

# Social Work - Undergraduate (SSWU)

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Course information contained within the Bulletin is accurate at the time of publication in June 2025 but is subject to change. For the most up-to-date course information, please refer to the Course Catalog.

## **SSWU 0822. Human Behavior and the Photographic Image. 3 Credit Hours.**

How do photographs become more than just a pile of disparate images? Is there more to photography than that single "decisive moment" in the hunt and capture of an image? How do photographers comment on issues that are important to them? How can photographs tell a story? Is there a way one can use the art of photography to elicit change? In this class, students will use their digital cameras to investigate individual photographs, as well as series of photographs. We will look at photography in its historical context -- at the advent of documentary photography and photojournalism, and at narrative photography in its more contemporary form, as photographers use it to chronicle their own lives and to tell a story. Through the exercises of looking at and making photographic images, several core concepts of social work, along with theories of human behavior in the social environment, will be introduced. Students will learn not only about the place photography holds in our culture, but our culture itself, and the students' place in that culture. Students will critically analyze published photographs, as well as photographs made during the class. The semester will culminate in a class exhibition where students will be given the opportunity to present their photographs to the public, demonstrating their understanding of human behavior in the social environment. NOTE: This course fulfills the Human Behavior (GB) requirement for students under GenEd and Individual & Society (IN) for students under Core. Students cannot receive credit for this course if they have successfully completed ART 0822, GAD 0822 or PHOT 0822.

**Course Attributes:** GB

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

## **SSWU 2005. Introduction to the Social Work Profession I. 3 Credit Hours.**

Introduction to the Social Work Profession I is the first of two 3-credit required courses in the BSW Program for social work majors. As an introductory social work course, SSWU 2005 introduces students to the BSW curriculum, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics, the Council for Social Work Education (CSWE) Educational Policy & Accreditation Standards (EPAS), and generalist social work practice. Additionally, because communication is a major component of all social work practice across all systems levels, this course provides students with opportunities to develop knowledge, values and skills necessary for effective communication in social work practice with individuals, families, groups, communities, and organizations. While this course focuses on individual, family, and group practice it is with the understanding social work professionals acknowledge individuals are a part of a larger environment. This course will emphasize this relationship between individuals and their environment. As such, this course will enable students to develop an understanding of various forms of oppression and injustice that are prevalent in U.S. society and their impact on individuals, families, and groups. There is a focus on populations at risk, diversity, issues of social and economic justice, and human rights as they relate to work with people in client status, the social service delivery system, and society as a whole.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:** Minimum grade of C- (except where noted) in (HRPR 1001 (C or higher; may be taken concurrently) or 'Y' in CRHR01), SOC 1176 (may be taken concurrently), PSY 1001 (may be taken concurrently), and (STRC 1111 (may be taken concurrently) or CSI 1111 (may be taken concurrently))

## **SSWU 2006. Introduction to the Social Work Profession II. 3 Credit Hours.**

Imagine it's the night before your first day of Practicum at a social service organization. You're sitting on your bed, going over your notes one last time. Enthusiastic yet apprehensive, you're determined to make a positive impact. Still, you can't help but wonder how you'll navigate the experience when your goal is to become a therapist or work in the policy arena. Throughout this course, you'll recognize that generalist practice is the foundation of every sphere of social work. You will gain an understanding of generalist practice within organizations, neighborhoods, and communities; learn the importance of evidence-informed practice; and identify strategies that are ethical, culturally and trauma-informed, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive. In interactive sessions, you'll continue to develop your communication skills, as well as increase your understanding of the generalist intervention model and the planned change process, all within macro contexts. Professional development continues, including navigating job searches, customizing resumes, requesting grad school recommendations and professional references, etc.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:** Minimum grade of C in (SSWU 2005 or 'Y' in CRSW05) and SSWU 2089 (may be taken concurrently)

**SSWU 2089. Service Learning in Social Work: A Pathway to Civic Engagement and Generalist Practicum. 2 Credit Hours.**

Do you have a desire to help others and make a positive impact? This course is your launchpad! Instead of traditional lectures, you'll engage in 60 hours of direct service-learning within established local organizations, tackling challenges faced by the community. Reflecting on your experiences will deepen your understanding of social work concepts, values, and ethics, as well as social service delivery systems. This process will also strengthen your community ties and empower you to act. In preparation for the responsibilities, challenges, and triumphs of practicum, you'll enhance your problem-solving, communication, time-management, and networking skills. To encourage self-discovery and career exploration you'll find your own service opportunities. Clear course guidelines, reflective assignments, and active course engagement will help you navigate challenges such as tight schedules and nervousness, ensuring you find suitable opportunities. SSWU 2089 can be taken with either SSWU 2005 or SSWU 2006. Successful completion (C or better) of SSWU 2089 is a prerequisite for Generalist Practicum. No exceptions!

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:** Minimum grade of C in SSWU 2005 (may be taken concurrently)

**SSWU 3003. History and Values of Social Welfare. 3 Credit Hours.**

The History and Values of Social Welfare provides an overview of social welfare policies and institutions and introduces the basic skills in social problem and policy analysis that will be further developed in the second policy course that follows (SSWU 3004/ formerly 2004).

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:** Minimum grade of C in (SSWU 2005 (may be taken concurrently) or 'Y' in CRSW05)

**SSWU 3004. Social Welfare in the US. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course is the second half of a two-course sequence focused on social welfare policy. The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the arena of social policy analysis, policy practice, and advocacy. The course explores the influence of competing values, theories, and interest groups on policy making. We also consider federal and state budget basics and policy advocacy as well as the role of the judiciary. Special attention is given to the influence of demographic characteristics in social policy formation. Additionally, the course gives students practice writing a policy brief and in organizing and presenting a policy analysis that addresses the legislative history, implementation, and evaluation of a social policy. This conceptual approach to policy practice can be used effectively in many situations.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:** Minimum grade of C in (SSWU 3003 or 'Y' in CRSW03) and (SSWU 2006 (may be taken concurrently) or 'Y' in CRSW01)

**SSWU 3007. Human Behavior in the Social Environment. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course is designed to explore the theoretical knowledge-base of social work in relation to human behavior and human development within the context of the social environment. Theories of human behavior are identified as undergirding the practice of social work. The course begins with an exploration of the role of human behavior theory, its limitations and strengths, and proceeds to draw from theories to provide knowledge of human development and human behavior throughout the life course from a person-in-environment perspective. The mutual influence of transactions between individuals, families, communities, social institutions and societies are explored using a social systems perspective. Interrelationships among biological, psychological, social and cultural systems as they affect and are affected by human behavior are studied using a number of interdisciplinary theoretical approaches.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:** Minimum grade of C- in (any BIOL course numbered 1000 to 4999 (may be taken concurrently) or any KINS course numbered 1000 to 4999 (may be taken concurrently)), (PSY 1061 (may be taken concurrently) or PSY 1001 (may be taken concurrently)), SOC 1176 (may be taken concurrently), and (any STAT course numbered 1000 to 4999 (may be taken concurrently), MATH 1013 (may be taken concurrently), PSY 1003 (may be taken concurrently), PSY 1167 (may be taken concurrently), SOC 1167 (may be taken concurrently), or SOC 1967 (may be taken concurrently))

**SSWU 3009. Human Behavior and the Social Environment: Communities and Organizations. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines the practice of social service delivery within its organizational and environmental contexts. Social services are delivered within organizations that have varying degrees of economic, political and cultural complexity. Professional and organizational values and expectations are constantly in dynamic tension with each other. The course explores the impact of these tensions on the quality and quantity of services and addresses the professional social worker's role as a proactive force partnering with clients to advocate for services and systems improvement.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:** Minimum grade of C in (SSWU 3007 or 'Y' in CRSW04)

**SSWU 3011. The Social Worker in the Group. 3 Credit Hours.**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the important and prevalent role of groups in generalist social work practice and to provide the knowledge, experience, and skills necessary for group leadership, participation, and evaluation at the BSW level. Students will study, experience, and identify the impact of personal, interpersonal, cultural, and environmental factors on group dynamics and their personal reactions to a group process. Students will also learn content to prepare them for undertaking assessments for group membership; designing and conducting task and educational groups; anticipating practice challenges; and grounding group planning and implementation in research.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:** Minimum grade of C in (SSWU 2006 (may be taken concurrently) or 'Y' in CRSW01)

**SSWU 3096. Institutional Racism. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course is designed to introduce and sensitize students to the forms, practices, and effects of racism. The course examines the historical foundations of racism as an ideology, various racial theories and theories of racism, and the practices that perpetuate institutional systems which continue to limit the opportunities afforded to persons of color. Specifically, it emphasizes the role of institutional racism in education, human services, housing, law, business, and prisons. The complex interplay among racism and other institutionalized systems of oppression (e.g., sexism, ageism, heterosexism, ethnocentrism, and anti-Semitism) are explored throughout the semester. NOTE: This is a Writing Intensive course.

**Course Attributes:** SF, WI

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:** Minimum grade of C in (SSWU 3007 (may be taken concurrently) or 'Y' in CRSW04)

**SSWU 4000. Special Topics in Social Work. 1 to 3 Credit Hour.**

This special topics course can explore a range of issue areas of importance to social work and give students an opportunity to study topics that are not a standard part of the curriculum. Each semester, an instructor can create a course in an area they see as particularly relevant. This course may meet the Social Work Elective requirement. Students who are seriously interested in the content must meet with the instructor to obtain authorization to register.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

**SSWU 4001. Seminar in Social Work Practice. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course is the first semester of a two-semester integrative practice course for senior Social Work majors. Students use the seminar format to learn empowerment based social work practice skills and to apply the social work curricular areas of human behavior in the social environment, social welfare policy, and research. The background acquired from the Core or General Education curriculum and the content of the professionally related courses are used to inform social work practice. An important focus of the senior seminar is the agency environment in which the students practice. The formal and informal systems in which students do their fieldwork comprise the foci of the senior seminar classes. The classroom instructor is the liaison for the students' fieldwork agencies. This maximizes the opportunity to create an intense, supportive, and integrative educational experience. Students stay in the same section and field agency throughout both fall and spring semesters. Previously acquired skills are enhanced while new skills are developed so that students acquire the competencies for beginning generalist social work practice at all levels with systems of all sizes. NOTE: It is recommended that students take SSWU 3096, Institutional Racism, before entering this Senior Seminar, but if this is not possible, it may be taken in the fall semester of senior year.

**Co-requisites:** SSWU 4396.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:** Minimum grade of C in (SSWU 3004, SSWU 2004, or 'Y' in CRSW06)

**SSWU 4002. Seminar in Social Work Practice. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course is the second semester of a two-semester integrative practice course for senior social work majors. Students use the seminar format to learn empowerment based social work practice skills and to apply the social work curricular areas of human behavior in the social environment, social welfare policy, and research. The background acquired from the Core or General Education curriculum and the content of the professionally related courses are used to inform social work practice. An important focus of both the Social Work 4001 and Social Work 3009 is the agency environment in which the students practice. The realities of the formal and informal systems in which students do their fieldwork are constant foci of the senior seminar classes. The classroom instructor is the liaison for the students' fieldwork agencies. This maximizes the opportunity to create an intense, supportive and integrative educational experience. Students stay in the same section and field agency throughout both fall and spring semesters. Previously acquired skills are enhanced while new skills are developed so that students acquire the competencies for beginning generalist social work practice at all levels with systems of all sizes.

**Co-requisites:** SSWU 4287, SSWU 4407.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:** Minimum grade of C- in SSWU 4001.

**SSWU 4107. BSW Capstone I: Generalist Practicum Seminar. 2 Credit Hours.**

BSW Capstone I: Generalist Practicum Seminar is a two-credit course designed to help students integrate classroom knowledge, values, and skills with their Practicum experience. With support from peers and instructors, students will begin to demonstrate proficiency in the nine core competencies of social work at a generalist practice level, as outlined in the Council of Social Work Education's Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards.

**Co-requisites:** SSWU 4187.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:** Minimum grade of C in SSWU 2089, SSWU 3009, SSWU 4001 (may be taken concurrently), and SSWU 4396 (may be taken concurrently)

**SSWU 4187. Social Work Field Practicum I. 5 Credit Hours.**

This first semester of a two-semester practicum offers the opportunity to practice social work in selected social agencies. The student spends 200 supervised hours in the field. This generalist experience provides students the opportunity to apply the knowledge, skills, and values learned in research, policy, human behavior, and practice classes. It allows them to connect social work theory with practice and to develop increasing depth in knowledge and skills. These include the development of communication, problem-solving, and networking skills within various focal systems and demonstration of purposeful use of self within a culturally competent empowerment model of practice. NOTE: For details on the field placement process, refer to the Field Education Manual available from the Field Education Office.

**Co-requisites:** SSWU 4001, SSWU 4396.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

**SSWU 4207. BSW Capstone II: Generalist Practicum Seminar. 2 Credit Hours.**

BSW Capstone II: Generalist Practicum Seminar is a two-credit course designed to help students integrate classroom knowledge, values, and skills with their Practicum experience. With support from peers and instructors, students will demonstrate proficiency in the nine core competencies of social work at a generalist practice level, as outlined in the Council on Social Work Education's Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards.

**Co-requisites:** SSWU 4287.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:** Minimum grade of C in SSWU 4107, SSWU 4187, SSWU 4396, SSWU 4001, SSWU 4002 (may be taken concurrently), and SSWU 4407 (may be taken concurrently)

**SSWU 4287. Social Work Field Practicum II. 5 Credit Hours.**

This second semester of a two-semester practicum offers the opportunity to practice social work in selected social agencies. The student spends 200 supervised hours in the field. This generalist experience provides students the opportunity to apply the knowledge, skills, and values learned in Research, Policy, Human Behavior, and Practice classes. It allows them to connect social work theory with practice and to develop increasing depth in knowledge and skills. These include the development of communication, problem-solving, and networking skills within various focal systems and demonstration of purposeful use of self within a culturally competent empowerment model of practice.

**Co-requisites:** SSWU 4002, SSWU 4407.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

**Pre-requisites:** Minimum grade of C- in (SSWU 4001, SSWU 4187, and SSWU 4396)

**SSWU 4302. Emotional Disorders in Children and Adolescents. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course provides students with a knowledge base in emotional and behavioral difficulties of children and adolescents from the perspective of social work. Students become familiar with the current literature in the field of child mental health. This includes knowledge about specific emotional and behavioral problems, theoretical perspectives for understanding child mental health and populations at risk, and current practices with children and families.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**SSWU 4303. Social Work with the Homeless. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course provides a framework for the analysis of social policies and programs related to the social problems of homelessness in the United States. Although the focus of the course is on contemporary issues of homelessness, the approach includes an historical perspective in order to explore the enduring legacy of early interventions and approaches to the relief and social control of marginalized populations. The implications of differing viewpoints and alternative problem definitions for policy and service delivery are considered. The course explores shifts in housing policies. Additionally, employment programs are discussed in some detail to demonstrate their impact on the increasing numbers of Americans who are homeless.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**SSWU 4306. Child Welfare Policy. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course will explore the historical, philosophical, legal, social, political, and economic influences on the development of child welfare services. Selected aspects of children's lives will be examined to understand and analyze the state of children in the United States and the effects of state intervention in the lives of children and their families. A range of services from family supports to foster care, kinship care, adoption, and family preservation will be examined. Issues of access and equity, gender, differential needs and treatment of children based on race, socioeconomic status, and family type will frame the analyses. Comparisons between the U.S. and other countries will be made to address changes for the future.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**SSWU 4307. Alcohol and Substance Abuse. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course provides students with current information about alcohol and other substance abuse. Using ecosystems and family systems frameworks, information is presented regarding the bio-psycho-social impact of alcohol and other substance abuse on individual and family functioning. Particular attention is given to treatment options and resources for change.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**SSWU 4308. Social Transformation. 3 Credit Hours.**

This is an exploration of theories of social transformation with particular focus on analyzing and addressing societal oppression and injustice. Course topics include dynamics of empowerment and self-determination, social movements and collective action, and the risks and rewards of being a change agent. Emphasis is on participatory learning and practical application in social work and human service settings.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**SSWU 4309. Societal Responses to Aging. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course explores public and private resources, the need for social and political action, the network of services to meet the needs of individuals and their families, present policies and practice in income maintenance, health, housing, safety, and social status. Public-private sponsorship, cost, accountability, benefit levels and administration are also explored. Student social action projects are completed and expanded.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**SSWU 4311. Law and Practice of Human Services. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course provides an introduction to the law as it affects the human services professional and the practice of social work. The course provides an overview of major areas of the law as they relate to juveniles, families, and the elderly. It also includes a review of professional responsibilities including informed consent, privileged communication, malpractice laws and the building of effective social work/legal terms.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**SSWU 4312. Loss and Grief. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course examines the dynamics of loss, the stress of grief and mourning, societal attitudes about death, and cultural variations in dealing with loss and bereavement practices. The course aims to help students explore and examine personal meanings about loss and to prepare them to be responsive and helpful as social workers working with those experiencing loss and grief. Class sessions combine cognitive and experiential material.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**SSWU 4314. Beyond the Binary: Intersections of Gender, Sexuality, and Health. 3 Credit Hours.**

Gender and sexuality health and identity are important aspects of the overall human experience. This course will provide an opportunity to explore the influence of social construction on development of gender and sexual identities, roles, expectations, and behavior. The intersection of body image, trauma, lived experiences, beliefs, values and expectations and how these may affect expressions of gender and sexuality will be discussed. The intersection of socioeconomic status, race, culture, religion, and geographical location will be examined in regards to gender and sexuality as a whole and access to reproductive healthcare specifically. Sexuality education policy will be considered on their priorities, assumptions, and potential effectiveness. Students will reflect on readings, class discussions, personal beliefs/values and how these may affect their future professional lives in the helping professions of social work, public health, nursing, education, and others. Note that the subject matter in this course may be considered sensitive to many, and respectful, mature engagement throughout the work is expected.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**SSWU 4396. Introduction to Social Research. 3 Credit Hours.**

An introduction to the philosophy, concepts, principles, and methods of empirical research in the social and behavioral sciences. Characteristic stages and formats of social research are reviewed, with the primary aim of developing beginning competence in the critical assessment of published research and use of research techniques.

**Co-requisites:** SSWU 4001.

**Course Attributes:** WI

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:** Minimum grade of C in (SSWU 3004 or 'Y' in CRSW06)

**SSWU 4407. Evaluating Programs and Practice in Social Work. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course is designed to introduce students to the range of activities and methods included in program evaluation. These are examined in the larger context within which programs exist, the specific stage of program development, and the ends to which information is to be used. Students will learn the historical context of accountability and development of program evaluation; the nature, substance and role of evaluation research; the inherent and contextual constraints and potentialities of program evaluation; the role and use of program evaluation in relation to planning, administration, and social policy; the relationship between program evaluation and practice at the individual and program levels; and the options available in doing program evaluation.

**Co-requisites:** SSWU 4002, SSWU 4287.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:** Minimum grade of C- in SSWU 3009, SSWU 4001, SSWU 4396, and SSWU 4187.

**SSWU 4482. Independent Study in Social Work. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.**

In this course, a program is developed by instructor and student to permit the study of issues of interest to the student and relevant to social welfare and social work. Students must meet with the faculty member within the first week of the term and agree on the topic area(s), readings, graded assignments, and due dates. NOTE: Registration for this course requires prior consent from the faculty member with whom the student wishes to study. An academic advisor will register the student once the instructor has agreed and the student communicates this information to the advisor. Also, a study plan must be submitted and preapproved by the instructor and the director of the BSW program.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.