

FACULTY

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Location: Burrill Office Complex

Web site: www.bridgew.edu/socialwork

DEGREE PROGRAMS

- BS in Social Work
- MSW Social Work

UNDERGRADUATE MINOR

- Social Welfare

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

The Department of Social Work offers an undergraduate program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree. A minor in social welfare is also available. The curriculum is designed to prepare students for beginning generalist professional practice in social work and other human service fields. Students learn social work methods, theories, values and ethics for practice with various populations and, especially, with the region's diverse and vulnerable populations. The program builds on a liberal arts perspective, providing students with a foundation for critical thinking, effective communication and ethical behavior that will be of daily importance to them in professional practice.

Career opportunities are vast and varied and include positions in child protective services, juvenile justice and mental health; domestic abuse, family court and probation; residential settings in chronic care and elder services. Social work majors also complete the program well prepared for graduate study and may be eligible for consideration for advanced standing at some graduate schools of social work.

The college's programs within the Department of Social Work, both the BS and MSW degrees, are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, allowing graduates to apply for social work licensure in Massachusetts at the licensed social worker (LSW) level after completing their bachelor's degree and at the LCSW level after completing their MSW degree.

The program integrates theory with field experience through three required courses held in conjunction with a variety of community social service agencies. SCWK 250 Introduction to Social

Welfare acquaints students with the field as they participate in 30 hours of community service in a social service agency. In SCWK 338 Introduction to Social Work Practice, students spend a minimum of 90 hours during one semester at an agency learning how it functions and about the professional roles of social workers. This course lays the foundation for the senior year field experience course (SCWK 498). The field experience meets from September through May and entails a minimum of 410 hours under the supervision of a professional social worker at the Master of Social Work level. Each of these courses is described in detail in the "Course Descriptions" section of this catalog.

Note: The Bachelor of Arts in Social Work is inactive.

SOCIAL WORK MAJOR

Grade Requirement

A minimum grade of "C-" is required in all social work (SCWK) and cognate courses required in the major coursework with a grade lower than "C-" must be repeated prior to graduation. Please see "Repeat Courses" in the "Undergraduate Academic Policies" section of this catalog.

Credits

SCWK 250 Introduction to Social Welfare	3
SCWK 270 Social Work Issues of Diversity and Oppression	3
SCWK 320 Human Behavior and Social Environment I	3
SCWK 321 Human Behavior and Social Environment II	3
SCWK 338 Introduction to Social Work Practice	3
SCWK 350 Social Welfare Policy	3
SCWK 375 Data Analysis for Social Work	3
or	
PSYC 201 Statistics for Psychology	
or	
SOCI 391 Seminar: Social Data Analysis	
SCWK 380 Research Methods in Social Work	3
SCWK 431 Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups	3
SCWK 432 Social Work Practice with Communities and Organizations	3
SCWK 498 Field Experience in Social Work (two semesters; six credits each semester)	12

Elective

One course in social work

Required cognates

PSYC 100 Introductory Psychology	3
SOCI 102 Introduction to Sociology	3
One semester in a biology course (choose one)	3
BIOL 100 General Principles of Biology	
BIOL 102 Introduction to Zoology	
BIOL 110 Biology: A Human Approach	
BIOL 111 Human Heredity	
BIOL 112 Biology and Human Thought	
BIOL 115 Microbial World and You	
BIOL 117 Environmental Biology	
BIOL 121 General Biology I	

BIOL 128 The Biology of Human Sexuality

Recommended Social Work Electives

- SCWK/WMST 304 The Psychosocial Development of Women
- SCWK 305 Child Welfare
- SCWK 333 Current Issues in Aging: A Multidisciplinary Perspective
- SCWK 334 Intervention with Family Systems
- SCWK 376 Social Work with Adolescents and Young Adults
- SCWK 392 Treating Childhood Sexual Abuse
- SCWK 399 Special Topics in Social Work
- SCWK 415 Social Services in Alcohol and Substance Abuse
- SCWK 435 School Social Work – History, Theory and Issues
- SCWK 446 Social Work Practice with Groups
- SCWK 499 Directed Study in Social Work

Total minimum credits: 54

Core Curriculum Requirements

A minimum of 120 earned hours is required for graduation. These earned hours include the core curriculum requirements as specified in the "Undergraduate Academic Programs" section of this catalog and at the Core Curriculum Web site, www.bridgew.edu/corecurriculum. For additional graduation requirements, see the "Undergraduate Academic Policies" section of this catalog.

HONORS PROGRAM

The honors program in social work provides highly motivated social work majors with opportunities to enhance their academic program through intensive scholarly study and research designed to be of assistance in postgraduate employment or in the pursuit of an advanced degree in social work. Contact the Department of Social Work for further information concerning eligibility and application.

SOCIAL WELFARE MINOR

This minor seeks to acquaint students in majors and preprofessional programs that interface with social work (e.g., sociology, psychology, anthropology, health, education, counseling, business, prelaw, premedicine, recreation) with the evolution of the social welfare structure in the United States (SCWK 250), the policies that result in social welfare programs (SCWK 350) and populations at particular risk (SCWK 270).

Required courses

	Credits
SCWK 250 Introduction to Social Welfare	3
SCWK 270 Social Work Issues of Diversity and Oppression	3
SCWK 320 Human Behavior and Social Environment I	3
SCWK 350 Social Welfare Policy	3
Six additional credits in social work elective courses with the exception of SCWK 338, SCWK 431, SCWK 432 and SCWK 498	6
Total minimum credits:	18

ADMISSION TO THE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

Admission Requirements

To be formally admitted to the social work program, a student must:

- Meet with an assigned social work adviser.
- Complete a minimum of 36 hours of Core Curriculum Requirements that include ENGL 101 Writing I and ENGL 102 Writing II, COMM 130 Human Communication Skills, SOCI 102 Introduction to Sociology, and a biology course (see list under Required Cognates). PSYC 100 Introductory Psychology is also required.
- Have completed 60 hours of course work with a minimum overall GPA of 2.5 and a minimum GPA of 2.7 in social work. Students with a GPA between 2.0 and 2.5 may petition the social work program admissions committee that they be accepted into the major due to special circumstances. If the decision of the committee is favorable, such students will be granted *conditional acceptance* only to the program.
- Have completed SCWK 250 and SCWK 270 with a social work course GPA (not including cognates) of 2.7 and no social work course grades below "C-". Students falling slightly below these standards will have their grade performance reviewed by the social work program admission committee.
- Demonstrate competency in oral and written communication since such skills are fundamental to and utilized in everyday social work practice. Students must have completed ENGL 101 Writing I, ENGL 102 Writing II and COMM 130 Human Communication skills with a minimum grade of "C+" in each course. A grade of "C" or "C-" in one of these courses may be accepted if the student agrees to consult the Writing Center and give proof that basic skill problems in a given area are identified and addressed.
- Complete an application for admission to the social work program. This application includes basic biographical data, information on employment and volunteer experiences, and a two-to-four-page self-evaluation of the student's interest, readiness and suitability for a career in social work. The purpose of the self-evaluation is to reflect the applicant's commitment to the goals and purposes of social work. The application is available through the student's assigned faculty adviser in the Department of Social Work. The application should be reviewed by the student's adviser and an additional social work faculty member.
- Submit a copy of his/her degree audit that provides an up-to-date indication of cumulative and social work GPAs.
- Be successfully reviewed by the social work faculty. All information obtained through the admission process will be held in confidence. Knowingly making a false oral or written statement during the admission process could result in denial of admission to the program.

- Sign a statement indicating that he/she has read and will follow the National Association of Social Worker's Code of Ethics. This code is printed in the Encyclopedia of Social Work and is available through the NASW Web site (www.naswdc.org).

Applicants are notified in writing by the social work program admissions committee about the outcome of the admission process.

Only social work courses from four-year colleges accredited by the Council on Social Work Education will be granted equivalency credit with the possible exception of SCWK 250. Transfer students must provide evidence that these courses sufficiently correspond with the goals and objectives specified in courses within the Department of Social Work curriculum. Performance evaluations of any fieldwork courses completed are also required. The only other course exception would be below 300-level required social work course offered on an off-campus site by a Bridgewater State College social work faculty person or other CSWE qualified social work faculty, provided the course is fully duplicative of the same course in the Department of Social Work's curriculum as determined through the official articulated agreement by the faculty after review.

Admission to SCWK 338 Introduction to Social Work Practice

Students are eligible for admission to SCWK 338, the combined initial practice course and junior year field work experience, after being formally admitted into the social work program. They should have completed SCWK 320 or be taking it concurrently. A GPA of 2.7 in social work courses and 2.5 overall must be achieved prior to admission to SCWK 338. Students must also complete the department's Junior Prospective Intern Data Form and the Practicum/Internship Form required by the School of Arts and Sciences.

The social work faculty's field education coordinator discusses the placement with the student and arranges for an agency contact. The student then meets with the agency supervisor to discuss the placement, mutual expectations and available learning opportunities. A final decision is reached by the field education coordinator after consultation with the student and the agency supervisor. Suggested readings and preplacement contacts are worked out on an individual basis.

Admission to SCWK 498 Field Experience in Social Work

A student is eligible for placement in SCWK 498, the 410+ clock hour senior year fieldwork experience, after being formally admitted into the social work program and after completing SCWK 320 and SCWK 338. In the spring semester each student applying for senior field placement is required to make an appointment with the field coordinator to discuss options and procedures. Applications are due no later than Feb. 15 for placement in the following fall. Placements are from September to May and are not available during the summer. Evening and weekend placements are not available.

All applications for field placement are reviewed by the social work field education review committee. The needs, strengths and interests of the students, as well as availability of agency

and program placement resources, are discussed. Additionally, each applicant is interviewed by the social work field coordinator. Issues of concern that may have been identified during the applicant's program admission interview, if needed, are to be addressed with the applicant. Goals for the student and possible agency options are explored. A particular setting will be recommended on the basis of these variables.

The field education coordinator discusses the placement with the student and arranges for an agency contact. The student then meets with the agency supervisor to discuss the placement, mutual expectations and available learning opportunities. A final decision is reached by the field education coordinator after consultation with the student and the agency supervisor. Suggested readings and preplacement contacts are worked out on an individual basis.

It is recommended that each student join the National Association of Social Workers during the semester prior to field placement.

Retention in the Social Work Major

Students must remain in full compliance with all requirements, policies and procedures of the Department of Social Work, the college and the Council on Social Work Education. Students may be terminated from the social work program if, in the professional judgement of the social work faculty, violations of professional and/or ethical codes have occurred. These violations are discussed in detail in the department's admission, termination and appeals policies and procedures. Dismissal from two field placements due to unacceptable performance and/or two or more failures in any social work course may result in the termination of the student from the social work program. All students wishing to pursue a major in social work are strongly urged to obtain a copy of this document from the Department of Social Work. Course work with a grade lower than "C-" must be repeated prior to graduation.

GRADUATE PROGRAM

MASTER IN SOCIAL WORK

Mission

Bridgewater State College's Master in Social Work (MSW) accredited program reflects the purposes of social work education nationally and internationally. The mission of the MSW program is to prepare advanced professional practitioners to address regional needs, promote social justice, and enhance the strengths and resilience of communities, families and individuals. The program will prepare advanced professionals who are grounded in resilience theory and a strengths-based approach for intergenerational practice. This approach will work with client systems by building and reinforcing the client's strengths and resources to address areas of concern. Attention is given to the intergenerational system, to identify what can be done to effect change and strengthen relationships among individuals, groups and community components in order to promote greater self-sufficiency and constructive functioning.

The Curriculum

In order to prepare graduates to work successfully with a variety of client systems often presenting multiple, complex problems, the MSW program provides a resilience theory and strengths-based approach for intergenerational practice that incorporates content on the profession's history, purpose and philosophy and a specific body of knowledge, values and skills. The curriculum emphasizes critical and creative thinking that enables alumni to initiate, adapt and evaluate interactions for the demographic and cultural groups in our region.

Credits

The foundation year includes 30 credits with content on social work values and ethics, diversity and social and economic justice, human behavior and the social environment, social welfare policy and services, social work practice, research and a field practicum. First-year students will take the following courses:

SCWK 500 Introduction to Social Welfare Policy:
History, Programs and Issues 3

SCWK 502 Dynamics of Diversity and Oppression 3

SCWK 508 Introduction to Social Policy 3

SCWK 510 Human Behavior in the Social Environment I 3

SCWK 511 Human Behavior in the Social Environment II 3

SCWK 530 Social Work Practice I 3

SCWK 531 Social Work Practice II: Groups and
Community-Based Practice 3

SCWK 540 Introductory Social Research 3

SCWK 590 Field Practice and Seminar I 3

SCWK 591 Field Practice and Seminar II 3

The advanced year, with 32 credits, broadens and deepens the foundation content while offering students choices among modules or quarter courses that introduce the skills needed to work with particularly vulnerable populations. In some instances, quarter courses may be combined with semester-long courses. Students may also use these electives to take graduate courses outside the Department of Social Work, such as those in the Master of Public Administration, Master of Science in Management, Master of Education in Health Promotion or other approved master's degree.

The advanced year also offers an integrated seminar that will require students to draw on their foundation course work in human behavior in the social environment, research, policy and practice. Second-year students will take the following courses:

SCWK 512 Human Behavior in the
Social Environment III: DSM-IV-TR 3

SCWK 541 Research: Evaluating Practice 3

SCWK 550 Social Work Practice III: Intergenerational
Strengths-Based Practice with Families 3

SCWK 551 Social Work Practice IV: Intergenerational
Strengths-Based Practice with Individuals 3

SCWK 570 Integrative Seminar I 3

SCWK 572 Social Policy II 3

SCWK 592 Field Practice III 4

SCWK 593 Field Practice IV 4

Electives: four elective courses, 1.5 credits each,
for a total of six credits 6

Total minimum credits: 62

Part-time Program

Students electing to complete the MSW degree on a part-time basis must do so in three years, beginning in the fall semester. Designed for students who work during the day, the program offers classes in the evening and on weekends.

Admission Requirements

The admissions process involves the following components:

- A completed application to the MSW program, available through the School of Graduate Studies. Applications are due on Feb. 1 for fall matriculation.
- An updated résumé
- Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate course work
- A personal statement about interest in master's-level social work practice
- Three letters of reference, ideally from supervisors, faculty members and others able to attest to the applicant's readiness to undertake graduate education in social work
- Standardized test scores such as the GREs and the MAT are not required, but students are welcome to submit such scores
- Minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0

The admission committee's decision will be based on the applicant's demonstrated academic ability, interpersonal skills and self-awareness – indicators of the likelihood that the applicant can successfully complete the program. In addition, evidence of a commitment to the social work profession and to the mission of the Bridgewater State College MSW program, and of the likely contribution the applicant might make to the citizens of Southeastern Massachusetts will be assessed. Social work requires the ability to withstand difficult emotional challenges, to work with people whose cultural backgrounds and/or personal values differ from one's own, and to practice in a demanding and changing political and fiscal environment. Special attributes such as linguistic ability compatible with those in the region, a demonstrated commitment working with underserved populations, and particular skills such as those in research and policy implementation will be considered.

Advanced Standing

Student seeking to enter the program in the second year with full advanced standing must meet all of the requirements listed above. In addition they must have earned a BSW or BA/BS in social work degree from a CSWE-accredited program within the last six years. Students who completed their BSW degrees more than six years ago will be evaluated individually to determine their preparedness for year II. Applicants who wish to transfer into the MSW program after completing year I elsewhere will also be considered for advanced standing. Students entering with full advanced standing will begin their course work in the summer.