

MAJOR IN SOCIAL WORK

Social work is distinguished by a tradition of concern for people and their interactions with society. Social work professionals are community problem solvers who intervene in organizational settings, communities, social service agencies, groups, individuals, and families with goals of enhancing well-being and promoting social and economic justice. Most social workers are employed in fields such as school social work, community organization, mental health, advocacy, child and family services, medical social work, and judicial systems.

The Social Work curriculum focuses on the practical application of social work principles, policies, and practices within human rights and social justice perspectives. Students acquire a social work practice foundation transferable to different settings, population groups, and problem areas. Attention is devoted to understanding the person in environments in the U.S., and working with individuals, families, and communities to effect the desired change. At the global level, human rights and economic, environmental, and social needs are explored through international travel courses. Several practical experiences are required. Students complete a capstone internship during their senior year. International placements may be available. The curriculum also includes a strong liberal arts base in social science research and statistics, arts, humanities, social science, and natural sciences.

CSU students are admitted to the School of Social Work when they declare Social Work as a major. Two professional organizations, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) (<https://www.socialworkers.org/>) and the Council on Social Work Accreditation (CSWE) (<https://www.cswe.org/>) guide social work practice and education. The NASW develops the Code of Ethics (<https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English/>) for practicing social workers. The CSWE accredits bachelor's and master's social work education programs in the United States. The BSW program is accredited by CSWE.

Learning Objectives

Graduating seniors will have demonstrated:

1. Skills in conceptualizing and applying knowledge of social welfare policy and services, a systems perspective, theory, community resources, and community policy-making processes and practices.
2. Knowledge and mastery of the foundation competencies as required by the CSWE for accreditation of the BSW degree.
3. An understanding of the social work code of ethics including mastery of skills in maintaining client confidentiality, establishing professional boundaries, and resolving ethical dilemmas that are presented in case situations.

Potential Occupations

Social Work graduates are employed in a variety of settings including schools, hospitals, community non-profits, public health, judicial systems, adult and child welfare agencies, and county treatment centers. Entry-level job opportunities are plentiful. Graduates should be willing to work with people of all ages and in a multitude of circumstances and settings. Internships are required. Graduates of the BSW program are eligible to apply for advanced standing in graduate programs.

Some examples of career opportunities include, but are not limited to: program manager, international development, assisted living and rehabilitation center administrator, medical social service

counselor, probation officer, client advocate, victim-witness program counselor, children and family services worker, transition age youth interventionist, crisis counselor, child protection worker, adult protection worker, gerontology, case manager, community outreach coordinator, youth program counselor, home health worker, occupational social services worker, foster parent consultant, addictions treatment counselor, domestic/intimate partner violence counselor, adoption worker.

Application to the Major

Application to the Major is guided by standards required by both NASW (<https://www.socialworkers.org/>) and CSWE (<https://www.cswe.org/>) to ensure compliance with accreditation standards, and that students meet nationally recognized ethical requirements for their profession.

The NASW (<https://www.socialworkers.org/>) Code of Ethics (<https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English/>) requires that social workers act ethically in their work with clients. It also requires that social workers take action when their colleagues are not acting competently or ethically. The CSWE (<https://www.cswe.org/>) requires that social work programs describe the procedures for informing students of the program's criteria for evaluating students' academic and professional performance and that the program has policies and procedures for terminating students' enrollment in the social work program for reasons of academic and professional performance.

To meet the requirements of these professional governing bodies, the School of Social Work has developed an Application to the Major procedure. Application to the Major is a time in a student's academic career when faculty and students can review each student's readiness for the profession of social work. Prior to enrolling in the 300 level practice courses (SOWK 340, SOWK 341), students must apply to the Major. Approval of the Major application is a prerequisite for enrollment in SOWK 340. Generally, students who have 60 or more credits apply to graduate in the following four semesters.

As a professional program, academic performance and readiness to proceed in the SSW program require a minimum grade point average, completion of required coursework, and behaviors appropriate to the performance of social work. Concerns in student performance may be addressed with the student at any time in the student's academic career in the SSW. Learn more about the student expectations for progression and review process on the School of Social Work website (<https://www.chhs.colostate.edu/ssw/programs-and-degrees/bachelor-of-social-work/>).

Internship

In the senior year, students fulfill a 10-credit (450-hour) internship in an approved agency setting. The internship is a chance for students to apply a holistic approach and their educational knowledge through observation, practice, and social work supervision, build new skills, and be exposed to new learning and growth to demonstrate the required CSWE competencies. CSWE competencies integrate ADEI (anti-oppressive, anti-racist, diversity, equity, and inclusion) approaches, multi-level assessment, and intervention with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

Concentration(s)

- Addictions Counseling Concentration (<http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/colleges/health-human-sciences/school-of-social-work/social-work-major/addictions-counseling-concentration/>)

- Holistic Care Concentration (<http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/colleges/health-human-sciences/school-of-social-work/social-work-major/holistic-care-concentration/>)
- International Social Work Concentration (<http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/colleges/health-human-sciences/school-of-social-work/social-work-major/international-social-work-concentration/>)

Learn more about the Social Work major on the School of Social Work website (<https://www.chhs.colostate.edu/ssw/programs-and-degrees/bachelor-of-social-work/>). (<https://www.chhs.colostate.edu/ssw/programs-and-degrees/bachelor-of-social-work/>)

Requirements

Effective Fall 2025

A grade of C (2.000) or above is required in each SOWK course required for the major; a 2.500 overall GPA in all SOWK courses is required for the major.

Freshman

		AUCC	Credits
CO 150	College Composition (GT-CO2)	1A	3
HDFS 101	Lifespan Development (GT-SS3)	3C	3
PSY 100	General Psychology (GT-SS3)	3C	3
SOWK 120	Academic and Career Success		1
SOWK 130	Identity, Power, and Social Justice (GT-SS3)	1C	3
SOWK 150	Introduction to Social Work		3
Select one course from the following:			3-4
ANTH 120	Human Origins and Variation (GT-SC2)	3A	
BZ 101	Humans and Other Animals (GT-SC2)	3A	
BZ 110	Principles of Animal Biology (GT-SC2)	3A	
LIFE 102	Attributes of Living Systems (GT-SC1)	3A	
Select one course from the following:			3
SOC 100	Introduction to Sociology (GT-SS3)	3C	
SOC 105	Social Problems (GT-SS3)	3C	
Select one course from the following:			3
SOWK 371A	Fields of Practice: Child Protection		
SOWK 371B	Fields of Practice: Juvenile Justice		
SOWK 371C	Fields of Practice: Criminal Justice		
SOWK 371E	Fields of Practice: Social Gerontology		
Arts and Humanities (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities)		3B	3
1B (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#aucc)		1B	3
Total Credits			31-32

Sophomore

SOWK 330	Intersectionality and Identity		3
SOWK 340	Generalist Practice with Individuals		3
Select two courses from the following:			6
SOWK 352/ETST 352	Indigenous Women, Children, and Tribes		
SOWK 371A	Fields of Practice: Child Protection		
SOWK 371B	Fields of Practice: Juvenile Justice		
SOWK 371C	Fields of Practice: Criminal Justice		
SOWK 371E	Fields of Practice: Social Gerontology		
SOWK 371G	Fields of Practice: Training Canine Animal Assisted Interventions		
Select one course from the following: ¹			0-3
SOC 210	The Power of Numbers--Statistics in Sociology		
STAT 100	Statistical Literacy (GT-MA1)	1B	
STAT 201	General Statistics (GT-MA1)	1B	
STAT 301	Introduction to Applied Statistical Methods		

Economic, Environmental, and Social Justice (see list below)			3
Health and Wellness (see list below)			2-3
Arts and Humanities (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities)	3B		3
Biological and Physical Sciences (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#biological-physical-awareness)	3A		3-4
Electives			3-7
Total Credits			30-31
Junior			
SOWK 300	Translational Social Work Research		3
SOWK 341	Generalist Practice with Groups		3
SOWK 344	Social Work Practice--Partners and Families		3
SOWK 425	Prep and Essential Skills for Internship		1
Select one course from the following:			3
CO 300	Writing Arguments (GT-CO3)	2	
CO 301C	Writing in the Disciplines: Social Sciences (GT-CO3)	2	
Select one course from the following:			3
POLS 101	American Government and Politics (GT-SS1)	3C	
POLS 103	State and Local Government and Politics (GT-SS1)	3C	
Select one course from the following:			3
SOWK 352/ETST 352	Indigenous Women, Children, and Tribes		
SOWK 371A	Fields of Practice: Child Protection		
SOWK 371B	Fields of Practice: Juvenile Justice		
SOWK 371C	Fields of Practice: Criminal Justice		
SOWK 371E	Fields of Practice: Social Gerontology		
SOWK 371G	Fields of Practice: Training Canine Animal Assisted Interventions		
Historical Perspectives (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#historical-perspectives)	3D		3
Electives			9
Total Credits			31
Senior			
SOWK 400	Generalist Practice-Organizations/Communities	4B	3
SOWK 410	Social Welfare--Policy, Issues, and Advocacy	4A	3
SOWK 488	Practice-Based Learning		9
SOWK 492A	Capstone Seminar: I Engagement and Reflection	4C	1
SOWK 492B	Capstone Seminar: II Demonstrating Social Work Practice Skills	4C	2
Upper-Division Social and Behavioral Sciences (See list below)			6
Electives ²			3
Total Credits			27
Program Total Credits:			120

Economic, Environmental, and Social Justice Course List

Code	Title	AUCC	Credits
AGRI 270/IE 270	World Interdependence-Population and Food (GT-SS3)	1C	3
ANTH 100	Introductory Cultural Anthropology (GT-SS3)	3C	3
ANTH 200	Cultures and the Global System (GT-SS3)	1C	3

ANTH 235	Indigenous Peoples of North America		3
ANTH 310	Peoples and Cultures of Africa		3
ANTH 312	Modern Indian Culture and Society		3
ANTH 314	Southeast Asian Cultures and Societies		3
ANTH 335	Language and Culture		3
ANTH 338	Gender and Anthropology		3
AREC 202	Agricultural and Resource Economics (GT-SS1)	3C	3
AREC 240/ECON 240	Economics of Environmental Sustainability (GT-SS1)	3C	3
BUS 210	Critical Perspectives of Workplace Culture (GT-AH3)	1C	3
E 142	Reading Without Borders (GT-AH2)	1C	3
E 422	African-American Literature		3
ECON 101	Economics of Social Issues (GT-SS1)	3C	3
ECON 211	Gender in the Economy (GT-SS1)	1C	3
ECON 212	Racial Inequality and Discrimination (GT-SS1)	1C	3
ECON 310	Poverty and the Welfare State		3
ETST 100	Introduction to Ethnic Studies (GT-SS3)	1C	3
ETST 201	Introduction to Queer Studies		3
ETST 205	Ethnicity and the Media (GT-SS3)	1C	3
ETST 234/E 234	Introduction to Native American Literature		3
ETST 239/E 239	Introduction to Chicano Literature		3
ETST 240	Introduction to Indigenous Studies (GT-AH2)	3B	3
ETST 250/HIST 250	African American History (GT-HI1)	3D	3
ETST 252/HIST 252	Asian American History (GT-HI1)	3D	3
ETST 253	Chicanx History and Culture (GT-HI1)	3D	3
ETST 254	La Chicana in Society		3
ETST 255/HIST 255	Native American History (GT-HI1)	3D	3
ETST 256	Border Crossings--People/Politics/Culture (GT-SS3)	1C	3
ETST 300	Queer Studies and Women of Color		3
ETST 305	Ethnicity, Class, and Gender in the U.S.		3
ETST 310	African American Studies		3
ETST 320	Ethnicity and Film--Asian-American Experience		3
ETST 324	Asian-Pacific Americans and the Law		3
ETST 330	African American Resistance and Self-Creation		3
ETST 332	Contemporary Chicanx Issues		3
ETST 352/SOWK 352	Indigenous Women, Children, and Tribes		3
ETST 354	Black Cinema and Media		3
ETST 364/HIST 364	Asian American Social Movements, 1945-Present		3
ETST 365	Global Environmental Justice Movements		3

ETST 370	Caribbean Identities		3
ETST 371	The Modern Caribbean		3
ETST 382/LGEN 382	Italian Ethnic Identity, Culture, and Gender		3
ETST 404	Race Formation in the United States		3
ETST 410	Advanced Topics in African American Studies		3
ETST 411	Black Feminism(s)		3
ETST 412	Africa and African Diaspora		3
ETST 413	Queer Creative Expressions		3
ETST 414/ANTH 414	Development in Indian Country		3
ETST 425	Indigenous Film and Video		3
ETST 430	Latinx Creative Expression		3
ETST 432	Latinx Routes to Empowerment		3
ETST 438/E 438	Native American Literature		3
ETST 444/SOC 444	Federal Indian Law and Policy		3
ETST 454/SPCM 454	Chicanx Film and Video		3
GES 101	Foundations of Environmental Sustainability		3
GES 450	Global Sustainability and Health		3
HIST 115	The Islamic World: Late Antiquity to 1500	3D	3
HIST 120	Asian Civilizations I (GT-HI1)	3D	3
HIST 121	Asian Civilizations II (GT-HI1)	3D	3
HORT 171/SOCR 171	Environmental Issues in Agriculture (GT-SS3)	1C	3
IE 179	Globalization: Exploring Our Global Village (GT-SS3)	1C	3
NR 130	Global Environmental Systems (GT-SC2)	3A	3
POLS 131	Current World Problems (GT-SS1)	1C	3
POLS 309	Urban Politics		3
POLS 331	Politics and Society Along Mexican Border		3
POLS 361	U.S. Environmental Politics and Policy		3
POLS 405	Race and Ethnicity in U.S. Politics		3
POLS 409	Urban and Regional Politics		3
POLS 413	U.S. Civil Rights and Liberties		3
POLS 442	Environmental Politics in Developing World		3
POLS 443	Comparative Social Movements		3
POLS 444	Comparative African Politics		3
POLS 445	Comparative Asian Politics		3
POLS 446	Latin American Politics		3
POLS 447	Politics in Mexico, Central America, Caribbean		3
POLS 448	Comparative Racial/Ethnic Politics		3
POLS 449	Middle East Politics		3
POLS 463	Urban Policy and Management		3
SOC 205	Sociology of Race and Racism (GT-SS3)	1C	3
SOC 220	Environment, Food, and Social Justice (GT-SS3)	1C	3

SOC 322	Environmental Justice		3
SOC 344	Health, Medicine, and Society		3
WS 200	Introduction to Women's Studies	3C	3
WS 269	Women of Color in the United States		3
WS 270	Feminist Theory		3

Health/Wellness Course List

Code	Title	AUCC	Credits
ERHS 220	Introduction to Environmental Public Health (GT-SC2)	3A	3
ERHS 430	Human Disease and the Environment		3
FSHN 125	Food and Nutrition in Health and Disease		2
FSHN 150	Introduction to Human Nutrition		3
HES 145	Health and Wellness for Everyone (GT-SS3)	1C	3
HES 345	Population Health and Disease Prevention		3
MIP 101	Introduction to Human Disease and Immunity (GT-SC2)	3A	3
MIP 149	The Microbial World		3
PSY 328	Psychology of Human Sexuality		3

Upper-Division Social and Behavioral Sciences Course List (Select 6 credits with approval of advisor)

Code	Title	AUCC	Credits
ANTH 3XX or ANTH 4XX			
ECON 3XX or ECON 4XX			
ETST 3XX or ETST 4XX			
HDFS 3XX or HDFS 4XX			
HIST 3XX or HIST 4XX			
POLS 3XX or POLS 4XX			
PSY 3XX or PSY 4XX			
SOC 3XX or SOC 4XX			

¹ A statistics course is required if STAT 100 or STAT 201 was not taken to satisfy Quantitative Reasoning (AUCC 1B).

² Select enough elective credits to bring the program total to minimum of 120 credits, of which at least 42 must be upper-division (300- to 400-level).

Major Completion Map

Distinctive Requirements for Degree Program:

A grade of C (2.000) or above is required in each SOWK course required for the major; a 2.500 overall GPA in all SOWK courses is required for the major. STAT 100 or STAT 201 recommended.

Freshman

Semester 1		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
CO 150	College Composition (GT-CO2)	X		1A	3
HDFS 101	Lifespan Development (GT-SS3)		X	3C	3
PSY 100	General Psychology (GT-SS3)		X	3C	3
SOWK 120	Academic and Career Success				1
SOWK 130	Identity, Power, and Social Justice (GT-SS3)	X		1C	3

1B (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#aucc)	X	1B	3
Total Credits			16
Semester 2	Critical	Recommended	AUCC
SOWK 150 Introduction to Social Work		X	3
Select one course from the following:		X	3-4
ANTH 120 Human Origins and Variation (GT-SC2)			3A
BZ 101 Humans and Other Animals (GT-SC2)			3A
BZ 110 Principles of Animal Biology (GT-SC2)			3A
LIFE 102 Attributes of Living Systems (GT-SC1)			3A
Select one course from the following:	X		3
SOC 100 Introduction to Sociology (GT-SS3)			3C
SOC 105 Social Problems (GT-SS3)			3C
Select one course from the following:	X		3
SOWK 371A Fields of Practice: Child Protection			
SOWK 371B Fields of Practice: Juvenile Justice			
SOWK 371C Fields of Practice: Criminal Justice			
SOWK 371E Fields of Practice: Social Gerontology			
Arts and Humanities (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities)		X	3B
CO 150, PSY 100, and SOC 100 or SOC 105 must be completed by the end of Semester 2.	X		
Progression to the Major is strongly recommended by the end of Semester 2.	X		
Total Credits			15-16
Sophomore			
Semester 3	Critical	Recommended	AUCC
SOWK 330 Intersectionality and Identity	X		3
SOWK 340 Generalist Practice with Individuals	X		3
Arts and Humanities (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities)		X	3B
Biological and Physical Sciences (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#biological-physical-sciences)		X	3A
Electives			3
Total Credits			15-16
Semester 4	Critical	Recommended	AUCC
Select two courses from the following:	X		6
SOWK 352/ ETST 352 Indigenous Women, Children, and Tribes			
SOWK 371A Fields of Practice: Child Protection			
SOWK 371B Fields of Practice: Juvenile Justice			
SOWK 371C Fields of Practice: Criminal Justice			
SOWK 371E Fields of Practice: Social Gerontology			
SOWK 371G Fields of Practice: Training Canine Animal Assisted Interventions			
Select one course from the following:			0-3
SOC 210 The Power of Numbers--Statistics in Sociology			
STAT 100 Statistical Literacy (GT-MA1)			1B
STAT 201 General Statistics (GT-MA1)			1B
STAT 301 Introduction to Applied Statistical Methods			
Economic, Environmental, and Social Justice (See list on Program Requirements tab)		X	3
Health/Wellness (See list on Program Requirements tab)		X	2-3

Electives					0-4
Total Credits					15
Junior					
Semester 5		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
SOWK 300	Translational Social Work Research		X		3
SOWK 341	Generalist Practice with Groups	X			3
SOWK 425	Prep and Essential Skills for Internship				1
Select one course from the following:					3
CO 300	Writing Arguments (GT-CO3)			2	
CO 301C	Writing in the Disciplines: Social Sciences (GT-CO3)			2	
Select one course from the following:					3
POLS 101	American Government and Politics (GT-SS1)			3C	
POLS 103	State and Local Government and Politics (GT-SS1)			3C	
Electives					3
Total Credits					16
Semester 6		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
SOWK 344	Social Work Practice--Partners and Families	X			3
Select one course from the following:					3
SOWK 352/ ETST 352	Indigenous Women, Children, and Tribes	X			
SOWK 371A	Fields of Practice: Child Protection				
SOWK 371B	Fields of Practice: Juvenile Justice				
SOWK 371C	Fields of Practice: Criminal Justice				
SOWK 371E	Fields of Practice: Social Gerontology				
SOWK 371G	Fields of Practice: Training Canine Animal Assisted Interventions				
Historical Perspectives (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#historical-perspectives)			X	3D	3
Electives					6
Total Credits					15
Senior					
Semester 7		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
SOWK 400	Generalist Practice-Organizations/Communities	X		4B	3
SOWK 410	Social Welfare--Policy, Issues, and Advocacy	X		4A	3
SOWK 488	Practice-Based Learning	X			4
SOWK 492A	Capstone Seminar: I Engagement and Reflection	X		4C	1
Electives					3
Total Credits					14
Semester 8		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
SOWK 488	Practice-Based Learning	X			5
SOWK 492B	Capstone Seminar: II Demonstrating Social Work Practice Skills	X		4C	2
Upper Division Social and Behavioral Sciences (See list on Program Requirements tab)		X			6
The benchmark courses for the 8th semester are the remaining courses in the entire program of study.		X			
Total Credits					13
Program Total Credits:					120