The mission of the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (B.A.S.W.) program at Fordham University is to educate students to promote human rights and social justice and improve the well-being of individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities through culturally competent evidence-informed generalist social work practice embedded within an agency context. The school’s commitment to excellence in education and scholarship is built on professional social work values and the Jesuit educational tradition with its focus on social justice. The B.A.S.W. program builds upon a strong liberal arts core to establish the social work competencies necessary to effectively serve diverse populations.

The program builds on students’ strong liberal arts experience and combines classroom and field education with a strong student advising and support system. Following admission into the major, students participate in classes and activities of the Graduate School of Social Service, a social work program of national stature. This design provides a challenging and stimulating educational environment.

The baccalaureate program was granted full national accreditation in November 2001 by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education. The program received reaffirmation of its accreditation in 2006 and most recently in 2014. Students completing the social work program are eligible to apply for advanced standing at Fordham University’s Graduate School of Social Service, and/or other graduate schools of social work. If accepted, advanced standing will substantially shorten the time needed to complete a master of social work degree.

Preparing for Program Admission

The Core Curriculum provides students with a strong liberal arts platform from which to pursue upper-level study in social work. Students are expected to complete a substantial portion of the Core Curriculum before seeking admission to the social work program. Students may apply for program admission following completion of approximately 50 credit hours and most prerequisites (grades of D are not accepted). Transfer students are welcome to apply, but must be accepted for matriculation at Fordham University before their application to the program can be formally reviewed. Substitution of courses taken at institutions other than Fordham University will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The program encourages applicants who demonstrate both academic competency and characteristics that will serve as a sound base for professional development. Therefore, a combination of admission criteria is used. Full descriptions of admission policies, procedures and applications are available at the program office.

The following prerequisites are required:

- American Pluralism
- Biology (with emphasis on human biology)
- One sociology course
- One psychology course
- One course related to contemporary American government or social policy in the United States
- SOWK 2600 Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare

Early Admission to Master’s Program

Within five years of completion, students graduating with a B.A. in social work from the program are eligible to apply for advanced standing at Fordham's Graduate School of Social Service or to other graduate programs in social work that consider advanced standing applications.

The evaluation of applications for advanced standing in the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service leads to one of the following decisions:

1. Acceptance to the Graduate School of Social Service with advanced standing: The school grants advanced standing. Students enter the advanced level of study and choose from one of the advanced concentrations of study.
2. Rejection: The school rejects the application for admission and does not offer matriculation to the applicant.

Program Activities

Once admitted to the social work major, students will be assigned an adviser during their first and second years of the program. This will provide support over the course of the program.

Students will have access to all student activities open to graduate social work students.

For more information

Visit the Bachelor of Social Work program web page.