

Department of Social Work

Rebecca Smith, Chair
Peck Hall 309

Borasky, Fontanesi-Seime, Frost, Lancaster, Lee, Rucker, Sanborn, Shaw-McEwen, Taylor

The social work profession is dedicated to helping all people develop their strengths, to helping build a more economically and socially just society, and to helping the world become a better place in which to raise our families. Student training is offered through class work and special student work experiences to demonstrate how to relate effectively to all types of people and to appreciate how emotional, social, economic, political, and spiritual forces influence the behavior of those we are helping.

The Social Work Department has a number of scholarships for majors and information about them can be obtained from the department.

Some social work courses are open to nonmajors.

Curricular listings include General Education requirements in Communication, History, Humanities and/or Fine Arts, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, and Social/Behavioral Sciences categories as outlined on pages 64–67.

Major in Social Work

The major in Social Work leads to a Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.) degree which is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. The program's primary objective is to prepare the student for beginning professional practice in social work. It also provides a foundation for students planning to pursue graduate study in social work.

Students who choose to pursue a major in Social Work must take a minimum of 54 hours including SW 2570, 2630, 3000, 3110, 3120, 3160, 3161, 3200, 4480, 4580, 4590, 4650, 4680, and 4690; and one of the following: SW 3050, 3100, 3170, 3250, 4150, 4200, 4430, 4440, 4620, 4640, 4720. Social Work majors meet General Education Social/Behavioral Sciences requirements by taking SOC 1010 and PSY 1410 and one of the Natural Sciences requirements by taking BIOL 1030/1031. The student must earn a C or better in all courses in the major in order to graduate.

Minor Required of Social Work Majors

Social Work majors are required to have a minor of 15 hours. They may select any minor; however, it is suggested that they discuss with their advisors the advantages of certain minors.

Admission to the Social Work Program

All Social Work majors must be formally admitted to the Social Work Program in order to be admitted into the field work courses and to obtain a Bachelor of Social Work degree. Students who are not yet formally admitted will be identified as pre-social work majors.

- Requirements for admission to the Social Work Program:
 - completion of at least 60 semester hours toward a degree including at least 41 hours of General Education requirements;
 - completion of SW 2570, Introduction to Social Work, and 3 additional hours in social work courses with a grade of C or better;
 - an overall GPA of 2.00 for degree credit courses;
 - completion of at least 40 hours of volunteer work in a social agency, hospital, or social service organization. A reference form will be utilized as documentation of performance. Full or part-time social work employment may be considered in lieu of volunteer work;
 - possession of personal qualities consistent with social work values and ethics and the ability to relate to others with warmth and emotional stability.
- Application procedure. Student must complete an application packet which consists of
 - application for Social Work major form;
 - three reference forms, at least one of which is from an MTSU social work professor;
 - personal essay on why a social work career has been chosen;
 - current University transcript.
- Criteria for acceptance into the Social Work Program:
 - submission of completed application packet by deadline date of the appropriate semester;
 - judgment of satisfactory quality of essay and suitability for professional social work by Social Work Faculty Admissions Committee;
 - satisfactory performance of required number of volunteer hours based on reference form;
 - a majority of "above average" and "outstanding" ratings on reference forms.

In addition, acceptance into the Social Work Program will be based upon the Social Work Faculty Admissions Committee's assessment of the student's potential for graduating with a B.S.W. degree and the student's interest and commitment to the pursuit of a career in the field of social services. Before any student is denied, the entire faculty must vote on the recommendation of the admissions committee.

Recommended Curriculum

FRESHMAN		SOPHOMORE	
ENGL 1010, 1020 (Comm)	6	ENGL 2020 or 2030 or	
COMM 2200 (Comm)	3	HUM 2610 (Hum/FA)	3
BIOL 1030/1031 (Nat Sci)	4	Humanities and/or Fine Arts	
Natural Sciences	4	(2 prefixes)	6
MATH 1010 (Math)	3	HIST 2010, 2020, or 2030	6
SOC 1010 (Soc/Beh Sci)	3	SW 2630, 3000, 3160	9
PSY 1410 (Soc/Beh Sci)	3	Elective or minor	6
SW 2570	3		30
Elective or minor	1		
	30		
JUNIOR		SENIOR	
SW 3110, 3120, 3161,		SW 4480, 4590, 4650,	
3200, 4580	15	4680, 4690	24
Social Work elective	3	Elective or minor	6
Electives or minor	12		30
	30		

Minor in Social Welfare

The Social Welfare minor requires 15 semester hours. Students are required to take SW 2570 and four other social work courses of their choice.

Certification/Endorsement in School Social Work

A school social worker's job is to assess the causes of academic and behavioral problems of children and develop a plan to address those concerns. The primary functions of the school social worker are working with children and families in crisis and assisting families of children with special needs.

To receive a certification in School Social Work from Middle Tennessee State University, the student must take the following courses:

FOED	2110	Educational Psychology
SPED	3010	Survey of the Exceptional Child
CDFS	4350	Parenting
SW	3250	School Social Work

Students must also complete two field placements in school settings. Upon completion of these requirements, students should contact the Social Work Office for authorization to apply for licensure. The Teacher Licensing Office in the College of Education and Behavioral Science handles the paperwork for application for licensure.

Interdisciplinary Minors

Interdisciplinary minors are open to all students in the University. The Department of Social Work coordinates the interdisciplinary minor in Health Care Services. See Interdisciplinary Minors beginning on page 80.

Courses in Social Work [SW]

- 2570 Introduction to Social Work.** Three credits. The methods, history, philosophy, and present organization of the social work profession.
- 2630 Interviewing Skills for Social Work Practice.** Three credits. An introduction to principles and processes of social work practice including interviewing and developing relationships.
- 3000 Social Policy.** Three credits. Prerequisite: SW 2570. Emphasis on recurring themes in social welfare policy development processes, historical turning points; societal ethics; causal relationship—social problems, social change, and social welfare policy analytical frameworks for assessing social welfare policy and programs.
- 3050 Women and Poverty.** Three credits. (Same as WMST 3050.) Prerequisite: WMST 2100 or SW 2570. Predominant theories, policies, and programs dealing with poverty among women. Explores the effects of poverty on women in addition to a general knowledge of poverty; ageism, sexism, and racism in relation to poverty; historical treatment of women and views of poverty.
- 3100 International Social Work.** Three credits. International dimensions of social work. Explores the impact of globalization on social work problems. Includes status of women, aging populations, family breakdown, drug addiction, child abuse and neglect, poverty, and emerging problems such as civil strife, ethnic cleansing, resettlement, and AIDS.

- 3110 Research Methods for Social Work Practice.** Three credits. Prerequisite: SW 2570. Research processes; includes information about values for research, knowledge of methods, and opportunities for skill development.
- 3120 Data Analysis for Social Work Practice.** Three credits. Prerequisite: SW 3110. Data analysis and interpretation. Opportunities for skill development in the use of statistical procedures and knowledge of the meaning of results of such procedures. Instruction in computer use for data entry and data analysis, including the development of programming skills using the SPSS-X software package on the University computer system.
- 3160 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I: Individuals and Families.** Three credits. Major theories of human development across the life span and life course; useful for entry-level social work practice. Ecological relationship of diverse individuals and families with other systems in the social environment described with focus on biological, psychological, and social context and content.
- 3161 Human Behavior and the Social Environment II: Groups, Organizations, and Communities.** Three credits. Prerequisites: SW 3160. Builds on concepts learned in SW 3160. Presents theories on and about the development, structure, and function of small groups, organizations, and communities and how they interrelate eco-systemically with individuals and families.
- 3170 Family Caregiving Across the Life Span.** Three credits. Prerequisite: SW 2570. Caregivers—gender roles, cost of caregiving, managing stress, respite care, finding recourses, financial and legal matters, establishing support groups, differential caregiving tips for various illnesses and disabilities from infancy to old age, emerging trends, and long distance caregiving.
- 3200 Cultural Diversity: Competency for Practice.** Three credits. (Same as AAS 3200.) Prerequisites: SW 2570. An examination of culturally appropriate practice issues that are essential considerations for effective service delivery, including African American families and ethnic subcultures predominant in the U.S.
- 3250 School Social Work.** Three credits. Prerequisites: SW 2570 and 2630. Introduces social work students to practice in school settings. Examines various roles of social workers in school systems and the specifics of practicing with students from 3–21 years of age in individual, group, and organizational level interventions.
- 4150 Topics in Social Work.** Three credits. Selected topics important in current social work practice but too specialized to be taught as regularly scheduled courses.
- 4200 Creativity and Personal Growth.** Three credits. Prerequisites: Junior standing, including 18 hours in the arts, social work, and/or social or behavior sciences, or permission of instructor. Introduces the creative process and the use of that process in the development of self-awareness and empathetic relationships with others. Assignments include the creation of individual and group projects and the facilitation of a creative project in a community agency or school.
- 4430 Social Work with the Terminally Ill.** Three credits. Factors and principles involved with the terminally ill which should stimulate students to learn and think about what he/she values and anticipates experiencing in the area of medical social work.
- 4440 Social Work with the Disabled Individual.** Three credits. The effects of disability on the individual, the family, and society. An examination of a variety of intervention strategies from a social work perspective.
- 4480 Social Work with Groups.** Three credits. Prerequisites: SW 2570, 2630, and 4580. Group process and group techniques as they apply to social work practice, including both treatment and task groups (Must be admitted to Social Work program.)
- 4580 Social Work: Practice I.** Three credits. Prerequisites: SW 2570, 2630, 3000, and 3160. Theories and related techniques for beginning-level social work. (Must be admitted to Social Work program.)
- 4590 Field Instruction I.** Six credits. Prerequisites: SW 2570, 2630, 3000, 3110, 3160, 3161, 3200, 4580; completion of all General Education requirements; and senior standing. Student is assigned to a social agency under the joint supervision of agency and instructor with concurrent seminar. Application must be made the preceding semester. (Must be admitted to Social Work program.)
- 4620 Child Welfare Services.** Three credits. The contemporary child welfare system and services designed to strengthen families. Historical trends, policy issues, and child advocacy.
- 4640 Health: Organizations, Policy, and Ethics.** Three credits. (Same as SOC 4640.) A resource allocation assessment of U.S. health care systems. Applied ethics topics (i.e., justice, virtue, and informed consent) included.
- 4650 Social Work: Practice II.** Three credits. Prerequisites: SW 3110, 3120, 4580, senior standing, and all other major requirements. Theories and related techniques for advanced-level social work practice. (Must be admitted to Social Work program.)
- 4680 Field Instruction II.** Nine credits. Prerequisites: SW 4580, 4590, senior standing, and all other major requirements. Second field placement for social work majors. Application must be made the preceding semester. (Must be admitted to Social Work program.) Pass/Fail.
- 4690 Integrative Seminar in Social Work.** Three credits. Prerequisites: SW 4650 and 4680 or concurrent enrollment. An opportunity for the student, with instructor and peers, to explore the knowledge, values, and skills gained from academic and field experiences and to synthesize and integrate theory and practice. (Must be admitted to Social Work program.)
- 4720 Crisis Intervention.** Three credits. The basis of crisis theory applied to intervention services for suicide, rape, natural disasters, and other crises.
- 4800 Special Projects.** One to six credits. Field experiences or reading courses through which special interests or needs of the student may be pursued under individual supervision. Arrangements must be made with an instructor prior to registration.