



Social Work | Major

“The Social Work Department at Alvernia has prepared me to work in various aspects of social work. My fellow students and I have learned and participated in classes and activities that will follow us through our professional lives. We have helped people in the local community and we have advocated for change. We have values, beliefs, and experiences that are all different, but together we have one commonality—Alvernia University is where we began to grow in capacities we could never fathom.” —Meghan McGlone '09, Reading, PA

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS IN BRIEF

The Social Work program, which is accredited by The Council on Social Work Education, provides educational courses and experiences to assist students in their exploration of this discipline. This major prepares students for entry-level positions in the generalist social work profession and for graduate studies. In addition, the Social Work program's accreditation allows students to pursue an expedited curriculum to earn their master's degree. Courses in social welfare, policy, practice, human behavior, children services and older adult services, combined with research and field practicums in social work agencies, provide students with the opportunity to integrate classroom and work experiences focusing on helping individuals, families, communities, organizations and institutions.

Junior Social Work students intern 8 hours per week at social service agencies. This hands-on experience offers the student classroom credit. Senior field placement calls for the student to complete 16 hours per week at another social service agency. The student will receive classroom credit and valuable field experience. The field placement program provides students with three semesters of professional experience under the supervision of a social work professional. The Social Work Department tailors the student's field placement to the student's interests.

Sophomores who are in good academic standing may apply for a block field placement in Washington, DC. In the last semester of the senior year the student lives and works with students from all over the country. These students are placed in agencies that give varied experiences including and not limited to policy, child welfare, aging, and mental health.

Students from other academic disciplines are invited to register for SW 201 - Introduction to Social Work. This is a basic course that is advantageous to those pursuing teaching, nursing, occupational therapy, addiction studies, criminal justice, psychology and other disciplines whereby the students will be working closely with people and the problems they encounter.

STUDENT CLUB & ORGANIZATIONS

Social Work Club: The purpose of the Social Work Club is to enhance professional growth in the human service field and to promote a greater understanding of the social work profession throughout the college community. Social Work majors are encouraged to participate in the club activities; however, membership is open to all students of the university.

Phi Alpha Honor Society: The Social Work Department of Alvernia University was granted a chapter charter in the Phi Alpha National Honor Society under the name of Zeta Upsilon. The purpose of this organization is to provide a closer bond among students of Social Work, and to enter into a more intimate fellowship with those dedicated to the promotion of humanitarian goals and ideals by a professional group for which quality educational preparation is deemed imperative. Students and faculty involved in Social Work at Alvernia University resolve to sponsor a Chapter of Phi Alpha National Honor Society, thereby to foster high standards of education for Social Work and to invite into membership those who have attained academic excellence of a 3.0 (4.0 scale) overall grade point average.

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW): The Social Work Department of Alvernia University has a strong affiliation with NASW. The NASW is the largest membership association for professional Social Workers. They work to enhance the professional growth and development of Social Workers, to create and maintain social work standards and to advance sound social policies.

CAREER SUCCESS

The employment of Social Workers is expected to increase by 22% during the 2006-2016 decade, which is faster than the average for all occupations. Social Work graduates readily find positions; our current employment rate is approximately 99%. Many times students find employment within the agency where they completed

undergraduate practicums. Areas of Social Work employment include child welfare, geriatrics, the medical field, mental health/intellectually challenged, housing, criminal justice, rehabilitation and other institutions that focus on the well-being of those within our society. Alvernia University's Career Services staff provides assistance with resume preparation, interview skills and job and graduate school searches.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Addiction Prevention/Rehabilitation Counselor
Agency Director
Case Worker
Child/Family Counseling
Child Welfare Worker
Criminal Justice Prevention/Rehabilitation
Crisis Intervention Worker
Department of Public Welfare
Foster Care and Adoption

Government Human Service
Home Health Care Agencies
Hospice
Intellectually Challenged
Mental Health Rehabilitation
Nursing Home Social Work
Religious and Ethnic Work
Therapeutic Support Staff

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

(Additional education beyond a bachelor's may be required.)

Bachelor Degree Requirements (65 credits)

SW 201 Introduction to Social Work
SW 301 Social Welfare
SW 302 Social Policy
SW 303 Human Behavior/Social Environment I
SW 304 Human Behavior/Social Environment II
SW 305 Social Work Practice I
SW 306 Social Work Practice II
SW 316 Introduction to Field Education
SW 401 Social Work Practice III
SW 402 Social Work Practice IV - Capstone
SW 403 Senior Field Education I
SW 404 Senior Field Education II
SW 405 Methods of Social Research
SW 407 Senior Field Education I Seminar
SW 408 Senior Field Education II Seminar

Choose nine elective credits from:

SW 202 Social Services to Children
SW 203 The Process of Aging
SW 207 Intervention Strategies for Families
SW 209 Death, Dying and Bereavement
SW 231 Culturally Sensitive Human Service Practice

Required Courses in Related Areas:

BIO 109 Human Biology
MAT 208 Introductory Statistics -OR-
MAT 209 Probability and Statistics
Psychology course (3 credits)
Sociology course (3 credits)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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