completes a Synthesis Reflection will qualify to graduate as a member of the Garnet and Gold Scholar Society.

Honors in the Major

Students wishing to earn an Honors in the Major will complete a research thesis or creative project in their major area under the guidance of a faculty committee. The College of Social Work encourages students with a GPA of 3.2 or better to apply for the Honors Program. To learn more, visit <http://honors.fsu.edu/honors-major>.

International Programs

- Study Abroad offers a summer study abroad program in Prague, Czech Republic and two undergraduate exchange programs during the spring and fall semesters in Australia and Sweden.
- Alternative Spring Break is an opportunity for students to participate in a volunteer service project in an international setting. The College of Social Work works with international partners to deepen student understanding of global social work issues and works to support local agency goals. Currently, the College partners with agencies in Grenada, West Indies in the East Caribbean.
- International Field Placements are currently available for BSWs in the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, and the Eastern Caribbean. Through these experiences you'll become familiar with host cultures and communities, learning how social welfare services are interpreted and provided abroad. Each of our partner agencies provide a unique cultural experience and immersion opportunity.



MINOR IN SOCIAL WELFARE

The College of Social Work offers a Minor in Social Welfare, which is available to non-social work students interested in exploring the field of social work and introduces you to a wide range of opportunities in social work.

The minor gives you the opportunity to utilize these courses should you decide to pursue towards a BSW degree and to broaden your understanding of the profession and all it has to offer.

Minor in Social Welfare Requirements

The minor requires 12 hours in social work courses with a grade of C- or better in each course (at least 6 hours completed at Florida State University).

Courses

SOW 3203: The Social Work Profession (3 credits)

SOW 3350: Interviewing & Documentation (3 credits)

Plus Two Social Work Electives (6 credits)

Please note, the minor does not qualify you for a social work internship, for advanced standing graduate programs in social work, or for professional certification or licensure.



CONNECT WITH US

The Bachelor of Social Work program is **LIMITED ACCESS** with admission requirements and an application.

Admissions Requirements

1. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better
2. All General Education requirements (a minimum of 60 hours)
3. Submission of the BSW Program Application
4. Copy of an updated resume
5. Successful completion of the following pre-requisite (or their equivalent) courses:

<u>Prerequisite Courses</u>	<u>Approved Course Numbers</u>	<u>Required Grade</u>
General Biology for Non-majors	BSC1005	B-
Introduction to Economics	ECO2000	B-
American Government: National	POS1041	B-
Introductory Psychology	PSY2012	B-
Introductory Sociology	SYG1000	B-

BSW Application Deadline Dates

Fall Semester - June 1

Spring Semester - November 1

For our application go to:

<http://csw.fsu.edu>



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