

SOCIAL WORK, BS

The bachelor's degree in social work is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Its primary objective is to prepare students for beginning generalist social work practice.

The program prepares students for potential employment in both public (federal, state, and county) and private social service agencies. Students are trained to work and affect change among individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. The program helps prepare students to engage in critical thinking and actively apply research to practice, policy, advocacy, education, and leadership. A sample of career possibilities includes caseworker, psychiatric social worker, youth counselor, and alcohol/drug counselor.

Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
	General Curriculum Requirements (p. 1)	36
	Major Requirements (p. 1)	55
	General Electives (p. 2)	29
	Total Credits	120

General Curriculum Requirements

For courses that satisfy the distribution requirements in humanities, natural science, and social science, see the GER listing in the current Timetable (<http://www4.uwm.edu/schedule/>). The UWM General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/#bachelorsdegreegeneraleducation>) apply to all students who were not enrolled in an accredited institution prior to 1986.

Code	Title	Credits
English		
	Refer to Proficiency Requirements in General Education Requirements. Contact a school advisor for specific information.	
Mathematics		
	Refer to Proficiency Requirements in General Education Requirements. Contact a school advisor for specific information.	
Liberal Arts Foundation		
<i>Foreign Language</i>		
	Completion of two years of high school-level instruction in a single foreign language, or satisfactory completion of at least two semesters of a single foreign language, or approved demonstration of foreign language ability	
<i>Arts</i>		
	Select 3 credits of General Education-approved arts course in the history, philosophy, theory, or practice of the creative and interpretive arts	3
<i>Humanities</i>		
COMMUN 103	Public Speaking	3
	Select 9 credits of General Education-approved humanities courses	9
<i>Natural Science</i>		
	Select 6 credits of General Education-approved natural science courses to include a lab or field course	6
<i>Social Science</i>		

Select 15 credits of General Education-approved social science courses ¹	15
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Total Credits 36

Major Requirements

The undergraduate social work major includes a pre-professional component. Freshmen and sophomores may begin to take courses offered in the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare.

Students must complete at least 120 credits to obtain the degree. The major in Social Work requires a minimum of 55 credits in Social Work or Helen Bader School of Social Welfare courses (students can take courses in criminal justice and have them count toward the major as elective credit). The Department requires that students attain at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA, including transfer credits, in order to advance in the major. In addition, students must attain a 2.0 cumulative GPA in order to graduate from UWM.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
SOC WRK 100	Introduction to Social Work	3
SOC WRK 250	Human Behavior and the Social Environment	3
SOC WRK 260	Case Management in Social Work	3
SOC WRK 270	Advocacy and Empowerment	3
SOC WRK 306	Introduction to Social Welfare Policy	3
SOC WRK 308	Social Work Values and Ethics	3
SOC WRK 310	Social Work Practice I: Individuals and Families ²	3
SOC WRK 410	Social Work Practice II: Groups ^{2,3}	3
SOC WRK 421	Field Education & Integrated Field Seminar I ^{2,3}	5
SOC WRK 422	Field Education & Integrated Seminar II ^{2,4}	5
SOC WRK 427	Social Work Practice III: Communities and Organizations ^{2,4}	3
SOC WRK 604	Social Systems and Social Work Practice	3
SOC WRK 662	Methods of Social Welfare Research	3
SOC WRK 665	Cultural Diversity and Social Work	3
Social Work Electives		
	Select 9 credits in SOC WRK or CRM JST courses	9
	Total Credits	55

¹ Must be from at least two different subjects.

² Minimum grade of B or better required.

³ To be taken concurrently.

⁴ To be taken concurrently.

No academic credit for life experience and previous work experience is granted in lieu of field placement or course work.

All credit for required courses must have been earned within 10 years of graduation.

General Electives

Code	Title	Credits
Credits towards the degree not counted in other categories will apply to General Electives. Classes counting towards General Electives may include, but are not limited to:		
ENGLISH 100	Introduction to College Writing and Reading	4
ENGLISH 101	Introduction to College Writing	3
ENGLISH 102	College Writing and Research	3
MATH 102	Mathematical Literacy for College Students II	3
MATH 103	Contemporary Applications of Mathematics	3
MATH 105	Introduction to College Algebra	3
MATH 108	Algebraic Literacy II	3
Foreign Language credits		
Total Credits		29

Credits earned in HONORS 687 or HONORS 689 will not count towards the major.

Fieldwork

The field education sequence required for social work majors consists of two semesters of placement, beginning as early as the junior year. A total of 256 hours in the field is required each of the two semesters. The field courses are taken concurrently with the practice courses. Students are required to maintain a grade of B or better in each social work practice and field course. When a student does not, the student's academic progress is reviewed by the chair of the Social Work Department. In certain cases, the student may be referred to the Faculty Review Panel and may not be allowed to continue in the major.

For further information about fieldwork, consult the Field Staff Office, Enderis Hall, Room 1075, (414) 229-6526.

Degree Requirements

To receive the bachelor's degree with a social work major, the student must have an overall GPA (including non-UWM college work) of 2.0 and a total of 120 credits. At least 50% of the credits in the social work major must be earned at UWM. Social work students must complete at least one semester of field placement at UWM. Students must earn their last 30 credits at UWM.

Advancing to the Major

Social Work majors must be formally advanced to the major to begin field placement. This is an automated process that occurs through PAWS upon completion of the requirements listed below. Students who have not yet been advanced to the Social Work major are still able to take a sequence of Social Work courses. The requirements to be advanced to the Social Work major are:

- Completion of 48+ credits
- Completion of SOC WRK 100, SOC WRK 250, and SOC WRK 306
- Cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher, including all transfer work

All of these requirements must be satisfied to be advanced into the major. Students may appeal to be advanced into the major if they fail to meet one or more of the requirements listed above. This should be done in

consultation with an academic advisor in the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare.

Undergraduate Academic Advising

The Office of Student Services in the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare, located in the Northwest Quadrant Building D 3rd Floor, offers undergraduate student academic advising from professional advisors who are familiar with the Social Work and Criminal Justice & Criminology curriculum, College requirements, and university policies. Advisors can also provide information on scholarship opportunities, tutoring, and student organizations that align with a student's interests.

These advisors provide services such as new freshman orientation, course selection, assistance with registration, and review of transfer credit. Students are assigned to a permanent professional advisor upon admittance into the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare and are encouraged to meet with their academic advisor at least once each semester. Please call (414) 229-4852 to schedule an appointment or for more information.

Transfer Students

The Helen Bader School of Social Welfare welcomes students from other academic areas on the UWM campus and students transferring to UWM from other institutions. Students planning to transfer into either major from another institution should meet with an academic advisor as soon as they are admitted and the transfer credit evaluation process has been completed. During this meeting, the student and advisor will review transfer course equivalencies, discuss program requirements, and create an academic plan for coming semesters. Students may meet with their advisor in person or by phone. Please call (414) 229-4852 to schedule an appointment or for more information.

Honors in the Major

Honors in the Major is granted to students who have earned a GPA of 3.500 or above in all major courses taken in residence at UWM. A minimum of 28 Social Work credits or 24 Criminal Justice credits completed in residence are needed to be considered for Honors in the Major.

High Honors in the Major

High Honors in the Major is granted to students who have earned a GPA of 3.750 or above in all major courses taken in residence at UWM. A minimum of 28 Social Work credits or 24 Criminal Justice credits completed in residence are needed to be considered for Honors in the Major.

College of Community Engagement and Professions Dean's Honor List

GPA of 3.750 or above, earned on a full-time student's GPA on 12 or more graded credits in a given semester.

Honors College Degree and Honors College Degree with Distinction

Granted to graduating seniors who complete Honors College requirements, as listed in the Honors College (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/honors-college/>) section of this site.

Commencement Honors

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or above, based on a minimum of 40 graded UWM credits earned prior to the final semester, will receive all-university commencement honors and be awarded the traditional gold cord at the December or May Honors Convocation. Please note that for honors calculation, the GPA is **not** rounded and is truncated at the third decimal (e.g., 3.499).

Final Honors

Earned on a minimum of 60 graded UWM credits: Cum Laude - 3.500 or above; Magna Cum Laude - 3.650 or above; Summa Cum Laude - 3.800 or above.

Contact Information

Office of Student Services

Enderis Hall, 1110
2400 E Hartford Ave.