

Frequently Asked Questions

General Information

How do I find more information about Jackson State University? You can find more information by visiting <https://www.jsums.edu/> or <https://www.jsums.edu/tigerfaqs/>

The Social Work Major

What does the Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.) major entail?

The B.S.W. major ensures the obtainment of a degree in the social work profession. A combination of liberal-arts, pre-professional, and professional-based courses set a foundation for knowledge, practice and research skills, and an understanding of social work values and ethics. The B.S.W. major currently requires completion of 120 credit hours with a minimal overall institutional JSU GPA of 2.50. Students who major in social Work must achieve a grade of C or better in all social work courses. The curriculum also includes a field practicum during the senior year which provides supervision, client contact, opportunities to develop skills and apply theoretical knowledge, and ongoing evaluations.

Who can I speak to about majoring in social work?

You may talk to any of the B.S.W. faculty with regards to your interest in majoring in Social Work. The Social Work faculty are located on the 3rd floor of the Charles F. Moore Building, Suite 336. The department's telephone number is 601-979-2631.

What do social workers do?

Social work focuses on assisting persons and oppressed individuals to achieve their maximum human potential. The profession is concerned with social justice and providing an environment conducive for growth and opportunities. Social workers practice in a variety of human service settings such as hospitals, juvenile corrections, nursing homes, mental health centers, and child protective services. Many of these settings are where you may have your B.S.W. field practicum (internship) during your senior year. Among many tasks, within these settings, social workers provide clients with resources and connections to community support, counseling, crisis intervention, case management, and advocacy. See the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) website for more information and The New Social Worker at <http://www.socialworker.com/home/index.php>

What is the difference between an intended major and professional major in social work?

The intended major is what first, second, and some third year students declare on their advising forms. A professional major in social work has been officially declared with a B.S.W. academic advisor and when students have completed the pre-professional requirements. The declaration of professional major in social work usually takes place during the latter part of the second year. Admission into the professional courses requires completion of pre-professional courses, a minimal overall institutional GPA of 2.5, an application and a typewritten personal statement.

Is the B.S.W. Program accredited?

Yes, the B.S.W. Program has been continually re-accredited since 1975 by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). In 1975, the program became one of the first undergraduate programs in the country to receive accreditation by this body.

Does the Social Work Program offer a minor? If so, what courses are required to complete the minor?

Yes. Students must complete 18 credit hours of Social Work courses. These courses include SW 200: Introduction to Social Work, SW 210: Professional Behaviors, Ethics and Communication, SW 215: Social Welfare Policies and Programs, SW 225: Human Diversity and Social Justice and 2 Social Work Electives.

Is passage of the Undergraduate English Proficiency Examination (UEPE) a graduation requirement at JSU?

Yes. Students sign up for the UEPE (ENG 400) on JSU PAWS. Students must pass the examination or the Functional Writing class (ENG 399) with a grade of "C" or better before be permitted to enroll in Field Practicum.

Are service hours needed for graduation?

Yes. All Jackson State University students must have completed at least 120 hours of service; transfer students must have 60 hours of service to graduate. For additional information, contact the Alice Varnado Harden Center for Service and Community Engaged Learning on the first floor of the Reddix Building, or call 601-979-1294.

Is there a way for me to be involved in social work departmental activities?

Yes, yes, yes!!! Social work students have numerous opportunities to augment instruction received in the classroom through community projects, participation in the Social Work Student Association, Phi Alpha Honor Society, as a Social Work Student Ambassador and by serving on departmental committees such as curriculum, recruitment, admissions and retention, and grievance.

How do I determine my classification at JSU?

Freshman	0-29 semester hours
Sophomore	30-59 semester hours
Junior	60-89 semester hours
Senior	90 or more semester hours

How many semester hours can be transferred from a community/junior college toward degree requirements?

A maximum of 62 semester hours of credit for courses completed at the freshman and sophomore levels will be allowed from a community/junior college toward degree requirements. Only college courses in which the grade is "C" or higher will be accepted. Jackson State University does not accept transfer courses with "D" grades.

After earning 62 semester hours from any accredited institution, a student may not take additional courses at a community/junior college and have them applied toward a degree from Jackson State University.

***Once enrolled at JSU, students must get prior approval to enroll and transfer hours from another institution of higher learning.

Are evening courses available in the B.S.W. Program?

Yes. Evening courses are available in the B.S.W. program.

Can I take all of my classes online?

No. Currently, we do not offer an online degree program. In conditions as the COVID-19 pandemic, as directed, courses may be offered exclusively online.

B.S.W. Admissions**Am I automatically admitted into the program if I am admitted to JSU?**

No. The admission to Jackson State University does not constitute admission to the Social Work Program. Social Work students must complete an application process after meeting the admission requirements and guidelines. Students who fail to complete the application cannot move forward in the program.

Why do I have to be admitted into the Social Work Program?

The purpose of the Admissions process is to assure students' goals and aspirations are compatible with the profession of Social Work. Students must demonstrate the characteristics of honesty, integrity, and commitment to service with diverse urban people. Furthermore, students must be emotionally mature and be willing to abide by the Social Work profession's Code of Ethics.

What are the requirements for admission?

Students must have completed all the General Education Requirements; have a minimum institutional GPA of 2.5; complete the Social Work application; attend a mandatory Admissions Orientation meeting; and possibly participate in an interview with the Social Work Admissions Committee.

When are applications accepted?

Applications are due October 15th (Fall admission) and February 15th (Spring admission). Please visit our website for more information at <https://www.jsu.edu/socialwork/bachelor-of-social-work/>

Why might a student be asked to participate in a face-to face interview?

Applicants will be interviewed by the Admissions Committee if the Committee has concerns about the applicant's GPA, the number of General Education courses remaining to be completed, writing issues, and/or behavior that is not exemplary of a potential social work student and future social work professional. Students with criminal background histories, problems with addiction or mental illness may be asked to participate in a face-to-face interview.

How long will it take for me to know the status of my admission?

Applicants will be notified in writing or by email at the end of each semester of submitting the application to the B.S.W. Admissions Committee. In some cases, students will be notified of their admissions status shortly after the end of the semester, particularly if there are grade discrepancies.

I have a criminal record. Can I be admitted to the B.S.W. program?

Qualified students who have been convicted of misdemeanor or felony offenses may be admitted to the program. However, field practicum (internship) opportunities may be restricted due to agency prohibitions pertaining to the engagement of students in agency work in possession of criminal records. Additionally, students should be aware that state licensure in social work may not be possible

for individuals with past convictions. Students with convictions are advised to become informed of requirements pertaining to social work licensure and possible avenues of appeal as they consider their enrollment in the Bachelor of Social Work program and the limitations prior convictions may impose on their ability to practice the profession of social work.

Field Practicum Education

Do I have to complete the Field Practicum Application? Yes. We are required by the Council on Social Work Education to conduct an admissions process for the field practicum. Students who fail to complete the application will not be eligible for field practicum. Applications are due September 15th (Fall admission) and February 15th (Spring admission).

Can I complete other courses with the Field Practicum (Internship)? No. Students are not allowed to take other courses while completing the Field Practicum and Integrative Seminar.

Can I complete my social work field practicum (internship) hours at my place of employment? Possibly. The B.S.W. Field Director works closely with students to develop quality practice-based educational experiences for students. In instances, where the student's educational experience is not compromised in their existing place of human services employment, an employment-based internship may be approved. Please see B.S.W. Field Director, Professor Riddley (C.F. Moore, Suite 312) for the employment-based field application.

Why do I have to do a field practicum (internship)?

The objective for field education is to help students integrate the theory and knowledge base of social work learned in the classroom with the practical hands on experience gained through work in a social welfare agencies.

Where are some of the places I might do my field practicum (internship)?

Students are afforded a multitude of practicum options, including but not limited to, school system, hospitals, psychiatric programs, corrections facilities, child welfare agencies, and agencies that provide services to the elderly.

Are there any evening or night field practicums?

No. Students generally complete the field practicum between 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Students will need to consult with an academic advisor and/or explore other majors immediately if this requirement poses a problem.

Can student athletics and those involved in extracurricular activities such as band complete the field practicum (internship)?

Very likely. Please contact the B.S.W. Field Director, Professor Riddley (C.F. Moore, Suite 312) immediately to discuss this situation.

If I have done volunteer work, does that count towards my field practicum (internship) requirement?

While the program supports and highly encourages students to volunteer on a continual basis, this will not fulfill your field practicum requirement.

When do I enter the field practicum (internship)?

Field is completed in the senior year. Students enter field in the Fall and Spring semesters of the academic year.

How many hours of field practicum must I complete?

Students must complete 420 hours in field practicum (internship). This calculates to be 32-36 hours (4 eight-hour days) per week for the entire semester. Students are generally in their field practicum on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

How different is the graduating senior year in social work in comparison to other majors on campus?

Most B.S.W. seniors describe the senior year as very different, demanding, but yet fulfilling. There is little "down time". Most students are resilient and adapt to the demands. Students in their last semester of the senior year are enrolled in the Integrative Seminar class and work on-site at their field practicum four days a week. The internship is 32 hours per week Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Students will attend the Integrative Seminar course on Wednesday.

Advisement**How do I know who's my advisor?**

Advisors are assigned each academic year. Usually, the Pre-Majors and Admitted Program Majors are assigned an advisor alphabetically by last name. Please contact the Academic Advisement Center for assistance at (601) 979-2127 or visit the website for additional information at

<https://www.jsums.edu/studentsuccess/university-academic-advisement-center/>

Also, you can send an email to student.success@jsums.edu

Will I have the same advisor all the time?

At times, a different advisor may be assigned as a way to stream line the distribution of advisees to advisor.

What are the purposes for advising in the social work program?

Advising serves several purposes. First, it assists, guides, and supports students in ensuring their completion of the JSU Core Curriculum. Second, it allows for consultation with students during their B.S.W. program of study. Third, advising assists students with personal, and/or professional concerns they may encounter in their time at JSU. Fourth, advisors serve as resources for students needing advice or direction in academic difficulties or personal difficulties. Although it is the responsibility of the academic advisor to satisfy the above, it is ultimately the student's responsibility to be knowledgeable of the curriculum requirements.

How do I prepare for advising?

The best way is to bring a list of written questions and concerns directly to your advisor. Also, check the courses offered for the next semester, so that your advisor can review with you the projected course schedule. Be familiar with your Curriculum/Advisement Sheet, course credits and courses needed, so read this document carefully.

What if I need to make changes to my schedule? Please contact the Academic Advisement Center and/or your advisor for help. Your professors and department chair cannot make changes to your schedule.

How often must a student meet with their advisor?

Advisors are available throughout the week during their office hours. The program requires that students must meet with their advisor once per semester.

In addition to my advisor, how can I make certain I know necessary program information?

During the beginning of the Fall semester, students are strongly encouraged to attend the university's "Meet Your Major Fair" for all social work and potential social work majors. Additionally, all new students and/or those applying for admissions to the B.S.W. Program are required to attend the Fall or Spring semester orientation. These orientations are conducted with faculty present and afford the opportunity for students to meet with the faculty in a forum in which all components of the program are explained. Additionally, students are encouraged to read informational material posted on the various social work bulletin boards throughout the department and the B.S.W. website.

How can I find out if I am on the right track for obtaining my B.S.W. degree?

You can discuss your past and current coursework with your advisor to determine if you are on the right track. However, it is strongly encouraged that you familiarize yourself with your academic status and courses needed. Keep in mind, although faculty advising is required and very important, ultimately it is the student's responsibility to be knowledgeable of his/her academic needs.

Am I free to enroll in all Social Work classes?

Students are strongly encouraged to stay within the course sequence. The following Social Work courses do not require a pre-requisite SW 200, SW 210, SW 215, SW 225 and Social Work electives. All other Social Work courses require pre-requisites and/or admission to the Social Work program. Students who do not comply with the course sequence risk falling behind.

Can students make below a grade of "C" in Social Work courses?

No. Students must earn a letter grade of "C" or better in all Social Work courses.

What are some helpful general electives to compliment the B.S.W. major?

Social science electives in psychology, sociology, religion, education and classes related to cultural diversity can augment the B.S.W. major. You may wish to consult with your advisor about additional electives offered annually.

Technology

How do I learn more about Canvas, PAWS, Email, Net ID, etc.? Please visit <https://www.jsums.edu/tigerfaqs/information-technology/> to learn more.

Do I have to activate my JSU email account?

Yes. Please visit <https://www.jsums.edu/> and click "Email" at the top of the page for instructions.

Do I have to use Canvas in my Social Work classes? Yes. All Social Work majors are required to activate their Net ID in PAWS. This will allow students to access Canvas and use computers located in various labs throughout the campus. Please visit <https://www.jsums.edu/tigerfaqs/information-technology/> for more information.

Issues

What to do if my professor did not reply to my email? Please allow professors up to 48 hours to respond to an email. After 48 hours, please contact the department chair.

What to do if I have an issue with a professor or course work? First, request to meet with your professor one-on-one. If the issue is not resolved, please contact the department chair.

Graduate-Professional School

Is there an “advanced standing” option?

Yes. Applicants who possess a Bachelor of Social Work degree may reduce the credit hours required for the MSW degree by enrolling in the Advanced Standing Program. This program reduces the total number of credit hours for the M.S.W. degree from 60 to 36.

Can I major in Social Work and pursue a career in the health sciences, such as Nursing, Physical Therapy, or Occupational Therapy?

Yes. For many years and even today, one of the biggest myths on any college campus is that students interested in the health sciences were required to major in the natural sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, etc.) and that is not true. As a matter of fact there are a lot of Social Workers that went on to complete Nursing school as well as other areas. And interestingly, many of the schools in the health sciences are accepting more students from the social science fields, such as Social Work in order to gain a more well-rounded student, particularly in dealing with people. In essence, it's not totally about the undergraduate major that students choose, but most importantly about the successful completion of the program's pre-requisites as well as volunteer/ work experience in the aspiring field.

We feel strongly that our Social Work curriculum serves as a great foundation for those attending any program in the health sciences. Keep in mind, Social Work is considered the “helping profession”, so we definitely pride ourselves in preparing students to be the best professional, regardless of their chosen career field.

Where can I find out about jobs after graduation or about graduate education in social work?

The JSU Career Services Center provides a job-search engine and holds ongoing job fairs/seminars throughout the academic year. Additionally, each Fall semester the Career Services Center sponsors a Graduate/Professional School event that allows students the opportunity to become more acquainted with various graduate and professional schools. Students may also view job postings on the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-MS) website.

