Social Work | Major

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS IN BRIEF

Alvernia is a Franciscan university rooted in the Catholic and liberal arts traditions, dedicated to the ideals of service in the helping professions. Our rich heritage of service and strong faith resonates in contemporary ways in our campus life and academic programs. Our faculty and staff are committed to teaching, guiding, and supporting our students in all aspects of their experience at Alvernia University, from course selection and scheduling, to connecting with peers and colleagues.

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.

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.

ALPHA SIGMA LAMBDA

Alpha Sigma Lambda is the premier national honor society for nontraditional adult students. Its aim is to recognize the special achievements of adults who accomplish academic excellence while facing competing interests of home and work. For the nontraditional student, the Society stands as an inspiration for continuing scholastic growth, and is a builder of pride through recognition. The Alvernia University ASL Chapter serves as a vehicle for imparting appreciation for adult students’ academic achievements and contributions. To this day Alpha Sigma Lambda is not only the oldest, but also the largest, chapter-based honor society for full- and part-time students.

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

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<tr>
<th>Addiction Prevention/Rehabilitation Counselor</th>
<th>Criminal Justice Prevention</th>
<th>Hospice</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agency Director</td>
<td>Crisis Intervention Worker</td>
<td>Mental Health Rehabilitation</td>
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<td>Case Worker</td>
<td>Foster Care and Adoption</td>
<td>Nursing Home Social Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child/Family Counseling</td>
<td>Government Human Service</td>
<td>Therapeutic Support Staff</td>
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<td>Home Health Care Agencies</td>
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(Additional education beyond a bachelor’s may be required.)

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students are admitted to Alvernia University and are fully accepted to the Social Work Program when the following criteria have been met:

- Completion of Continuing Studies application for admission with all supporting documentation.
- Minimum undergraduate grade point average of 2.25.
- Submission of all passed criminal background check and child abuse history clearances prior to placement into Social Work Fieldwork courses (SW 316, SW 403, SW 404). Please note clearances may take up to two months to process.
CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

BS/Social Work

Liberal Arts Core (31-55 credits)
All Alvernia University Students are required to complete between 31-55 credits toward the Liberal Arts Core. Transfer work may be applicable for this area. As part of the application process, students receive specific information regarding remaining credits.

General Elective requirements (as needed)*

*Note: A total of a minimum of 123 credits are required to earn a Bachelor's Degree. To adhere to Franciscan Values, community service hours are also required. Transfer students admitted to Alvernia's Mid-Degree Program must complete a minimum of 30 Alvernia credits at the 300/+ level.