

Department of Social Work

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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;
 - essay;
 - 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]

See back of catalog for course descriptions.

Graduate Study

The department partners with APSU and TSU in offering the Mid-Tennessee Collaborative Master of Social Work Program, effective Fall 2009 with advanced standing effective Fall 2010. Requirements for this degree and a list of courses offered for graduate credit are published in the Graduate Catalog.