

SOCIAL WORK

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MY SOCIAL WORK PROFESSORS AND COURSES

challenge me to work towards shalom and well-being in individuals, families, groups, communities, and societies. Most important, however, they challenge me to advance Christ's kingdom."

Kendra DeBoer '10
Social Work (South Holland, Illinois)

The social work program will lead to a bachelor of social work (BSW) degree. The social work major is built upon the liberal arts foundation and prepares students for community-centered generalist social work practice. The bachelor of social work (BSW) program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Please contact the department chairperson for more information about program accreditation.

The **social work major** consists of 89 hours:

Social Work 150, 210, 225, 310, 315, 340, 345, 350, 353, 355, 360, 365, 370, 400, 401;

Social Work electives (12 hours).

Required Cognates:

Biology 101; Communication Arts 101; Mathematics 105; Political Science 201; Psychology 121;

Sociology 121, 246, 250; Spanish 101, 102.

In the social work department, students meet the oral communication requirement by taking communication arts 101; the capstone requirement is met in SWK 345, SWK 355, and SWK 365; and field education is met through SWK 400 and SWK 401, required field placement and seminar course.

Admission to the Social Work Program

Students must make formal application to the social work program during the spring semester of their sophomore year for admission in their junior year. All students must be formally admitted to the program prior to enrolling in the following advanced social work courses (SWK 310, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 365, 370, 400, 401).

Admission into the program is based on: Completion of and/or current enrollment in Psychology 121, Sociology 121, Social Work 150, Social Work 210, and Social Work 225. Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 and at least a C (2.0) grade in the following courses: Biology 101, Mathematics 105, Political Science 201, Psychology 121, and Sociology 121. Applicants must have at least a C (2.0) grade in all social work courses previously taken.

Applicants must have a letter of reference from a community person documenting that the student completed at least 30 hours of work or volunteer experience in the community. Applicants must have three letters of reference from outside of the social work department, from individuals who are able to attest to the student's intellectual ability, motivation, and social and emotional maturity. Applicants must submit a personal statement detailing their interest and commitment to the social work program and vocational calling.

Transfer Credit

The registrar at Trinity Christian College will evaluate the official transcript received and determine which courses are acceptable for transfer. Trinity's policy states that transfer students must complete at least 45 hours of credit at Trinity, 12 hours of their major field of study and 12 of their last 20 hours at Trinity. In addition, students transferring from community colleges may transfer a maximum number of 65 credit hours. Transfer students from four-year institutions may transfer an unlimited number of credit hours.

The department chairperson, in collaboration with the registrar's office, will determine which social work courses will be accepted for credit. Review of transfer credit will allow students who have completed course work in a prior setting to be exempt from social work course content already covered. Students must present the following information to ensure course content is not repeated and social work course credit is given where due: course syllabus including learning objectives, required readings, evaluation procedures, and program and instructor information. Students transferring into the social work program must make formal application to the program just as other students in the social work program. Students transferring into the field education program must make formal application to the program and complete the field advancement packet as outlined within the program.

Repeating Course Content

As part of the social work program admission process each student transcript is reviewed. The department chairperson, in conference with the student, meets to discuss foundational course content. In an effort to ensure foundational course content is not repeated, previous courses may be reviewed if a student has achieved a minimum of a C grade. The student must bring the syllabus for the course to the meeting. On the basis of this review, the chairperson will determine the extent of repeat content, resulting in one of three options:

1. The student will not be required to take the social work course;
2. The student will be required to take the social work course;
3. The student will complete an independent study with a social work faculty member that covers the material partially missed in the foundation course.

Life Experience

The social work department does not give academic credit to students for life experience or previous work experience for social work courses or field education requirements.

Nondiscrimination Policy

The social work department maintains a policy of nondiscrimination for students and their interaction in all auspices of the social work program that does not discriminate based on race, color, gender, sex, age, religion, ethnic or national origin, disability, political orientation, veteran status, transfer status, family structure, marital status, or sexual orientation.

Grievance Policy

The program's grievance policy and process are as follows:

Any student, field instructor, alumni, staff, or faculty with a complaint concerning violations of the program's policy statements or program actions should provide written notice (via the Official Grievance Form) of the complaint to the department chairperson within 10 non-vacation/business days of the situation occurring. The department chairperson will meet with the appropriate parties involved, review the program's policy statements and within 10 non-vacation/business days present a written decision and response (see section on the Official Grievance Form). Any parties involved in the specific complaint who consider this decision to be unsatisfactory may appeal to the Provost of the College within 10 non-vacation/business days of receiving the department chairperson's decision and response. Any appeal of the department chairperson's decision must be made in writing using the Official Appeal Form. The Provost will review the Official Appeal Form, discuss the matter with the appropriate parties involved and within 10 non-vacation/business days present a written decision and response (see section on the Appeal Form). The Provost's decision on the matter is final.

Social Work Courses (SWK)

Note: Semesters listed are when courses are normally offered. However, course offerings and scheduling are subject to change at the discretion of the department.

150 Introduction to Social Work (3)

Spring

This course offers an exciting opportunity for experiential learners to explore the profession of social work, social work values and ethics, and vocational calling to helping those in need. Students will be empowered to explore diverse social work settings and working with a variety of populations.

210 Social Welfare Institutions (3)

Fall

This course offers students an opportunity to actively engage in critiquing historical trends and current issues impacting social policies and programs. This exploration will offer faith-based perspectives on roles and responsibilities across various social, political, and economic systems. Prerequisite: Social Work 150, or permission of instructor.

225 Social Work Values and Ethics (2)

Spring

This course offers rich opportunity for open-minded learners to stretch personal values and ethics in relation to God's plan for fostering justice, humility, and unconditional love. Prerequisites: Social Work 150 and 210 or permission of the instructor.

300 Topics in Social Work (3)**Summer**

This course will offer experiential learners unique knowledge and skills related to current and emerging topics of concern within the social work profession. Building on a community-centered generalist practice approach, this course will provide opportunities for focused skill development to serve at-risk/special populations. Prerequisites: Social Work 150 and 225 or permission of the instructor. This course is offered during the summer session and the course topic is determined each year.

310 Human Behavior and the Social Environment (4)**Fall**

This course revisits multiple perspectives of our human experience from birth to death. Using a systems approach it frames our development from a bio-psycho-social-spiritual perspective. Additionally, students will gain critical skills for conducting holistic assessments. Prerequisites: Formally admitted to the program.

315 Diverse Populations (2)**Spring**

This course provides an opportunity for experiential learners to engage in self-reflection around the dynamics of diversity. Also explored are the issues of globalization as they impact urban communities. Significant factors and types of diversity will also be discussed. Prerequisites: Social Work 150, 210, 225 or permission of instructor.

340 Generalist I (4)**Fall**

This course will offer experiential learners skills to conduct community-centered generalist practice with individuals. Using strength-based interviewing skills students will actively participate in simulations. Students will practice case management and working with involuntary clients and those in crisis. Prerequisites: Formally admitted to the program.

345 Professional Seminar (1)**Fall**

This capstone assessment course fulfills the College capstone requirement through the planning and implementation of a community social action project. Prerequisites: Formally admitted to the program.

350 Generalist II (3)**Spring**

This course will offer experiential learners the skills to conduct community-centered generalist practice with groups and families. Students will engage actively in simulations using and adapting a variety of intervention methods across diverse settings. Prerequisites: Social Work 340 and formally admitted to the program.

353 Research for the Behavioral Sciences (3)**Spring**

This course offers students the opportunity to explore research principles and skills in social work. Coverage of both quantitative and qualitative research methods used in social work and program evaluation; including a survey of research designs, sampling, data collection, data analysis, and interpretation from an ethical standpoint provides the foundation for this course. This course is identical to Sociology 353. Prerequisites: Mathematics 105 or 151.

355 Professional Seminar (1)**Spring**

This capstone assessment course fulfills the College capstone requirement through the planning and implementation of a community social action project. Prerequisites: Social Work 345 and formally admitted to the program.

360 Generalist III (3)**Fall**

This course will offer experiential learners the skills to conduct community-centered generalist practice with organizations and communities. Students will engage actively in simulations using and adapting a variety of organizational administration and asset-based community development approaches across diverse settings. Prerequisites: Social Work 340, 350, and formally admitted to the program.

365 Professional Seminar (1)**Fall**

This capstone assessment course fulfills the College capstone requirement through the planning and implementation of a community social action project. Prerequisites: Social Work 345, 355, and formally admitted to the program.

370 Community Social Action Policy (3)**Fall**

This course will energize and mobilize students for involvement in community-centered social action. Students will model assimilation and commitment to effecting dynamic social change within community through their leadership and development of a social change project. Prerequisites: Political Science 201 and Social Work 210, or permission of instructor.

400 Field Education (10)**Spring**

This course provides an exciting opportunity for students to gain valuable experience in a social work field-practicum setting. This formal practicum experience will allow students to put into practice the knowledge and skills they have gained throughout the social work program. Prerequisites: Social Work 340, 350, 360, and formally admitted to the program.

401 Field Education Seminar (2)**Spring**

This seminar course will assist students in monitoring their progress toward achieving learning objectives in field practicum. Students will share and learn from each other around issues of community-centered generalist practice. Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in Social Work 400.

Program Capstone Project

The social work community-centered generalist capstone assessment project is an integral component of the BSW program. Students complete their projects working closely with community practitioners, their peers, and a faculty project liaison. This project provides students opportunities to do research, community organizing, team-building, assessment, and evaluation. Students will interact with diverse individuals or groups and at-risk/special populations. During this advanced learning, students are nurtured and monitored for professional growth and assessed in their skill and value development.