



Career Paths

Social work is the largest and arguably the most important social services profession in the U.S. Social workers are committed to promoting positive change at the individual and societal levels.

The social work profession serves diverse populations, providing endless opportunities for those interested in the field. Professional opportunities are too numerous to list, and may include mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, social work in schools, corrections, police departments, hospitals, child welfare, shelters, long-term care facilities and hospice.

In addition to providing direct service, social workers are involved in community advocacy, program development, research and policy development.

Field Experiences

At NKU, we believe that learning should extend beyond the classroom. This is why the BSW program includes 400 hours of field placement. Students complete these field hours within a community-based agency that aligns with their interests and passions.

Mission Statement

The NKU Social Work program educates competent and ethical Bachelor of Social Work graduates who demonstrate leadership and social work values in their communities and their profession, toward advancing social and economic justice.

If you feel energized and motivated by the thought of empowering others and positively impacting the lives of vulnerable populations, then the profession of social work is for you!

The Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) at NKU

Our Social Work program has been accredited by the Council on Social Work Education since 1979, marking more than four decades of exceptional social work education. The Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program prepares graduates for social work practice with diverse populations in a variety of settings. The curriculum covers content related to social justice, diversity, human behavior, policy, research and social work practice with individuals, groups, organizations and communities.

Upon graduation, students are eligible to pursue a social work license. Furthermore, BSW graduates with an overall 3.0 GPA and 3.5 GPA in social work courses are eligible to apply to the advanced standing Master of Social Work (MSW) program. This advanced standing program allows students to earn an MSW in as little as 12 months.

The Path to the BSW

The path to the BSW degree involves four main steps that must be successfully completed in consecutive order.

- Phase 0:** Declare social work as your major and meet with your advisor.
- Phase 1:** Complete required social work prerequisites and take social work electives.
- Phase 2:** Complete core social work courses and continue to take social work electives.
- Phase 3:** Complete your field experience and complete social work electives.



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To learn more, contact the Bachelor of Social Work program at (859) 572-5248 or bsw@nku.edu.

nku.edu/bsw

PHASE 0: DECLARE SOCIAL WORK AS YOUR MAJOR

PHASE 1: COMPLETE PREREQUISITE COURSES (18 credits)

- SWK 105: Social Work & the Community (3 credits)
- SWK 106: Introduction to Social Justice (3 credits)
- SWK 204: Social Work Ethics (3 credits)
- SWK 205: Inclusion, Oppression, & Social Work (3 credits)
- SWK 206: Professional Communication (3 credits)
- Select 3 Statistics credit hours (3 credits)

PHASE 2: COMPLETE CORE COURSES (24 credits)

- SWK 303: Professional Interactional Skills (3 credits)
- SWK 304: Human Behavior in Childhood (3 credits)
- SWK 305: Practice with Individuals (3 credits)
- SWK 306: Contemporary Social Welfare Policy (3 credits)
- SWK 307: Human Behavior in Adulthood (3 credits)
- SWK 308: Social Work Research (3 credits)
- SWK 310: Practice with Families & Groups (3 credits)
- SWK 311: Practice with Communities & Organizations (3 credits)

PHASE 3: COMPLETE FIELD EXPERIENCE (10 credits)

- SWK 406: Field Experience I (5 credits)
- SWK 408: Field Experience II (5 credits)

SOCIAL WORK ELECTIVES (9 credits)

- SWK 394: Special Topics: Social Work (1-3 credits)
- SWK 410: Child Abuse (3 credits)
- SWK 415: Child Welfare PCWCP I (3 credits)
- SWK 416: Child Welfare PCWCP II (3 credits)
- SWK 474: Safety in Social Work Practice (1-4 credits)
- SWK 494: Special Topics: Bachelor of Social Work (1-3 credits)
- SWK 499: Independent Study (1-6 credits)
- SWK 525: Substance Use & Misuse (3 credits)
- SWK 565: Compassion, Empathy & Forgiveness (3 credits)
- SWK 568: Family-Directed Structural Model (3 credits)
- SWK 572: Forensic Social Work (3 credits)
- SWK 576: Social Work & the Law (3 credits)
- SWK 577: Social Work in Law Enforcement Settings (3 credits)
- SWK 578: Aging & Mental Health (3 credits)
- SWK 579: Gerontology (3 credits)
- SWK 594: Special Topics: Issues in Social Work (1-3 credits)
- SWK 595: Social Work Study Abroad (3 credits)

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