

SOCIAL WORK (SCWK)

SCWK 20000 - Introduction to Social Work (3)

This course introduces students to the development of social work and social welfare policy and services, beginning with the English Poor Laws up to contemporary social welfare issues related to globalization. Students will learn about the impact of poverty and other social problems on vulnerable populations, and will become familiar with the range of services provided by social workers to address these issues from a strengths perspective. A review of social welfare policies relevant to its development and practice will also be introduced. Throughout the course, students will be exposed to the values, orientation, NASW Code of Ethics, and standards of the profession. Students will learn about the commitment of the social work profession to social justice and enhancing the well-being of individuals, families, organizations, and communities. The course introduces the terminology and broad concepts of social welfare and social work and provides a foundation for subsequent competency-focused courses.

Attributes: Civic Engagement Gen Ed, Experiential Learning Gen Ed

SCWK 20900 - The Welfare State and Social Welfare Policy (3)

This course presents the social policy questions: "Who gets what? And why?" It provides students with an analytic framework for comprehension of welfare state policies through the process of policy formation and implementation. This course situates the welfare state historically, and discusses the development of key social welfare programs and policies. Students learn the skills to analyze social welfare policies and to advocate for changes at the local, state, and federal levels.

Attributes: Civic Engagement Gen Ed, Social Science Gen Ed

SCWK 21500 - Cultural Humility and Social Power (3)

This course will involve an exploration of the practice of social work within the context of an inclusive society. Students will explore the need for social workers to embark on a life-long journey toward cultural humility through knowledge, reflection, skills and self-awareness. Students will examine the meaning and dimensions of social power and oppression, and how those features arise in the context of service delivery. Additionally, students will study critical issues in social work practice, including race, disability, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ability, and immigration status. Students will be challenged to consider their own perspectives and experiences and how those might impact their practice in the context of an inclusive society.

Attributes: Latiné Studies, Peace Studies, Women's Studies

SCWK 25000 - Human Behavior in the Social Environment (HBSE) (3)

This course assists the student in building a foundation for understanding human behavior in diverse contexts across the lifespan. Students enrolled will study the life cycle of the individual from in-utero through old age using biological, psychological, sociological, spiritual, and social work theories. Course content is sensitive to human diversity, specifically including materials on race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical challenges, spirituality, and socioeconomic factors as they affect human behavior and life span development. Students will use this material as a background for assessing strengths, limitations, risk, resilience and protective factors that affect clients' social functioning. Attention will be given to multiple theories and perspectives such as person in environment, systems, ecological, cognitive, behavioral, psychodynamic, strengths perspective, and community change models among others to further understand human behavior. The combination of theory and human development over the lifespan aid the student in social work practice related to engagement, assessment, and intervention.

SCWK 25100 - Human Behavior in the Social Environment II (3)

This course will provide a framework to identify human behavior within the context of mental wellness and mental illness from a social work perspective. Emphasis is placed on major forms of psychopathology within a social work perspective. This course will review current diagnostic classification systems, major theories around psychopathology, etiology, and treatment interventions. Special attention will be paid to the influence of culture and other issues of diversity. Students will learn to use a competency-based assessment model in assessing individuals with mental health disorders.

Attributes: Peace Studies

SCWK 29500 - Community Service Experience (3)

This course allows students to experience and observe first-hand social work services delivered in communities. Learning objectives vary based upon the setting, and the experience is arranged with approval from the Department Chair.

SCWK 30000 - Chemical Dependency: Diagnosis and Treatment (3)

This course provides students with knowledge and skills regarding interventions with chemically dependent clients and their family members in a variety of settings. Students acquire a clinical understanding of chemical dependency and recovery issues. Non-majors in related disciplines are welcomed to enroll in this course.

SCWK 30100 - Social Welfare Policy and Analysis (3)

Social policy is the foundation of social work practice and establishes the structure in which that practice takes place. This course presents the social policy questions: "Who gets what? And why?" It provides students with an analytic framework for comprehension of welfare state policies through the process of policy formation, implementation, and evaluation. This course introduces students to action-oriented social justice frameworks for impacting policy. This course situates the American welfare state in an international and historical context, and discusses the development of key social welfare programs and policies. Students learn the skills to analyze social welfare policies and to advocate for changes at the local, state, and federal levels.

SCWK 30200 - Practice 1: Methods of Interventions with Individuals (3)

This course focuses on the application of basic generalist social work skills that demonstrate an understanding and application of the continuum of social work practice in working with individuals. This course is designed to provide students with a beginning understanding of generalist social work practice. Students will learn the social work processes of engagement, assessment, planning, intervention, evaluation, termination, and follow-up with individuals. This course continues the introduction of the NASW Code of Ethics and the ethical standards relevant to beginning professional practice. In addition, the course focuses on the acquisition of skills needed for generalist practice with individuals.

SCWK 30400 - Crisis Intervention (3)

This course, designed for students in social work and/or other helping professionals, will focus on principles and techniques for helping oneself and others in crisis. A crisis is defined as a loss of psychological equilibrium, or an upset in an individual's steady state of functioning, triggered by either a normative or traumatic stressor. This course will explore developmental crises as well as numerous situational crises, including personal victimization, suicide, homicide, violence, natural disaster, trauma, and the crisis of loss. Students will learn necessary models, techniques, and skills to work with individuals in a crisis situation. This course will provide students with the ability to conduct a comprehensive risk assessment, while assessing and understanding the individual and/or family in crisis. Students will learn how to prevent escalation of a crisis, which may result in injury to self and/or others. Students will also learn to implement a crisis management plan. Research based practice models and interventions will be discussed and used throughout the course. Due to the nature of crisis work, burn out, compassion fatigue, and self-care will also be emphasized throughout the course.

SCWK 30900 - Practice 2: Methods of Intervention with Families and Groups (3)

This course is designed to introduce students to beginning social work practice associated with families and groups. This course emphasizes the application of theory and the acquisition of practice skills to work with families and groups in diverse practice settings. This course will emphasize engagement, assessment, planning, intervention, evaluation, termination, and follow-up in mezzo practice. The impact of the larger social system, as well as cultural factors, on families and groups will be emphasized throughout the course. In addition, students will gain knowledge and skills in conceptualization of groups, planning of groups, and group facilitation. Additional therapeutic techniques such as confrontation, conflict management, and additive empathy will also be discussed throughout the course.

Prerequisite: SCWK 30200 (may be taken concurrently)

SCWK 31000 - Practice 3: Methods of Intervention in Communities and Organizations (3)

This course is designed to introduce students to organizational theories and interventions used in practice with diverse populations in communities and organizations. Building on knowledge of group dynamics, students will demonstrate skills in organizational analysis, community needs assessment, community and organizational level intervention development, and policy advocacy. The emphasis of this course is on synthesizing knowledge and skills from ethics, cultural diversity, family and group dynamics, and social policy.

Prerequisite: SCWK 30200 (may be taken concurrently)

SCWK 31200 - Loss and Mourning (3)

This course introduces students to the nature and centrality of the experience of loss and subsequent grief in their personal lives, in the lives of their clients, and in their role as professional helpers. This course emphasizes the variety and types of loss experiences throughout the life cycle. Special attention will be given to the cultural variations and norms in the grief experience and the importance of social justice and human rights. This course examines how psychological, social, cultural, and historical factors influence individuals' coping responses during loss and the last stage of life. Controversial health care, end of life, organ donation, and after life issues will be explored. In addition, special populations will be discussed, such as the loss of a child or losing a loved one to violence. This course is designed to stimulate a deeper self-awareness, a greater ability to be more mindful, and an increased skill in assisting others and ourselves through the grief process. This class is beneficial for social work students or students in other helping professions.

SCWK 31400 - Social Services for Children and Adolescents (3)

This course will explore the developmental stages of childhood and adolescence with a specific focus on how at-risk youth populations navigate the normative tasks associated with this stage. This course will therefore examine the relationship between micro, mezzo, and macro circumstances and atypical youth development. This course will emphasize how social workers, or those in the helping profession, can help identify youth in at-risk situations and how various resources can be implemented to ameliorate or minimize the harm. The ecological aspects of at-risk youth will be explored including the environmental settings of family, neighborhoods, schools, and communities. Besides risky environments, high-risk behaviors will be identified as they relate to school dropout, sexual behavior, youth suicide, teen substance use/abuse, youth violence, and school shootings. Biopsychosocial spiritual assessment strategies as well as prevention and intervention strategies will be discussed.

SCWK 31700 - Social Services for Older Adults (3)

This course looks at issues, facts and information about aging and presents a comprehensive overview of Social Work practice with older adults. The course reflects: a) the most current information and understanding of how social work has a vital role in providing quality of service in older adults; b) the challenges of providing counseling services in a variety of environmental settings – urban, rural, for profit, not for profit agencies, etc; c) the opportunities and advantages of successful aging and longevity.

SCWK 32300 - Immigrants and Refugees: Understanding the Lived Experience (3)

This course provides the knowledge and skills necessary to identify and work with immigrant and refugee populations. The course examines the causes of migration, including poverty, war, exploitation, famine, and climate change. The challenges of migration and resettlement are explored, including the experiences of oppression and discrimination. Students will develop a knowledge of local, national, and global policies as they pertain to refugees, immigrants and migration. Lasallian history, values, and services are presented to further student identification with the Lewis and Lasallian mission.

SCWK 34500 - Diagnosis in the Social Context (3)

This course will provide a framework to identify human behavior within the context of mental wellness and mental illness from a social work perspective. Emphasis is placed on major forms of psychopathology within a social work perspective. This course will review current diagnostic classification systems, major theories around psychopathology, etiology, and treatment interventions. Special attention will be paid to the influence of culture and other issues of diversity. Students will learn to use a competency-based assessment model in assessing individuals with mental health disorders.
Prerequisite: SCWK 20000

SCWK 34900 - Ethics and Professional Issues in Social Work (3)

Social workers constantly face ethical issues and dilemmas in all fields of social work practice. This course is designed to increase students' awareness of ethical issues and help them develop ethical reasoning skills. The course will challenge students to consider their personal values and how to think critically when considering ethical issues and dilemmas, and how those may affect practice within the context of generalist practice. This course focuses on acquiring and practicing the skills of ethical decision-making in micro, mezzo, and macro social work practice. Examining social work values, application of ethical theory, utilizing the NASW Code of Ethics, and methods of ethical analysis will be a central feature of this course. In addition, this course will explore numerous professional issues such as licensure, legal issues, and professional practice.
Prerequisite: SCWK 20000

SCWK 35600 - Wksp: Social Work with Latino/a Clients (1)

This workshop focuses on development of awareness, knowledge, understanding, and culturally sensitive skills for social work practice with Latino/a/x individuals. This workshop will provide social work students foundational knowledge and skills to provide members of the Latino community with culturally sensitive services. This workshop will consider the circumstances within which Latino/a/x individuals live, the complexity of their cultural and personal histories and identities. It will cover pertinent cultural concepts (i.e., acculturation, ethnic identity), and exercises for personal reflections on cultural awareness in order to provide entry-level skill development in applying culturally sensitive practice with Latino/a/x clients.
Attributes: Workshop/Seminar

SCWK 35700 - Wksp: Interventions with Families (1)

This course introduces theories and models of social work interventions with families. Students will deepen their understanding of the use of the genogram. An overview of the history of family therapy grounds students as the course explores Family of Origin Family Therapy, Structural Family Therapy, and Solution-Focused Family Therapy. Application of theoretical concepts are applied to assess and intervene with a case.
Attributes: Workshop/Seminar

SCWK 36000 - Wksp: Problems in Intimate Relationships (1)

This workshop is intended to provide students with information and training that will enhance their personal and professional understanding of intimate relationships. The concept of intimate relationships will be explored, followed by common problems that exist in our intimate relationships. Some of these problems are a result of social cognition, communication, changes in culture and societal norms, or due to more severe behaviors such as violence in relationships.
Attributes: Workshop/Seminar

SCWK 36200 - Wksp: HIV/AIDS Prevention and Advocacy: A Social Work Perspective (1)

The workshop is designed to give students from all majors the basic facts about HIV/AIDS. The topics will include the history of HIV/AIDS, transmission, diagnosis, treatment and prevention. This workshop will help students understand the impact of HIV/AIDS and the importance of advocacy. Other public health issues will be discussed, including other STDs.
Attributes: Workshop/Seminar

SCWK 36300 - Wksp: Adolescent Substance Use (1)

This workshop is designed to give students from all majors the basic facts about substance use and the adolescent population. The topics will include the prevalence, risk factors, assessment, treatment, and prevention of substance use in the adolescent population. Current trends in adolescent substance use will be examined.
Attributes: Workshop/Seminar

SCWK 36401 - Wksp: Working with At-Risk Youth (1)

This workshop is designed to provide students with knowledge and insight of at-risk youth. Guided by the ecological theory and a risk and resiliency perspective, the workshop will emphasize how social workers, or those in the helping profession, can identify, engage, and assess youth who present at-risk. The workshop will emphasize how youth can be identified in at-risk situations and how various resources can be implemented to ameliorate or minimize the harm. The ecological aspects of at-risk youth will be explored including the environmental settings of family, neighborhoods, schools, and communities. Besides risky environments, numerous high-risk behaviors will be identified and explored.
Attributes: Workshop/Seminar

SCWK 36402 - Wksp: Child Sexual Abuse in the Organizational Context (1)

Child sexual abuse in organizational settings—schools, churches, and other youth-serving settings—commands a substantial amount of public attention. This workshop uses a case-study approach to understand institutional failures which increase the risk of sexual abuse, and institutional prevention strategies which decrease the risk of sexual abuse. Focusing specifically on organizations, this workshop will analyze how systems-level responses must differ from individual-level interventions and the special role that organizational-level interventions play in the prevention of child sexual abuse.
Attributes: Workshop/Seminar

SCWK 36403 - Wksp: Chicago: The Urban Environment as Policy Text (1)

The way that Chicago looks and feels is, in part, due to decades of policy decisions which have created the City as we know it today. This workshop seeks to lift the veil on the ways in which policy shapes even the most minute details of the urban environment and creates geographic inequalities. Urban space is constantly changing, and the possibilities for those changes are shaped by local, state, and national policy. Understanding how to read urban space as a policy text will assist students in analyzing individual- and community-level outcomes.
Attributes: Workshop/Seminar

SCWK 36404 - Wksp: Social Work and the Catholic Social Tradition (1)

The profession of social work and the Catholic Social Tradition ("CTS") contain resonant approaches to certain social problems. By taking a deep, detailed dive into several major works within the CTS, this workshop seeks to place the CTS and social work in conversation. This workshop will proceed as a close reading of, and discussion about, three major encyclicals within the CTS: *Rerum Novarum*, *Centesimus Annus*, and *Laudato Si'*. Students will draw connections between the documentary history and contemporary social problems.

Attributes: Workshop/Seminar

SCWK 36500 - Workshop: Exploring Gender Differences (1)

This workshop is intended to provide students with knowledge that will enhance their personal and professional understanding of gender similarities and differences. This workshop will focus on the larger society's influence on gender norms, gender stereotypes, and gender roles. Communication and behavioral differences between males and females will be explored. Students will learn to recognize common misunderstandings in communicating with the opposite sex and strategies for more effective communication.

Attributes: Workshop/Seminar

SCWK 36900 - Wksp: Social Work with Immigrants and Refugees (1)

This workshop provides the knowledge and skills necessary to identify and work with immigrant populations experiencing oppression and discrimination. Students will begin to develop knowledge of local and national policies as they pertain to immigrants, and how issues relate to social work advocacy. This workshop examines perspectives and information related to multiple dimensions, including race, disability, age, gender, religion, and sexual orientation and provides entry-level skill development in applying cultural sensitivity to work with immigrant clients.

Attributes: Workshop/Seminar

SCWK 37000 - Workshop: Understanding and Working with Client Resistance (1)

This workshop is intended to provide students with insight and skills that will enhance their professional capacity when working with clients who are treatment resistant. Resistance will be explored as it applies to individuals with chronic mental illness, involuntary clients, and unmotivated clients. Concepts related to clinician resistance will also be explored. Guided by the Stage of Change model, this workshop will emphasize how social workers, or those in other helping professions, can identify, engage, and intervene with traditionally challenging individuals. Best practice models for service delivery will also be explored. .

Attributes: Workshop/Seminar

SCWK 37100 - Wksp: School Social Worker (1)

This workshop focuses on the professional duties of a school social worker, IDEA, and services to children and their families. Emphasis is placed on the nature of school social work, education required, and how to prepare for a career as a school social worker. The workshop explores ethical issues that arise in the school setting. Case examples are used to illustrate the nature of school social work and ethical considerations.

Attributes: Workshop/Seminar

SCWK 37200 - Wksp: Self-Care for the Helping Professional (1)

This workshop is geared towards students who are on the path to becoming helping professionals. Helping professionals who experience work as highly meaningful can easily become emotionally and physically exhausted and stressed, leading to burnout or other types of trauma. The purpose of this workshop is to examine the concept of self-care and its importance in the helping professional's life. Students will engage in discussion and multiple exercises to help clarify, demonstrate, and develop a meaningful way to care for themselves now and moving into their future careers.

Attributes: Workshop/Seminar

SCWK 39000 - Social Work Practice with Individuals (3)

This course focuses on the application of basic generalist social work skills that demonstrate an understanding and application of the continuum of social work practice in working with individuals. This course is designed to provide students with a beginning understanding of generalist social work practice. Students will learn the social work processes of engagement, assessment, planning, intervention, evaluation, termination, and follow-up with individuals. This course continues the introduction of the NASW Code of Ethics and the ethical standards relevant to beginning professional practice. In addition, the course focuses on the acquisition of skills needed for generalist practice with individuals.

Prerequisite: SCWK 20000 and SCWK 25000

Class Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Classes: Junior or Senior.

SCWK 39500 - Social Work Practice with Families and Groups (3)

This course is designed to introduce students to beginning social work practice associated with families and groups. This course emphasizes the application of theory and the acquisition of practice skills to work with families and groups in diverse practice settings. This course will emphasize engagement, assessment, planning, intervention, evaluation, termination, and follow-up in mezzo practice. The impact of the larger social system, as well as cultural factors, on families and groups will be emphasized throughout the course. In addition, students will gain knowledge and skills in conceptualization of groups, planning of groups, and group facilitation. Additional therapeutic techniques such as confrontation, conflict management, and additive empathy will also be discussed throughout the course.

Prerequisite: SCWK 39000

SCWK 39900 - Independent Study (1-3)

Course content and area of study are determined by the student in consultation with the faculty member supervising the independent study. Class Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Classes: Junior or Senior.

SCWK 40000 - Crisis Intervention (3)

This course, designed for students in social work and/or other helping professions, will focus on principles and techniques for helping oneself and others in crisis. A crisis is defined as a loss of psychological equilibrium, or an upset in an individual's steady state of functioning, triggered by either a normative or traumatic stressor. This course will explore developmental crises as well as numerous situational crises, including personal victimization, suicide, homicide, violence, natural disaster, trauma, and the crisis of loss. Students will learn necessary models, techniques, and skills to work with individuals in a crisis situation. This course will provide students with the ability to conduct a comprehensive risk assessment, while assessing and understanding the individual and/or family in crisis. Students will learn how to prevent escalation of a crisis, which may result in injury to self and/or others. Students will also learn to implement a crisis management plan. Research based practice models and interventions will be discussed and used throughout the course. Due to the nature of crisis work, burn out, compassion fatigue, and self-care will also be emphasized throughout the course.

SCWK 41000 - Social Action in Practice with Organizations, Communities, and the Public Sector (3)

This course applies the generalist model of social work intervention to problems of organizations, neighborhoods, and governments. Students will focus on evaluative thinking, systems/ecological theory, and interventions used in providing direct services to diverse populations, communities and organizations. Building on knowledge of group dynamics, students will demonstrate skills in macro practice design, implementation, and evaluation. Students will also explore social action models to address and overcome social injustice.
Prerequisite: SCWK 39500

SCWK 41400 - Child Welfare 1 (3)

This course examines contemporary child welfare policies and practices in the State of Illinois and the United States. The course explores the rights of children, the rights and responsibilities of parents and society and their points of conflict. The nature and impact of child maltreatment, the ways in which society prevents or responds to the social problem of child maltreatment, and the system of response to child maltreatment are addressed. This undergraduate social work course is presented through a partnership between the Department of Social Work and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS). The knowledge included in the IDCFS Placement/Permanency Foundation Training curriculum for caseworkers is integrated throughout, and that content is included on the professional employment exams discussed below. This course includes online content developed by the IL DCFS that focuses on the fundamentals of knowledge required for child welfare practice in Illinois. Upon completion of both Child Welfare I and Child Welfare II, students are eligible for expedited Child Welfare Employee Licensure (CWEL). Students will take the Child Welfare Employee Licensure (CWEL) Exam, as well as the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Exam that are both required for those providing direct child welfare services to Illinois families with children placed in substitute care.

SCWK 41500 - Child Welfare 2 (3)

This course is for Social Work and related majors only and is presented through a partnership between the Department of Social Work and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS). The knowledge and skills included in the DCFS Placement/Permanency Foundation Training curriculum are integrated throughout, and that content is included on the professional employment exams. This undergraduate social work course uses a seminar approach to presenting current child welfare policy, practice, and research issues that are intended to prepare students for potential employment in public and private child welfare agencies within the state of Illinois. The course includes expert speakers, participation in professional preparation exercises, and online content developed by the IL DCFS that focuses on the core competencies of knowledge and skill required for child welfare practice in Illinois. These competencies include family engagement, assessment of risk and safety, intervention, and permanency planning. Upon completion of both sections of the course, students are eligible for expedited Child Welfare Employee Licensure (CWEL). Students will take professional employment exams that will qualify them for certification in the Child Endangerment Risk Assessment Protocol (CERAP) and the Placement Specialty Exam that are required for those providing direct child welfare services to Illinois families with children placed in substitute care.

Prerequisite: SCWK 41400 (may be taken concurrently)

SCWK 49000 - Social Work Practicum and Seminar 1 (3)

This is the first course in a two-semester sequence that provides an opportunity for students to integrate undergraduate social work course content and social work practicum experiences as they develop generalist social work skills. Generalist practice skills are characterized as transferable across contexts of practice, agency settings, and populations. Using problem-solving processes, skills are developed to work at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels utilizing the social work processes. It is multi-method and multi-theoretical. Students will complete a 240-hour practicum experience at a social service agency. The seminar provides a forum for sharing of client cases and practice experiences, the development of peer supervision skills, and increased critical thinking and problem-solving capacities. Issues related to social work values and ethics, diversity, social, economic, and environmental justice, human behavior and the social environment, social welfare policy and services, practice, and research are examined within the context of the student's field practicum.

Prerequisite: SCWK 39500

Attributes: Experiential Learning Gen Ed

SCWK 49500 - Social Work Practicum and Seminar 2 (3)

This is the second course in a two-semester sequence that provides an opportunity for students to integrate undergraduate social work course content and social work practicum experiences as they develop generalist social work skills. Generalist practice skills are characterized as transferable across contexts of practice, agency settings, and populations. Using problem-solving processes, skills are developed to work at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels utilizing the social work processes. It is multi-method and multi-theoretical. Students will complete a 240-hour practicum experience at a social service agency. The seminar provides a forum for sharing of client cases and practice experiences, the development of peer supervision skills, and increased critical thinking and problem-solving capacities. Issues related to social work values and ethics, diversity, social, economic, and environmental justice, human behavior and the social environment, social welfare policy and services, practice, and research are examined within the context of the student's field practicum.

Prerequisite: SCWK 49000

Attributes: Experiential Learning Gen Ed

SCWK 49600 - Research and Evaluation in Social Work (3)

This course will cover basic and applied social science research concepts and methodology, statistics, and interpreting research published in professional literature related to social work. Instruction focuses on understanding and interpreting the social work ethical obligation of evidence-based practice, research design, quantitative and qualitative analysis in the social work research context, and illustrating the use of research in advocating for new programming, funding, and policy on behalf of underserved populations. The course is oriented toward providing students skills that can be used in learning how to evaluate the student's own practice in the future and in critiquing the research of others.

Prerequisite: SCWK 39500