College of Arts and Sciences
Social Work

Overview
Social workers help people deal with their relationships with others; solve their personal, family and community problems; and grow and develop by learning to cope with or shape the social and environmental forces affecting daily life.

Social work is a profession for those with a spark of idealism, a belief in social justice and a natural love of working with people. Social work offers the chance to work with and for all kinds of people in all kinds of settings.

Professional options
Careers
Social work is a dynamic and challenging profession with a vast array of career options and opportunities for deep personal satisfaction. Professional social workers are experts who help people obtain the resources they need to live with dignity.

At the same time, social workers are committed to making society more responsive to people’s needs. Social workers practice in a variety of settings. In fact, wherever there are people, there are social workers.

K-State social work graduates have some of the highest employment rates of all majors in the College of Arts and Sciences, according to figures from the K-State Career Center.

Employers
- Hospitals, anywhere from the obstetrics unit to the intensive care unit.
- Schools, where social workers help children, teachers and parents cope with problems.
- Mental health clinics, psychiatric hospitals and public agencies like the employment office and the state social service department.
- Private family service agencies, helping with everything from counseling to finding housing or transportation.
- Child welfare offices, providing essential foster care and adoption services.
- Companies and corporations, helping employees solve personal problems and employers resolve personnel problems.
- Universities, teaching courses and doing research.
- Nursing homes.
- The armed services.
- Private practices.

Social workers in all these settings are seeing problems, understanding needs, developing relationships, helping people build their own lives, and assisting communities and supporting many in need.

Job experience
Social work students obtain experience in the field long before graduation. During a four-year period, K-State social work students in the Introduction to Social Work course volunteered at community agencies for a total of 8,000 hours, and social work students in their field practicums completed 73,030 hours in social work agencies across the state.

The field practicum occurs during the last semester of the social work major’s academic experience. The goal of this experience is to prepare beginning professionals for social work practice.

Field instruction is used to help students integrate the knowledge, skills and values learned in the classroom into the practice of helping, which is done in social work agencies under the direct supervision of agency staff.

Field practicum is far more than observation or busy work. The student is directly responsible for doing social services with individuals, families, organizations or communities. The student participates as a member of the social services team, taking part in staff training, meetings, consultation and planning, and other activities that go with the responsibility of being a social worker. During this time the student has the opportunity to be part of a professional team.

The field experience is full time for the semester. The total time spent in this activity is 480 hours, although many students choose to put in more. One day of the week is devoted in part to a professional seminar in which all students in field placement discuss their experiences with the field coordinator, who is a social worker on the K-State faculty. This discussion allows students to find out about many agencies and experiences and can help them decide what type of social work job they might want after graduation.

Academics
Degree options
The undergraduate major is recognized as the beginning-level professional degree. Students graduating from the social work program at K-State can earn either a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science, and are eligible for the social work licensing examination and certification process in states that have such requirements. Students who wish to pursue graduate studies in social work will be eligible for advanced standing in master’s degree programs in social work programs throughout the United States.

Accreditation
K-State’s undergraduate social work program is accredited by the key accrediting agency for social work education in the U.S. The K-State social work program has been continuously accredited by the Council on Social Work Education since 1974 and is accredited until February 2019.

The Council on Social Work Education is a nonprofit national association representing more than 3,000 individual members, as well as graduate and undergraduate programs of professional social work education.

Points of pride
Kansas State University’s undergraduate social work program has been continuously accredited by the Council on Social Work Education since 1974 and is accredited until February 2019. Faculty members include three Kansas state social workers of the year.

k-state.edu/admissions/academics
Founded in 1952, the organization is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation as the sole accrediting agency for social work education in the U.S.

**Faculty**

K-State faculty members include three Kansas state social workers of the year, and an annual K-State Inspire by Example award went to a K-State social work faculty member for work with social work students’ community projects and with the American Red Cross.

**Advising**

Students entering the social work major for the first time meet with an advisor to create an eight-semester plan. All faculty maintain regular office hours and are available during that time or by appointment.

**Activities**

**Clubs**

The Social Work Organization, or SWO, is a student-led organization open to all K-State students. Members in the organization:

- Network and meet other students with similar interests.
- Help others to empower themselves.
- Have fun while engaging in diverse cultural experiences.
- Seek self-empowerment through leadership opportunities.
- Reach out to the community from a social work perspective.
- Participate in community volunteer projects.

**Admission**

**Requirements**

Incoming students apply to K-State through the general university admissions process. When enrolling in courses, those wishing to declare a major in social work may enroll directly in curriculum titled SOCWK. A student typically applies for admission to the social work program practice sequence during the junior year.

At that time, the entire social work faculty evaluate academic and classroom performance, volunteer experiences, references, a personal statement, students’ understanding of the NASW Code of Ethics and general citizenship before admitting students to the practice sequence.

While in the program, a student must maintain a 2.5 GPA. Students must also have a 3.0 GPA in all major social work courses to complete a degree.

More information on this process can be found on the social work website at k-state.edu/sasw/sw.

**Financial assistance**

**Scholarships**

Each year, the social work faculty awards several scholarships to students in the social work program. The social work faculty selects the winners of these awards based on such criteria as leadership skills and outstanding academic achievement.

**Tool and related courses**

### Major courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hrs.</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOCWK 100</td>
<td>Social Work: The Helping Profession</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOCWK 200</td>
<td>Basic Skills for Working with People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOCWK 315</td>
<td>Human Behavior in the Social Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOCWK 330</td>
<td>Introduction to Social Work Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOCWK 510</td>
<td>Social Welfare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOCWK 530</td>
<td>Seminar in Applied Social Work Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOCWK 550</td>
<td>Field Practicum Preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOCWK 560</td>
<td>Social Work Practice I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOCWK 561</td>
<td>Social Work Practice II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>SOCWK 562</td>
<td>Field Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>SOCWK 564</td>
<td>Social Work Professional Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOCWK 565</td>
<td>Social Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOCWK 568</td>
<td>Macro Practice and Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOCWK 570</td>
<td>Social Work with Groups</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Tool and related courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hrs.</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ANTH 200</td>
<td>Introduction to Cultural Anthropology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>ANTH 204</td>
<td>Introduction to Cultural Anthropology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>BIOL 198</td>
<td>Introduction to Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SOCIO 211</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>PSYCH 110</td>
<td>General Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>POLSC 301</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Thought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>POLSC 110</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>POLSC 115</td>
<td>U.S. Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ECON 120</td>
<td>Microeconomics I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>ECON 110</td>
<td>Microeconomics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>MATH 100</td>
<td>College Algebra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**For more information about social work, contact:**

Social Work
Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work
Kansas State University
204 Waters Hall
1603 Old Claflin Place
Manhattan, KS 66506-4003
785-532-6865
socansw@k-state.edu
k-state.edu/sasw/sw

**For more information about Kansas State University, contact:**

Office of Admissions
Kansas State University
119 Anderson Hall
919 Mid-Campus Drive North
Manhattan, KS 66506-0102
1-800-432-8270 (toll free) or 785-532-6250
k-state@k-state.edu
k-state.edu/admissions