

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 undergraduate program prepares students for beginning professional social work practice as generalists. 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 four required courses in the social sciences: psychology, sociology, political science, and economics. The Program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

Admission to the Social Work Major

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. They include: 1) 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. 2) A grade of C or above in the introductory social work course (42:022-Introduction to Social Work) or comparable course taken in another college and approved by the School of Social Work. 3). Completion of an application form, and a comprehensive statement, received by the deadline of March 1st prior to the fall semester for which you are applying. Transfer students who have completed the equivalent of Intro to Social Work at another institution must also submit a letter of reference and transcripts.

The Curriculum

The social work major includes 31-35 s. h. of required social work courses after 42:022 Introduction to Social Work is completed and the student is accepted to the major through the selective admissions process. Also required are the following courses:

Completion of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences General Education Program. When completing the General Education Program natural sciences component **002:021 Human Biology (or equivalent transfer course) is required.**

<u>Concentration area courses</u> (see list of areas below):	12 s.h.
<u>Social Science courses:</u>	12-14 s.h.
030:001 Introduction to American Politics (3 s.h.)	
031:001 Elementary Psychology (3 s.h.)	
034:001 Introduction to Sociology: Principles (3-4 s.h.)	
<u>Social Science Selective Option</u> (choose one course from the following):	3-4 s.h
113:003 Introduction Culture & Society	06E:001 Principles of Microeconomics
113:010 Anthropology and Cont. World Problems	06E:002 Principles of Macroeconomics
22S:025 Elementary Statistics and Inference	06E:007 Contemporary Economic Probs
22S:002 Statistics and Society	

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.

First and Second Years

002:021 Human Biology	3-4 s.h.
030:001 Introduction to American Politics	3 s.h.
031:001 Elementary Psychology	3 s.h.
034:001 Introduction to Sociology: Principles	3-4 s.h.
042:022 Introduction to Social Work	4 s.h.
One course from the social science selective category	3-4 s.h.

Third Year – Fall Semester

042:140 Human Behavior in the Soc Env.	4 s.h.
042:147 Discrimination Oppression Diversity	3 s.h.

Third Year – Spring Semester

042:144 Intro to SW Research	4 s.h.
042:171 Social Work Processes	3 s.h.

Fourth Year – Fall Semester

042:141 Fundamentals of Social Work Practice	3 s.h.
042:142 Interpersonal Skills Laboratory	2 s.h.
042:143 Social Welfare Policy and Practice	3 s.h.

Fourth Year – Spring Semester

042:189 Field Experience Seminar	1 s.h.
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 – Fall Semester

042:140 Human Behavior in the Soc Env	4 s.h.
042:141 Fundamentals of Social Work Practice	3 s.h.
042:142 Interpersonal Skills Laboratory	2 s.h.
042:143 Social Welfare Policy and Practice	3 s.h.
042:147 Discrimination Oppression Diversity	3 s.h.

Fourth Year – Spring Semester

042:144 Intro to SW Research	4 s.h.
042:171 Social Work Processes	3 s.h.

Fourth Year – Summer Semester

042:189 Field Experience Seminar	1 s.h.
042:193 Field Experience	8-11 s.h.

Concentration Area

The undergraduate program requires a minimum of 12 semester hours of course work in one of the areas listed below. Most students choose either sociology or psychology as their concentration. Students may meet this requirement in an area not listed by presenting a written request and rationale to their faculty adviser and undergraduate coordinator. Courses used to complete the General Education Program do not count toward the 12 semester hours, nor do courses used to satisfy other requirements of the B.A. in social work.

African American World Studies	Communication Studies	History	Sexuality Studies
Aging Studies	Economics	Journalism/Mass Comm.	Sociology
American Studies	Education	Political Science	Spanish
Anthropology	English	Psychology	Women's Studies
Business	Health, Leisure, & Sport Studies	Religion	

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: 042:022, 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 3.20 is required for participation in the program, which enables students to do in-depth study in subjects that interest them.

Minor

Students pursuing a minor in social work must complete 042:022 Introduction to Social Work (or for transfer students, an equivalent course from another institution); maintain a grade-point average of at least 2.00; and earn at least 12 semester hours in University of Iowa social work courses numbered 042:100 and above. Required social work courses are not available to students who are not admitted to the social work program, with the exception of courses offered through the University of Iowa Guided Independent Study program. You may contact our office for further information and a list of available elective courses which will be acceptable to fulfill your minor 319-335-1250, social-work@uiowa.edu.