Recommendations

B.S.W. Social Work

To learn more about making the most of your educational experiences within and beyond the classroom contact:
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PARTICIPATE

Community Service

Related course
- SOWK 311: Generalist Practice I: Introduction to Social Work Practice
- SOWK 322: Social Policy Analysis
- SOWK 422 - Advocacy for Social and Economic Justice
- UNIV 101: The Student in the University

Sites/experiences
The College of Social Work has partnerships with agencies, organizations, communities, and governments that provide students with opportunities to experience service with adults, children, and youth and systems of all sizes. Examples of social work fields of practice are as follows: Family and Children's Services, Health and Rehabilitation; Mental Health; Information and Referral; Occupational Social Work; Juvenile and Adult Corrections; Gerontological Services; School Social Work; Intimate Partner Violence; Housing; Income Maintenance; Community Development

Why this is important
Community service is integral to the development of professional identity and values for social workers; they serve in a variety of systems and organizations with diverse populations.

Global Learning

Timing for “study abroad”
For BSW students study abroad is recommended before entry into Upper Division or during summers between academic years.

Destinations
The destinations of study varies depending on the student’s interest and career development. Selections for study abroad are made in collaboration with the BSW program office, Study Abroad Office, and academic advisor.

Why this is important
An understanding other cultures and populations enhances a student’s capacity to think critically about the strengths and needs of diverse individuals, families, and communities. Locating employment in a global setting is a strong possibility due to the focus of the profession and its values, skills, and knowledge.

Peer Leadership

Student Organization(s)
Students are encouraged to participate in the variety of student organization within the University and the College of Social Work. The purpose of the Undergraduate Social Work Student Association is to encourage fellowship and on-campus participation of undergraduate social work majors and minors. Other social work student organizations are reviewed at http://cosw.sc.edu/academic-program/undergraduate-program/bsw-student-leadership. Students may choose to participate in the National Association of Social Workers and their South Carolina Chapter. To review other USC associations, please see USC Connect for the Student Life Database.

Opportunities
Many organizations and agencies have internship opportunities that social work students access through USC and College of Social Work. Student also participate in the leadership of local professional organizations and service groups. The BSW program office and advisers are available to discuss participation and leadership opportunities for students.

Why this is important
The Undergraduate Student Social Work Association provides students with opportunities to lead and participate in community service opportunities and network within the College of Social Work.
**Internships**

**Related Courses**
SOWK 382 - Introduction to Field Education, SOWK 481 - Practicum I: Field Education, SOWK 482 - Practicum II: Field Education, SOWK 483 - Practicum Seminar

**Program Internship Requirements**
The field education component of the BSW plan of study requires students to complete 500 hours of learning and demonstrating social work competencies under the supervision of a social work practitioner in a community agency or other human service organizational setting. The field education courses are credit bearing.

**Recommended sites/work experiences**
Students participate in a variety of social work fields of practice. Examples include: Family and Children's Services, Health and Rehabilitation; Mental Health; Information and Referral; Occupational Social Work; Juvenile and Adult Corrections; Gerontological Services; School Social Work; Intimate Partner Violence; Housing; Income Maintenance; Community Development

**Why this is important**
The field placement internship is considered the “signature pedagogy” of professional social work education. It is where students demonstrate mastery of the core competencies and practice behaviors of social work.

**Research**

**Related courses**

**Sample research projects or topics**
In SOWK 352, students conduct program evaluations and single-system design studies using data from their community service agencies and organizations and other sources. In SOWK 322, student study the effects of social policies on vulnerable and at-risk populations. In SOWK 422, students develop and implement social justice and advocacy projects.

**Why this is important**
Scientific inquiry provides the basis for students to become ethical and competent social workers who use evidenced-based interventions in their practice.

**INTEGRATE**

**How to Integrate**
All social work courses provide students with opportunities to integrate theory into practice through the creative and reflective use of presentations, blogs, ePortfolios, decision case studies, journals, discussion, experiential exercises, art, photography, video-making, and writing.

In SOWK 484: Capstone, BSW students develop their final e-portfolio that documents the social work competencies learned through the program of study, undergraduate experiences, community service, field education, and global travel. Students present their final e-portfolios as a course requirement to a variety of audiences.

In SOWK 422 - Advocacy for Social and Economic Justice, students complete a social justice and advocacy project and present their theoretical basis, framework, and activities by creating websites for presentations. Prior to graduation, students communicate their capacities to integrate theory into ethical and competent practices through visual and verbal presentations. Participation in these final assignments provides students with the confidence to enter the world of professional work.
Initial Career Opportunities

BSW graduates are prepared to enter the profession in the following settings: Child Welfare; Adolescent Health; Aging; Behavioral Health; Bereavement/End of Life Care; Children, Youth, and Families agencies; Income Maintenance; Housing, food, and other basic resources; Diversity and Social Justice Advocacy organizations; Health; HIV/AIDS; International, Peace and Social Justice organizations; School Social Work; Corrections; Violence prevention and recovery agencies; local and state legislative offices; out-of-home care facilities; adoption and foster care agencies.

Related graduate programs

BSW graduates have the opportunity to enter Master in Social Work programs as advanced standing students by meeting the admission requirements of various universities and colleges. Also, BSW students have further education options in other higher education disciplines, such as public administration, public health, law, education, and nursing.

Future career opportunities

BSW graduates are eligible for professional licensure to practice in a variety of states. Social workers generally have a career progression that includes some of the following positions: counselors and therapists in private practice, supervisors, managers, program coordinators, executive directors, legislators and political leaders, and educators.

The listed experiences are a sample of options for your major. See the USC Connect experiences database to search for more opportunities.

www.sc.edu/uscconnect/participate