SOCIAL WORK (UNDERGRADUATE) (SOWK)

SOWK 2600. Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare. (4 Credits)
Introduction to values, knowledge and skills of social work professions. Focus on historical and contemporary rules and relations of social work profession. Also includes social welfare history and policy. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

SOWK 2999. Tutorial. (2 Credits)
SOWK 4999. Tutorial. (1 to 4 Credits)

SOWK 6005. Contemporary Social Welfare Policy. (3 Credits)
Students will learn that human rights and justice drive social welfare policies and their implementation at the international, federal, state, and local levels. The course introduces students to the underlying values, assumptions and philosophical perspectives that have influenced the development of the US social welfare system, its goals, policies and programs. Students will learn about policy formulation, analysis, and the role of social work in policy development and implementation within their practice settings at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. The course introduces students to the historical, social, cultural, political, economic, organizational, environmental, and global influences that affect social policy.

Prerequisites: SOWK 2600 or SSCI 2600 or SOCI 2600.

SOWK 6006. Social Policy I: Policy and Profession. (3 Credits)
Students will learn that social welfare policies and their implementation at the federal, state, and local levels drive the realization of human rights and justice. The course introduces students to the underlying values, assumptions and philosophical perspectives as well as the social, economic and political factors that have influenced the development of this country’s social welfare system, including its goals, policies and programs. Students will learn about the role of social work in policy development and implementation within their practice settings at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels and ways they can actively engage in policy practice to effect change within those settings. The course introduces students to the historical, social, cultural, economic, organizational, environmental, and global influences that affect social policy. They will also become knowledgeable about policy formulation, analysis, implementation, and evaluation.

SOWK 6040. Integrating Human Rights and Justice in Practice. (3 Credits)
Every person regardless of position in society or geographic location has fundamental human rights such as freedom, safety and security, privacy, an adequate standard of living, health care, and education. This course introduces students to how social workers may conceptualize the global intersections and interconnections of justice, equality, and human rights. Students are introduced to an integrated practice framework that promotes human rights and justice that is influenced by theories for practice that address human need, social, economic, and environmental justice, intersectionality, diversity, and oppression and discrimination. In this course, students learn how to recognize the extent to which a culture’s structures and values, including social, economic, political, and cultural exclusions, may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create privilege and power. Students learn to engage in advocacy to advance human rights social, economic, and environmental justice domestically and internationally.

Prerequisites: SOWK 2600 or SSCI 2600 or SOCI 2600.

SOWK 6050. Human Rights and Social Justice. (3 Credits)
Every person regardless of position in society or geographic location has fundamental human rights to freedom, safety and security, privacy, an adequate standard of living, health care, and education. This course introduces students to how social workers may conceptualize the global intersections and interconnections of justice, equality, and human rights. Students are introduced to an integrated practice framework that promotes human rights and justice that is influenced by theories for practice that address human need, social, economic, and environmental justice, intersectionality, diversity, and oppression and discrimination. In this course, students learn how to recognize the extent to which a culture’s structures and values, including social, economic, political, and cultural exclusions, may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create privilege and power. Students apply an integrated framework to perform a basic analysis of the root causes and consequences of intersectional oppression and human rights violations, advocate for human rights and justice at the individual and system levels, and engage in advocacy to advance human rights social, economic, and environmental justice domestically or internationally.

SOWK 6208. Human Behavior: Social Environment I. (3 Credits)
This is the first of a two-semester course sequence. The course presents content from the behavioral sciences and related professional literature regarding those theoretical constructs and insights most relevant for social work practice. It uses an ecosystems perspective to coordinate and synthesize a broad range of knowledge pertinent to practice concerning the transactional and interactional aspects of large and small systems.

SOWK 6209. Human Behavior: Social Environment II. (3 Credits)
The second semester course in the Human Behavior and Social Environment sequence discusses human development over the life course. Similarities and variations in personal and social functioning; in social, cultural and physical environments; in complex organizations and social institutions. All are examined for insights concerning the interplay between people and their environment. This focus includes biological, psychological and sociocultural factors and how the environment affects individual development. Prerequisite: SOWK 6208.

SOWK 6305. Social Work Skills Lab. (3 Credits)
This skill-based course is anchored in the knowledge of generalist social work practice. Students will develop competency in performing essential social work skills via simulations, role-plays and peer activities. These skills will be applied to working with client systems including individuals, families, groups, communities and organizations. Case scenarios developed for this course will reflect the realities of contemporary social work practice. The emphasis will be on student performance in using the engagement and intervention skills with various client systems.

Prerequisites: SOWK 2600 or SSCI 2600 or SOCI 2600.

SOWK 6320. Social Work Practice With Organizations and Communities. (3 Credits)
This course uses a generalist framework to prepare students for direct social work practice with organizations and communities. Learners explore the theories, knowledge and fundamental skills necessary to practice successfully with organizations and communities. Students will learn the multiple phases of practices from engagement through termination. Students will be introduced to the ethical and legal obligations that guide social work practice with organizations and communities.

Prerequisites: SOWK 2600 or SSCI 2600 or SOCI 2600.
SOWK 6321. Generalist Practice I with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities. (3 Credits)
This is the first of a three-course sequence that uses a unifying generalist intervention framework to help students make sense of the breadth and depth of the social work profession. The course integrates Human Behavior in the Social Environment theories and constructs throughout the life course from infancy to old age, death, and dying. The unifying framework provides clear guidelines for students about each phase of practice when working with individuals, families, and groups by following a multi-step planned change model. The model includes the practice phases of: preparation, engagement, assessment, planning/contracting, implementation, evaluation, termination/referral and follow-up. This approach allows a wide range of flexibility for the application of theories and specific skills. Students will gain a foundation upon which they can continue to add and build skills.

SOWK 6322. Generalist Practice II with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities. (3 Credits)
This is the second of a three-course sequence that uses a unifying generalist intervention framework to help students make sense of the breadth and depth of the social work profession. The course integrates Human Behavior in the Social Environment theories and constructs throughout the life course from infancy to old age, death, and dying. The unifying framework provides clear guidelines for students about each phase of practice when working with individuals, families, and groups by following a multi-step planned change model. The model includes the practice phases of: preparation, engagement, assessment, planning/contracting, implementation, evaluation, termination/referral and follow-up. This approach allows a wide range of flexibility for the application of theories and specific skills. Students will gain a foundation upon which they can continue to add and build skills.

SOWK 6323. Social Work Practice With Individuals Across the Lifespan. (3 Credits)
This course uses a generalist framework to prepare students for direct social work practice with individuals. Learners explore the theories, knowledge and fundamental skills necessary to practice successfully with individual clients. Students will learn the multiple phases of practices from engagement through termination. Students will be introduced to the ethical and legal obligations that guide social work practice with individuals.
Prerequisites: SOWK 2600 or SSCI 2600 or SOCI 2600.

SOWK 6324. Social Work Practice With Families and Groups Across the Lifespan. (3 Credits)
This course uses a generalist framework to prepare students for direct social work practice with families and groups. Learners explore the theories, knowledge and fundamental skills necessary to practice successfully with families and groups. Students will learn the multiple phases of practices from engagement through termination. Students will be introduced to the ethical and legal obligations that guide social work practice with families and groups.
Prerequisites: SOWK 2600 or SSCI 2600 or SOCI 2600.

SOWK 6440. Advanced Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis. (3 Credits)
The course builds on the skills, knowledge and processes of the generalist curriculum, serving as a bridge between generalist and advanced assessment theory and practice. Specifically, the course extends the person-in-environment assessment perspective of Generalist Practice with the addition of more intensive assessment of the individual’s inner world, including psychodynamic conflicts processes and ego defenses. The course is entitled “Advanced Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis” rather than “Psychopathology” to remind students that clinical assessment need not lead to a diagnosis of mental illness. The course covers practitioner self-awareness; the relationship between mental health and mental illness; risk and resilience; bio-psycho-social-spiritual assessment; a strength-informed cooperative assessment process; a critical use of the DSM-5, and major types of mental illness and their evidence-supported treatments.
Prerequisites: SOWK 2600 or SSCI 2600 or SOCI 2600.

SOWK 6801. Social Work Practice in Research 1. (3 Credits)
This course introduces students to social work research. It focuses on the scientific method from the process of developing knowledge to critically evaluating research. This course focuses on: problem formulation; research methodology, including study design, sampling, measurement, and data collection; and ethical issues in research. Attribute: URST.

SOWK 6802. Social Work Practice in Research 2. (3 Credits)
In this second course in the foundation research sequence, students implement the proposed class research projects. The course includes content on data collection and analysis, how to interpret the theoretical and practical meaning of findings for social work practice, and how to report on and present data. Basic computer skills and statistical concepts (SPSS) are presented through “hands on” training in the computer laboratory. Prerequisite: SWGS 6801.

SOWK 6803. Applied Social Work Research and Evaluation. (3 Credits)
This course introduces students to social work research. It focuses on the scientific method from the process of developing knowledge to critically evaluating research. Students will learn about formulating a research question; research methodology, including study design, sampling, measurement, and data collection methods; ethical issues in research; and understanding how to read and understand research reports and publications.
Prerequisites: SOWK 2600 or SSCI 2600 or SOCI 2600.

SOWK 6901. Fieldwork and Integrative Seminar 1. (4 to 5 Credits)
Actual practice with a limited work load under close supervision designed to assist the student in applying theory to practice and to enable the student to master fundamentals of generalist practice. Includes 10 two-hour seminar sessions. Fourteen hours per week from September through July; 21 hours per week from September through May.

SOWK 6911. Field Instruction. (4 or 5 Credits)