

Goals of the BA Program

The BA program prepares undergraduate students to function as active and informed citizens with a liberal arts perspective. It advances their careers in social work practice by preparing them for:

- Beginning professional social work practice as generalists
- Graduate study in social work or allied professions

The goals of the program are to prepare students for employment in public and private social services in home and community-based settings such as public welfare, child welfare, health, mental health, elderly services, and corrections; to prepare students for informed community participation in social welfare issues; and to provide a base for graduate study in social work or allied professions. The resources of the University, including its faculty, challenge students to excel academically, think analytically, and apply theory to practice, thus enhancing their readiness for continued education at the graduate level.

The BA Program has a strong base in the values and ethics of the social work profession and has a strong liberal arts focus. The research mission of the University exposes students to faculty research and to analytic and scientific ways of thinking. The School's position in the University strengthens its liberal arts focus by drawing not only on the social work curriculum, but also on the interdisciplinary resources of the University and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. BA students must complete the general education requirements which help them to develop the knowledge, attitudes, ways of thinking, and means of communication that are characteristic of a broadly educated person. As they complete these requirements, students gain an understanding of their own cultural heritage in the context of other cultures and an introduction to expressions of culture such as art, literature, science, history, and philosophy. They are exposed to the methods and limitations of various systems of inquiry, and are encouraged to develop critical thinking skills. Students' knowledge of social, psychological, and biological determinants of human behavior and of diverse cultures, social conditions, and social problems are developed through a required course in human biology and through three required courses in the social sciences: psychology, sociology, and political science. The Program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

Admission to the Social Work Major

The School of Social Work endeavors to maintain a heterogeneous student body by enrolling students who represent diverse backgrounds and cultural perspectives. A limited number of students are admitted to the major each year. The application deadline is February 15. Admission to the program requires: 1) Completion of SSW:1022 Social Justice and Social Welfare in the United States with a grade of C or higher in the first or sophomore year; 2) a cumulative GPA of 2.50 (on a 4.0 scale) at the time of admission. Applicants who do not meet the minimum GPA but demonstrate strengths/potential in other areas may be granted consideration for admission on an individual basis. 3) Completion of an application form and a comprehensive statement, received by the deadline February 15th, prior to the fall semester for which the student is applying. For transfer students, all of the above is required, except that substitution of SSW:1022 is permitted with a grade of C or above in a course approved by the department, such as Intro to Social Work or Intro to Human Services. Those who have completed the equivalent of Intro to Social Work at another institution must also submit a completed recommendation form and transcripts. Recommendations and letters of reference will otherwise not be accepted. The School of Social Work Criteria for Selective Admission for BA Social Work is detailed in the [BA Social Work Admissions Policy Statement and Guidelines for Application](#).

The Curriculum

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in social work requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 60-64 s.h. of work for the major (a minimum of 35-38 s.h. in social work courses, 13-14 s.h. in cognate areas, 6 s.h. in one other department or in social work courses, and 6 s.h. in social work electives). Students in the major must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences [General Education Program](#).

Students must complete [SSW:1022](#) Social Justice and Social Welfare in the United States (3 s.h.) to be admitted to the major and before enrolling in the remaining social work courses required for the major. Social Justice and Social Welfare in the United States (SSW:1022) also fulfills the General Education Program's Values, Society, and Diversity requirement. A transfer student may be given approval by the department to substitute this requirement if they have completed an introduction to social work or introduction to human services course at another institution or the UI Guided Independent Study section SSW:2222:0EXZ Introduction to Social Work, however the transfer course would not fulfill the GE requirement. If transferring the course from another institution, the student may be able to reduce the social work credit required for the major by 3 s.h.

Many students use the major's required course [BIOL:1140 \(002:021\)](#) Human Biology as partial fulfillment of the General Education Program's Natural Sciences requirement.

The major in social work requires the following:

SOCIAL WORK COURSES:

All of these:

SSW:1022 (042:022)	SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL WELFARE IN THE UNITED STATES	3 S.H.
SSW:3840 (042:140)	HUMAN BEHAVIOR IN THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT	4 S.H.
SSW:3841 (042:141)	FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE	3 S.H.
SSW:3842 (042:142)	INTERPERSONAL SKILLS LABORATORY	2 S.H.
SSW:3844 (042:144)	INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH	4 S.H.
SSW:3845 (042:171)	SOCIAL WORK PROCESSES	4 S.H.
SSW:3847 (042:147)	DISCRIMINATION, OPPRESSION, AND DIVERSITY	3 S.H.
SSW:4189 (042:189)	FIELD EXPERIENCE SEMINAR	1 S.H.
SSW:4193 (042:193)	FIELD EXPERIENCE	8-11 S.H.
SSW:4843 (042:143)	SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND PRACTICE	3 S.H.

REQUIRED ELECTIVES

Students must complete a minimum of 6 s.h. of social work electives and 6 s.h. of courses in one other discipline or they can select additional course work in social work. If they opt to complete 6 s.h. from another discipline, students typically select courses in areas closely related to social work, such as anthropology, political science, psychology, sociology, and gender, women's and sexuality studies. Students who are working on a minor or a certificate may apply up to 6 s.h. toward this requirement.

These:

Social work electives 6 s.h.
Electives in another discipline related to social work 6 s.h.

Or this:

Social work electives 12 s.h.

COGNATE AREAS

Natural and social sciences—all of these:

BIOL:1140 (002:021) HUMAN BIOLOGY	4 s.h.	PSY:1001 (031:001) Elementary Psychology	3 s.h.
POLI:1100 (030:001) Intro to American Politics	3 s.h.	SOC:1010 (034:001) Introduction to Sociology	3-4 s.h.

Recommended Course Sequences

The school recommends that students apply in their sophomore year and begin the required courses in the Third Year. Required courses are to be taken in the following sequence. Most social work courses are offered only once each year. Social Work electives may be taken in any semester after completion of SSW:1022.

First and Second Years

General Education courses including:

SSW:1022 Social Justice and Welfare in the U.S. 3 s.h.

BIOL:1140 (002:021) Human Biology 3-4 s.h.

6 s.h. in social work electives may be taken prior to admission to the major. 6 s.h. in another discipline (or additional social work electives) may be taken prior to admission to the major.

POLI:1100 (030:001) Introduction to American Politics 3 s.h.

PSY:1001 (031:001) Elementary Psychology 3 s.h.

SOC:1010 (034:001) Introduction to Sociology: Principles 3-4 s.h.

When students are accepted and begin the program as JUNIORS, the plan for completion of social work courses is:

Third Year – Fall Semester

SSW:3840 (042:140) Human Behavior in the Soc Env. 4 s.h.

SSW:3847 (042:147) Discrimination Oppression Diversity. 3 s.h.

Social Work elective 3 s.h..

Third Year – Spring Semester

SSW:3844 (042:144) Intro to SW Research. 4 s.h.

SSW:3845 (042:171) Social Work Processes. 4 s.h.

Fourth Year – Fall Semester

SSW:3841 (042:141) Fundamentals of Social Work Pract. 3 s.h.

SSW:3842 (042:142) Interpersonal Skills Laboratory. 2 s.h.

SSW:4843 (042:143) Social Welfare Policy and Practice. 3 s.h.

Social Work elective 3 s.h.

Fourth Year – Spring Semester

SSW:4189 (042:189) Field Experience Seminar. 1 s.h.

SSW:4193 (042:193) Field Experience. 8-11 s.h.

When students are accepted and begin the program as SENIORS, the plan for completion of social work courses is:

Fourth Year – Summer Semester -3 s.h. of social work electives may be recommended if student has not taken any prior to this time.

Fourth Year – Fall Semester

SSW:3840 (042:140) Human Behavior in the Soc Env. 4 s.h.

SSW:3841 (042:141) Fundamentals of Social Work Pract. 3 s.h.

SSW:4843 (042:143) Social Welfare Policy and Practice. 3 s.h.

SSW:3847 (042:147) Discrimination Oppression Diversity. 3 s.h.

Fourth Year – Spring Semester

SSW:3842 (042:142) Interpersonal Skills Laboratory. 2 s.h.

SSW:3844 (042:144) Intro to SW Research. 4 s.h.

SSW:3845 (042:171) Social Work Processes. 4 s.h.

Social Work Elective 3-6 s.h.

Fourth Year – Summer Semester

SSW:4189 (042:189) Field Experience Seminar. 1 s.h.

SSW:4193 (042:193) Field Experience. 8-s.h.

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University's four-year graduation plan. (Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department). Admission to the School of Social Work is by application; the four-year graduation plan does not apply to students who are not admitted by their fifth semester. **Before the third semester** begins: at least one-quarter of the semester hours required for graduation.

Before the fifth semester begins: SSW:1022, four courses that can be applied to the major (may include concentration area), admission to the major, and at least one-half of the semester hours required for graduation. **Before the seventh semester** begins: six more courses in the major and at least three-quarters of the semester hours required for graduation. **Before the eighth semester** begins: four or five more courses in the major and finalized field placement. During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining General Education courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

Honors

The School of Social Work has an honors program leading to a Bachelor of Arts with honors in social work. A cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.33 is required for participation in the program, which enables students to do in-depth study in subjects that interest them.

Minor

A minor in social work requires a minimum of 15 s.h. in social work courses, including 12 s.h. in courses numbered 3000 or above taken at The University of Iowa. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the minor. Course work for the minor may not be taken pass/non-pass. The minor requires that students take SSW:1022 Social Justice and Welfare in the United States or SSW:2222:0EXZ (042:022) Introduction to Social Work (or for transfer students, an equivalent course from another institution approved by the department). Required social work courses are not available to students who are not admitted to the social work program, with the exception of two courses: SSW:3840 EXW Human Behavior in the Social Environment and SSW: 4843 EXZ Social Welfare Policy and Practice. Consult the [School of Social Work website](#) for guidelines for minor course selection or call 319-335-1250.