

Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.) Program Curriculum

SW 200 Introduction to Social Work. (Pre-requisites: None)

This is an introductory course that provides students with the historical development of social welfare and programs. It provides a broad survey of the social work profession, including its fields of practice, an overview of theory, history, values and ethics, diversity of societal population and policies that are fundamental to this profession. Students are introduced to generalist social work practice and the use of critical thinking in the helping professions. The course provides an understanding of key social welfare concepts. Students in the course participate in twenty hours of service learning.

SW 210 Professional Behaviors, Ethics & Communications. (Pre-requisites: None)

This course focuses on the values of the social work profession and the process of ethical decision making in the practice of professional social work. The intent of the course is to provide a foundation knowledge of professional values and ethics in order to develop sensitivity to ethical issues and dilemmas in social work and social welfare. The course concentrates on knowledge about the codes of ethics of the National Association of Social Workers and the National Association of Black Social Workers. Legal issues related to malpractice and liability and ethical issues related to at-risk populations are covered. The course examines personal values as well as societal values and analyzes the interaction and interrelationship of these values with the social work professional values.

SW 215 Social Welfare Policies & Programs. (Pre-requisites: None)

This course focuses on helping students understand the historical foundation of social welfare, the values and beliefs underlying social welfare policy, how it impacts our lives. An overview of the history of social welfare policy in the United States is explored. This theoretical and practically based course provides a special focus social welfare policies and programs designed to promote social and economic justice, to include themes of poverty, racism, sexism, homophobia, and other forms of oppression. Students will conduct a social welfare policy analysis.

SW 225 Human Diversity & Social Justice. (Pre-requisites: None)

This course in human diversity provides students with a framework for understanding race, class, and gender, along with ethnicity, sexual orientation, and privilege. Students are taught to develop critical thinking skills, engage in culturally sensitive practice, and advocate for social, economic, and political justice.

SW 250 Theoretical Perspectives for Generalist Social Work. (Pre-requisites: SW 200, SW 210)

This course outlines the historical development of social work theory. It equips students with a variety of perspectives in social work theories, while fostering a critical analysis in comparing and contrasting those theories and their applications. It provides opportunities for students to

utilize theory to analyze different case scenarios working with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities in generalist social work practice. It orients students to the conceptual, ethical and practical basis for analyzing social problems and issues and translating these theoretical constructs into problem-solving methods in social work practice.

SW 260 Behavior Modification: Assessment & Intervention. (Pre-requisites: SW 200, SW 210)

Social work students develop skills in using learning theory to modify human behavior. This course introduces a practical approach to assessment and intervention in achieving stabilization and behavior change. The focus is on overt behavior exhibited by clients whom the social worker encounters in practice. Students are expected to know the major psycho pathologies studied in the course such as Anxiety Disorders, Personality Disorders, Schizophrenia, and other major disorders. In addition to these competencies, knowledge of the classification and assessment of abnormal is required. The criteria of abnormal behavior; symptomatology and dynamics of psychological disorders and therapeutic considerations will also be examined in this course.

SW 301 Human Behavior & the Social Environment I. (Pre-requisites: BIO 101, BIOL 101, HE 101, PSY 201, SOC 214, SW 200, SW 210, SW 215, SW 225) Course Restricted to Admitted Social Work Majors.

This first course in human behavior and the social environment orients students to theoretical perspectives regarding the person-in-environment focus upon which social work bases its practice. Systems theory and an ecological perspective with a life-span approach and situational context are utilized to explore the periods from conception through later adulthood to understand individuals as they develop and have membership in diverse families, groups, organizations and communities. Knowledge of the theories about and the relationships among human biological, social, psychological, cultural, and economic systems during these periods of life span development is included and assessed for use in problem-solving while working with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities in social work practice.

SW 302 Human Behavior & the Social Environment II. (Pre-requisites: SW 200, SW 210, SW 215, SW 225, SW 250, SW 260, SW 301, SW 385); Course Restricted to Admitted Social Work Majors.

This is the second of two required courses in the Human Behavior and the Social Environment sequence. This course expounds on the students' knowledge of theoretical perspectives and human development stages of the individual from young and middle adulthood through later adulthood. An in-depth review of gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexism as well as sexual orientation is provided in this course. The course provides knowledge for the assessment of individual human development and behavior and focuses on the biological, psychological, sociological, cultural and spiritual determinants of human behavior. Application of human behavior knowledge to social work practice is applied at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.

SW 385 Social Work Practice I. (Pre-requisites: SW 200, SW 210); Course Restricted to Admitted Social Work Majors.

This is the first of two required practice courses in the Social Work Practice sequence. This course provides the knowledge, skills, values, and ethics to prepare students to function as generalist social work practitioners. It focuses on the relationship-building and problem solving skills necessary for social work practice with individuals and families.

SW 455 Research Methods in Social Work. (Pre-requisites: SW 215, SW 250, SW 301, SW 385); Course Restricted to Admitted Social Work Majors.

This course focuses on the practical methods of research, which beginning level social workers can incorporate into their field education and practice environment with diverse populations including at risk populations. It reviews the fundamental theoretical frameworks, research concepts and the process of research from the point of view of the problem solving approach. Students will obtain the needed knowledge to monitor their practice, evaluate agency programs, social welfare policies, and understand the ethical use of social work research.

SW 485 Skills in Interviewing. (Pre-requisites: SW 301, SW 385); Course Restricted to Admitted Social Work Majors.

This course introduces essential communication skills and techniques, along with pitfalls most commonly encountered in building helping relationships as a social work generalist practitioner. Emphasis is directed to the skills needed in interviewing individuals, families, small groups and organizational and community systems. This course builds upon the assessment knowledge acquired through the biopsychosocial study of human behavior and the social environment and an understanding of the helping process in generalist social work practice.

SW 486 Social Work Practice II. (Pre-requisites: SW 200, SW 210, SW 215, SW 225, SW 250, SW 260, SW 301, SW 385); Course Restricted to Admitted Social Work Majors.

This is the second of two required practice courses in the Social Work Practice (Social Work Practice I and II) sequence. This course is a continuation of Social Work Practice I in the development of the generalist social worker. It focuses on social work practice skills with groups, organizations and communities.

SW 489 Field Practicum. (Pre-requisites: All required social work course and B.S.W. Program Core Requirements, to include ENG 400: English Proficiency or ENG 399: Functional Writing); Course Restricted to Admitted Social Work Majors.

Field instruction enables students to integrate and apply to social work practice the knowledge, skills, and values and ethics obtained in the social work foundation courses. Agency-based learning experiences are provided which allow the students to develop generalist practitioner

skills for social work practice with diverse individuals, families, small groups, organizations, and communities, including populations at risk of injustice, oppression and discrimination. Each student completes a minimum of 450 hours of supervised practice in a community agency.

SW 499 Integrative Seminar. (Pre-requisites: All required social work course and B.S.W. Program Core Requirements, to include ENG 400: English Proficiency or ENG 399: Functional Writing); Course Restricted to Admitted Social Work Majors.

This integrative seminar is an extension of the field instructional process and is dependent upon the field instructional learning experiences for considerable teaching content. This seminar serves as the bridge between the educational process and entry-level professional social work practice. Also, this course provides information for students who wish to pursue graduate professional education. It provides a forum for the discussion of practice-related issues and the integration of social work knowledge, skills, and values and ethics. The seminar also emphasizes the importance of the evaluation of one's own practice and the use of research skills in program evaluation.

Social Work Electives

SW 220 International Perspectives on Diversity and Social Justice. (JSU Passport to the World). (Pre-requisites: None)

This course will enhance students understanding of diverse perspective regarding contemporary social issues, globalization, cultural diversity and oppressive dynamics.

SW 330 Child Welfare. (Pre-requisites: None)

The focus of this course is on social welfare programs and services, legislation and policies in child welfare as they relate to children with special needs and their families.

SW 360 Social Issues in Film. (Pre-requisites: None)

This elective course explores pivotal life transitions as they are depicted in film. Students will examine diversity, social justice, biological, psychological, and sociological aspects of major life events and issues such as Lesbian, Bi-sexual, Gay, Transgender, Queer (LBGTQ) discrimination/oppression, giving birth, becoming a parent, marrying, aging, dying and explore the portrayal of these events in film to understand their potential impact and influence on human behavior.

SW 400 Military Social Work. (Pre-requisites: None)

This elective course focuses on knowledge and skills regarding life cycle issues, developmental theory, personality theory, and general systems theory, which will be applied to practice with military service populations. Additionally, this course will address specific issues such as the military as a sub-culture of our society, gender issues, the role of rank structure and its

premises to transitioning to civilian sector, psychological development of basic training, and ethics of counseling in the military.

SW 401 Social Work & Criminal Justice. (Pre-requisites: None)

This elective course provides a study of the various treatment and rehabilitation methods used in correctional settings. Topics include the roles of correctional personnel, the assessment and treatment of juveniles and adults, casework in correctional settings, crisis intervention, the assessment and treatment of special populations in correctional settings, and the evaluation of treatment and rehabilitation programs.

SW 402 Leadership & Management Skills. (Pre-requisites: None)

This course focuses on social work management and leadership skills necessary to successfully develop and operate human service delivery systems. Emphasis is placed on the organizational theories associated with the social work profession. The course focuses on organizational and agency administrative and management structures as they relate to the delivery of services. It develops leadership skills and a systematic approach to management of workloads through the functions of management. Theories of management and motivation are considered in relationship to operation of organizations and agencies.

SW 404 School Social Work. (Pre-requisites: None)

This elective course prepares students to apply social work knowledge and skills in school settings through prevention, assessment, intervention and evaluation from an ecological multilevel approach focused on students, families and the school community.

SW 405 Community Organization & Development. (Pre-requisites: None)

This course is offered to develop skills in community organization and development, one of the primary social work methods of practice. The focus is "the community as the client" and the course is both didactic and experiential in structure. The history, theories, and models of community organization practice are reviewed. The functions and roles of human service professionals in macro practice are examined.

SW 406 Death & Dying. (Pre-requisites: None)

This elective course is designed to provide the student with an opportunity to understand the process of dying and bereavement. We will explore theory and research about dying and bereavement from a variety of interdisciplinary perspectives. The course offers the student an opportunity to explore personal and professional issues and experiences with death and bereavement. Social, cultural, ethical, and spiritual concepts that have an impact on death and bereavement are considered throughout the course. Attention will be given to lifespan and family perspectives. The values and ethics of multiple disciplines will be incorporated into the course.

SW 410 Social Legislation. (JSU Passport to the World). (Pre-requisites: None)

This course allows students an opportunity to demonstrate knowledge of governmental issues at the national and international levels. Students will learn content on social legislation and politics, contemporary social programs as well as an analysis of laws and court decisions relating to social, economic and legal problems. Also, students will be taught to advocate for diverse clients at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.

SW 421 Teenage Sexuality & Teenage Parenting. (Pre-requisites: None)

An investigation of those social, psychological, educational, and/or economic factors which influence teenagers toward sexual activity, pregnancy, marriage, pregnancy termination, etc. Emphasis is also placed on functional research relative to understanding the adolescent mind in urban centers, the unique problems and needs of the adolescent, and those social services in urban centers which attempt to meet the needs of adolescents.

SW 430 Family Treatment. (Pre-requisites: None)

This course is designed for students and professionals who want to learn more about the theory and process of family therapy. The course offers a presentation of the major theoretical underpinnings and clinical practices in the family treatment field today.

SW 435 Family Violence. (Pre-requisites: None)

In recent years the family has become one of the most violent social institutions in this country. This course will increase student knowledge and awareness of domestic violence in all its forms: child and adolescent abuse and neglect, spouse abuse (women and men), and elderly abuse. The social and historical background of family violence will be examined. Emphasis will also be placed on the extent and seriousness of the problem. Current social legislation, programs and services and intervention strategies will be reviewed.

SW 436 Child Abuse & Neglect: Protective Services. (Pre-requisites: None)

This course focuses specifically on the complex problems of child abuse and neglect. It covers the incidence, causes, symptomatology, and types of child abuse and neglect with critical study of child sexual abuse. State-of-the-art research and approaches to treatment utilizing a multidisciplinary perspective (legal, medical, educational, and social services) are included.

SW 445 Introduction to Social Gerontology. (Pre-requisites: None)

This course is designed to give students a general overview of social gerontology as a branch of knowledge in the field of gerontology. Social gerontology concerns itself with the psychosocial and economic aspects of the aged individual and the social problems encountered from living in both formal and informal societal groupings. The interaction of these aspects and groupings and the services established and considered for the aged through public and social policy will be discussed.

SW 450 Social Work in Health Related Fields. (Pre-requisites: None)

This course is designed to help students develop knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to work in health-related fields. Two broad areas of concern in this course are: (1) social work in medical and psychiatric settings, and (2) delivery of health care services. Though general in scope, the course enables students to acquire knowledge in problem solving and in analyzing service systems.