

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals

GSS seeks to prepare B.A.S.W. graduates who will:

1. Function as competent generalist practitioners with a commitment to human rights and social justice.
2. Practice with, and on behalf of, diverse populations, within agency settings to promote individual and community well-being.
3. Critically and systematically examine, evaluate, and utilize research and other sources of evidence to guide their practice within organizational and community contexts.
4. Practice with competency guided by a professional identity, values and ethical standards of behavior, as well as recognizing the need for ongoing professional development.
5. Prepare students for graduate studies in social work.
6. Develop self-awareness and critical thinking through liberal arts and social work classes.

Objectives

Upon completion of the B.A.S.W. program, graduates will be able to:

1. Function competently within agency settings.
2. Advocate for human rights and social justice for individuals, families, groups, and communities.
3. Utilize evidence-based practice within field instructor settings.
4. Function competently as a generalist practitioner.
5. Promote individual and community well-being.
6. Value diversity within one's role as a social worker.
7. Engage in career-long learning.
8. Apply social work values and ethics within agency settings.
9. Demonstrate critical thinking in one's practice with individuals, families, groups, and organizations and communities.
10. Develop a B.A.S.W. professional identity.
11. Demonstrate undergraduate knowledge of government and social work policy within one's agency placement.

Curriculum Sequence Objectives

Program objectives are further elaborated into curriculum sequence objectives. These objectives as stated in their respective syllabi are listed by course below.

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 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 and identifies the root causes of global social issues. They will explore theories 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 structure 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 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 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, values, 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 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. BASW Generalist Field Education. (3.5 Credits)

Field education is an essential component of professional social work education. Students engage in focused practice and service work within an agency or organization that is approved by the Graduate School of Social Service and under the close supervision of a qualified professional. The intent of field education is to provide a synergy of learning by helping students integrate knowledge, values, and theoretical concepts from coursework in a real-world applied practice setting with client systems—individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. The Generalist Field curriculum is designed to facilitate students' mastery of the fundamentals of social work practice and the acquisition of the nine professional practice competencies required by the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE). Students are provided a minimum of 450 hours structured across two academic semesters to successfully demonstrate generalist-level social work practice competence. This includes 15 two-hour sessions for their BASW capstone seminar.