



# BSW PROGRAM

## 2020-2021 BSW Student Policies and Procedures Manual

This manual covers the Fall, Spring, and Summer terms of the 2020-2021 academic year. This manual is intended only to provide information for the guidance of the University of South Carolina College of Social Work students. The information is subject to change and the College of Social Work reserves the right to depart without notice from any policy or procedures referred to in this manual. This manual is not intended to be and should not be regarded as a contract between the University of South Carolina College of Social Work and any student or other person.



**AUGUST 17, 2020**



**College of  
Social Work**

## PROGRAM MISSION, GOALS, AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

### BSW Program Mission

The mission of the BSW program is to prepare graduates to become competent and ethical generalist practitioners who promote social and economic justice, social well-being, and an appreciation of diversity among vulnerable populations across South Carolina and beyond. This is accomplished through the program's emphasis on teaching, research, creative activity, and community engagement.

### BSW Program Goals and Learning Outcomes

Based on the importance purposes of a generalist social work education and the BSW program, the mission of the BSW program, and academic climate, the BSW Program goals are as follows:

Goal 1: The program prepares students to appreciate the importance of human relationships for the provision of competent generalist practices

- Learning Outcome 1: Graduates will engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities (2.1.10<sup>1</sup>).

Goal 2: The program prepares students to demonstrate competent generalist practices within the parameters of the profession's ethics, values, emphasis on the dignity and worth of the person, and respect for diversity and difference.

- Learning Outcome 2: Graduates will identify as professional social workers and conduct themselves accordingly (2.1.1).
- Learning Outcome 3: Graduates will apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice (2.1.2).
- Learning Outcome 4: Graduates will engage diversity and difference in practice (2.1.4).

Goal 3: The program prepares students to apply a person and environment framework to interpret practice contexts and relevant research.

- Learning Outcome 5: Graduates will apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment (2.1.7).
- Learning Outcome 6: Graduates will engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research (2.1.6).
- Learning Outcome 7: Graduates will respond to contexts that shape practice (2.1.9).

Goal 4: The program prepares students to understand the conditions that influence human rights, as well as the policies and practices that enhance social and economic justice

- Learning Outcome 8: Graduates will engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services (2.1.8).

Goal 5: The program prepares students to use critical thinking in serving and advocating for social and economic justice.

- Learning Outcome 9: Graduates will apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments

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<sup>1</sup> Numbers refer to the CSWE's 2008 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) Core Competencies

(2.1.3).

- Learning Outcome 10: Graduates will advance human rights and social and economic justice (2.1.5).

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## Program Evaluation

The BSW Program routinely collects and evaluates data to monitor progress and achievement of program goals. Students are included in this process through their involvement in surveys for course evaluations, self-assessment of learning outcomes, evaluations of field organizations and field instructors, and other activities. Students are also invited to provide additional feedback through the social work student associations and through student membership on College committees.

## ADMISSIONS

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### Admission Requirements for the Upper Division

The admission policy for the BSW Program applies to every applicant for the undergraduate social work program. The admission policy for the BSW degree program applies to every applicant. All applicants must fulfill the general admission requirements of both the University and the College of Social Work. Students must submit a completed College of Social Work BSW Program application by the announced due dates published each year. The College of Social Work is committed to diversity in its student body. Admission is limited and competitive. Minimum requirements for admission include:

1. An institutional undergraduate GPA of 2.50 (on a 4.00 scale).
2. Earned minimum grade of C or higher in all required Carolina Core Effective, Engaged, and Persuasive Communication (Writing) – CMW courses.
3. Verified completion of 39 hours of general education courses at the time of application.
4. Verified completion of 54 hours of general education courses at the time of progression to upper division.
5. Verified completion of SOWK 201, or [equivalency for transfer students](#).
6. At least three letters of reference submitted by individuals who can attest to the student's potential for undergraduate study and social work practice.
7. A personal statement that addresses the student's interests, resiliencies, and community service.

An interview may also be required.

Additionally, all students are expected to:

- Meet with a social work advisor to discuss the application process.
- Attend the BSW Program Upper Division orientation as well the Field Education orientation.
- Abide by the National Association of Social Workers' (NASW) [Code of Ethics](#).

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## Transfer Credit

Per University policy, students transferring to the University from another college or university must have their transcripts evaluated by the University **before** enrolling in classes. It is only after such evaluation that students will

know definitively the transferability and equivalency of each transfer course. Additional information about the transferability, equivalency, and applicability of credits can be found in the [Course and Academic Credit Policies](#) section of the Undergraduate Academic Regulations Bulletin.

A transfer course is not applicable towards any University of South Carolina academic program or degree if:

- The transfer course was essentially remedial in nature.
- The transfer course was occupational or technical in nature (examples: welding, paralegal, radiography courses).
- A grade lower than 2.0 on a 4-point scale, or equivalent, was earned in the transfer course.
- The transfer course was taken by a degree-seeking University of South Carolina student without prior approval as described in the Earning Credit in Transient Status section of this bulletin.
- The transfer course was taken while a student was on an academic suspension from the university.
- The student received any grade other than W an equivalent course at this university, unless the student was enrolled full time at least one year at the transfer institution.

Although the USC Office of Admission may grant students semester hours for transfer credit for completed work in another social work program, the BSW Program will determine whether the course meet the requirements of the BSW degree in the College of Social Work. Any student wishing to transfer credit must submit a course syllabus that includes learning objectives, assignments, and the titles and authors of textbooks to the BSW Program Coordinator. If it appears that the requisite competencies, knowledge, and skills have been acquired, the student will be exempted from the BSW course.

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## Admission to the BSW Upper Division Major

The BSW Program admits a new cohort of students into the Upper Division of the social work major each Fall term. Admission decisions are made by a committee comprised of COSW faculty and staff members, typically those serving on the Undergraduate Program Committee. Two committee members evaluate each application packet and score the candidate based on specified criteria using a standard rubric. Final admission decisions are ultimately determined by the committee. Students are notified about acceptance decisions. For students denied admission, the admission notification provides additional information about opportunities to communicate with the program about reasons for denial and future options.

The minimum requirements for a completed application packet include (1) an application form, (2) a transcript that reflects an overall GPA of 2.50 or higher, (3) an admissions essay that covers all required topic areas, and (4) three letters of reference. Application packets will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- GPA
- Admissions Essay – Content and meeting of required topical areas
- Admissions Essay – Writing quality
- Letters of Reference
- Service/Volunteer Experience

### Progression Requirements

To remain in the BSW Program, students must make satisfactory academic progress toward the degree. A student who fails to make satisfactory progress will be placed on academic probation or terminated from the program. Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.50 in the major and must earn a grade of C or higher in all major courses. Students



will be notified by the program when their GPAs fall below 2.50. A meeting with the BSW Program Coordinator may be required.

Students may attempt a social work core course a maximum of two times to fulfill a major requirement. A grade of W (Withdrawal) will be recognized as an attempt. A student may repeat a maximum of two core courses. In addition, all students are subject to the regulations on probation, suspension, and readmission stated in the [Undergraduate Academic Regulations Bulletin](#).

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for the Bachelor of Social Work degree include the completion of 120 credit hours of study. For more information, see [Degree Requirements](#) in the BSW Social Work Bulletin.

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Carolina Core                  | 31-43 Hours |
| College & Program Requirements | 17-29 Hours |
| Minimum Major Requirements     | 60 Hours    |
| <b>Total Hours</b>             | <b>120</b>  |

## Graduation Requirements and Application

The last 25% of a student's degree must be completed in residence at the University, and at least half of the hours in the student's major courses and in the student's minor courses (if applicable) must be taken at the University. To be eligible for graduation, students must meet all course requirements, be in good academic standing, meet all BSW Program requirements, have an institutional GPA of at least 2.00 on all work attempted at UofSC and must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.50 in the social work major with a grade of C or higher in all major courses.

All candidates for degrees and certificates must file formal applications during the last academic term before graduation. Applications must be filed by the third week of the fall or spring semester in which the degree is to be awarded or within the first 10 days of the first summer session. If the student is not enrolled during the first summer session, the application must be filed within the first week of the second summer session for the student to graduate at the summer commencement. See the [Degree Conferral and Graduation Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Regulations bulletin for more information.

## CURRICULUM

### Credit for Life Experience

In accordance with the mandates of the Council on Social Work Education, no credit is given for life experiences. Students will not receive academic credit for life experience or previous volunteer, service learning activities or assignments, or work experience in social work. Academic credit will not be granted for life experience or previous work experience, and such experience will not be substituted for any of the courses in the professional foundation areas or the field practicum.

## State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is a national initiative to provide more access to online courses while maintaining compliance standards with state regulatory agencies. SARA allows institutions to provide online courses outside of their own state borders by seeking and maintaining state approvals via a streamlined process. The University of South Carolina Columbia pursues authorization to offer distance education programs and experiential learning opportunities (internships, practica, clinicals, and fieldwork) in other states.

Social Work licensure and certification vary by state. Each state has its own licensing board with its own social work licensure requirements. As a program fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), Bachelor of Social Work degree graduates from the University of South Carolina are eligible to sit for professional licensure in the state of South Carolina. The program cannot confirm that it meets the specific requirements for professional licensure in another state. Students planning to seek licensure should visit the South Carolina [Board of Social Work Examiners](#) website and/or the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) [Licensing Board for College Websites, Statutes and Administrative Rules](#) webpage.

## Social Work Major (Upper Division – 60 Hours)

The [Major Map](#) for social work can be found in the Undergraduate Studies Bulletin for Social Work.

Below is the plan of study for the social work major program. All policies, course listings, and program information are subject to change as approved by the University of South Carolina, consistent with accreditation requirements set by the Council on Social Work Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

| JUNIOR YEAR    |          |   |
|----------------|----------|---|
| Upper Division |          |   |
| FALL           | SOWK 311 | Generalist Practice I: Introduction to Social Work Practice                                 |
|                | SOWK 331 | Diversity and Social Justice in Contemporary Society  |
|                | SOWK 341 | Human Behavior and Social Environment (HBSE) I: Individual Development across the Life Span |
|                | XXX      | Elective* <sup>2</sup>  |
|                | XXX      | Elective*   |
| SPRING         | SOWK 312 | Generalist Practice II: Social Work with Individuals and Families                           |
|                | SOWK 322 | Social Policy Analysis  |
|                | SOWK 352 | Social Work and Scientific Inquiry  |
|                | SOWK 382 | Introduction to Field Education   |
|                | XXX      | Elective*   |
| SENIOR YEAR    |          |   |
| Upper Division |          |   |

<sup>2</sup> \*Students must complete a minimum of 9 hours of social work electives.

|               |          |   |
|---------------|----------|---|
| <b>FALL</b>   | SOWK 411 | Generalist Practice III: Social Work with Small Groups                                      |
|               | SOWK 441 | Human Behavior and the Social Environment (HBSE) III: Large Systems                         |
|               | SOWK 481 | Practicum I: Field Education  |
|               | SOWK 483 | Practicum Seminar   |
|               | XXX      | Elective*   |
| <b>SPRING</b> | SOWK 412 | Generalist Practice IV: Social Work with Communities & Organizations                        |
|               | SOWK 422 | Advocacy for Social and Economic Justice  |
|               | SOWK 482 | Human Behavior and Social Environment (HBSE) I: Individual Development across the Life Span |
|               | SOWK 484 | Practicum II: Field Education   |
|               | XXX      | Elective*   |

## Social Work Minor (18 Hours)

Below is the plan of study for social work minor program. All policies, course listings, and program information are subject to change as approved by the University of South Carolina, consistent with accreditation requirements set by the Council on Social Work Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

### Required Courses - Must complete both courses (6 Hours)

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| SOWK 201 | Introduction to Social Work Profession and Social Welfare |
| SOWK 222 | Social Welfare Institutions, Policies, and Programs       |

### Elective Courses - Must Complete a minimum of four courses (12 Hours)

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| SOWK 303 | Social Welfare for Children and Families  |
| SOWK 304 | Social Welfare for Families and Aged  |
| SOWK 305 | Social Welfare Services for Women and Minorities  |
| SOWK 307 | International Social Work and Social Justice  |
| SOWK 309 | Life Transitions: Grief and Loss  |
| SOWK 322 | Social Policy Analysis  |
| SOWK 331 | Diversity and Social Justice in Contemporary Society  |
| SOWK 341 | Human Behavior and Social Environment (HBSE) I: Individual Development across the Life Span |
| SOWK 352 | Social Work and Scientific Inquiry  |
| SOWK 399 | Independent Study   |
| SOWK 404 | Current Issues in Social Welfare  |

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

[Course Descriptions](#), including credits hours, prerequisites, and leadership distinction credit, can be found in Undergraduate Studies Bulletin.

## FIELD EDUCATION

The BSW Field Education Program at the College of Social Work at the University of South Carolina is structured according to the mandates of the Council on Social Work Education. The Program is guided by the Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) and the National Association of Social Worker's Code of Ethics. The tenets of these documents are found throughout the BSW curriculum including the BSW Field Education program.

Field education is the signature pedagogy of social work education. The intent of field instruction is to provide students with an opportunity to apply the knowledge, values, and skills learned in the classroom to actual social work practice situations in the field placement.

All BSW students are accountable to all policies, procedures, and practices that govern the BSW Field Education Program that can be found in the Field Education Manual. Students should refer to the Field Education Manual for additional information.

## ADVISEMENT AND REGISTRATION

### Academic Advisement

All social work majors are advised by an academic advisor in the College of Social Work to review academic progression and plan semester course schedules. Students must be advised for courses each semester and will not be allowed to register until advisement has occurred. Students may seek advice from their advisor at any time during the semester, especially when seeking to drop a course or alter the planned program of study in any way.

### Registration for Courses

Registering for classes is an online process that students complete through Self Service Carolina. Students are encouraged to use the [Registration Checklists](#) located on the University Registrar's webpage to navigate the registration process. The basic process for course registration is as follows:

- Login to [Self Service Carolina](#).
- Navigate to the Student section, then click on the Registration tab.
- Choose the Schedule Planner option and build your ideal schedule.
  - The social work course designator is SOWK.
  - Course sections coded with a Y prefix are offered in the evening.
  - Course sections coded with a J prefix are offered online.
- Send your schedule to the Registration Cart and leave it there until your time ticket begins.
- Once your time ticket begins, revisit Schedule Planner, confirm your class selections, and send your final selections to the Registration Cart.
- Choose the Submit option. You will then see a screen that shows which sections you successfully registered in. If you need to select additional classes, revisit Schedule Planner and select the classes you need. Repeat the process above until you finalize your schedule.
- View Student Detail Schedule - As a final step, review your schedule.



[Degree Works](#) is the University's degree-auditing and tracking tool and is designed to help students monitor academic progress in accordance with university and major requirements. Students should use Degree Works to track their studies to ensure they are on target for graduation.

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## Course Loads

Undergraduate students who are enrolled in 12 semester hours or more for the fall, spring, or summer semester are considered full-time for academic purposes. Students who have a documented disability through the [Student Disability Resource Center](#) must be enrolled in 9 semester hours or more for the fall, spring or summer semesters to be considered full-time students. Additional information may be found in the [Course and Academic Credit Policies](#) section of the Undergraduate Academic Regulations Bulletin.

Full-time benefits for veterans are determined by the [Office of Veterans Services](#).

## ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND POLICIES

A student's progress is based on nonacademic as well as academic performance. Those nonacademic factors that could result in a student's suspension or dismissal from the College of Social Work, regardless of his/her academic performance, include violation of University regulations as described in the Carolina Creed, commission of acts or behaviors which violate the NASW Code of Ethics, commission or conviction of an offense that goes to the issue of moral turpitude (conduct that is considered contrary to community standards of justice, honesty or good morals), or pending charges of or conviction of a felonious offense. Students must maintain high standards of ethical behavior that are necessary for their professional practice as a social worker.

The following information highlights some of the key academic standards and policies for BSW students. It should be noted that **not** all standards and policies are included here. Students are expected to be familiar with [UofSC Policies and Procedures Manual](#), [Admissions Policies and Procedures](#), the [Undergraduate Academic Regulations](#), and the [Social Work, BSW Bulletin](#).

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## Class Attendance

The BSW Program follows the Undergraduate Bulletin [attendance policy](#), which states:

*Students are obligated to complete all assigned work promptly, to attend class regularly, and to participate in whatever class discussion may occur.*

*Absence from more than 10 percent of the scheduled class sessions, whether excused or unexcused, is excessive and the instructor may choose to exact a grade penalty for such absences. It is of particular importance that a student who anticipates absences in excess of 10 percent of the scheduled class sessions receives prior approval from the instructor before the last day to change schedule as published in the academic and refund calendars on the registrar's Web site (<http://registrar.sc.edu/>).*

*It must be emphasized that the "10 percent rule" stated above applies to both excused and unexcused absences.*

*The following events or circumstances may be potentially excusable absences:*

- *participation in an authorized University activity (such as musical performances, academic competitions, or varsity athletic events in which the student plays a formal role in a University sanctioned event)*
- *required participation in military duties*
- *mandatory admission interviews for professional or graduate school which cannot be rescheduled*
- *participation in legal proceedings or administrative duties that require a student's presence*
- *death or major illness in a student's immediate family*
- *illness of a dependent family member*
- *religious holy day if listed on [www.interfaithcalendar.org](http://www.interfaithcalendar.org)*
- *illness that is too severe or contagious for the student to attend class*
- *weather-related emergencies*

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## Final Examinations

Final examination schedules are published on the Office of the University Registrar's [webpage](#).

See the [Examination Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Policies and Regulation Bulletin for more information.

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## Grades and Credits

Grades are determined by quality of work, performance on course assignments, examination grades, and class attendance and participation. The BSW Program has one approved grading scale for all classes:

|            |            |           |              |
|------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| 100-93 = A | 92-88 = B+ | 87-80 = B | 79-78 = C+   |
| 77-70 = C  | 69-68 = D+ | 67-60 = D | Below 60 = F |

The BSW Program follows the [Grading Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Policies and Regulation Bulletin. Refer to these policies for additional information.

- **A, B, C, D** represent passing grades in order from highest to lowest. **B+, C+, D+** may also be recorded. **F** represents failing performance.
- **S** and **U** indicate, respectively, satisfactory (passing) and unsatisfactory (failing) performance in courses carried under the Pass-Fail option.
- **FN** (Failure Non-Attendance) and **UN** (Unsatisfactory Non-Attendance) grades are assigned to students who never attended or have stopped attending class but have not officially dropped or withdrawn.
- **WF** is assigned for student withdrawal from a course after the penalty deadline prescribed in the academic and refund calendars on the registrar's Web site
- **W** is assigned for student withdrawal from a course after the late registration period but before the penalty date.
- **I** is assigned for Incomplete at the discretion of the instructor when a student is unable to complete some portion of the assigned work in a course because of extenuating circumstances. Re-enrolling in the course will not make up an Incomplete.
  - Students must request grades of incomplete before the end of the term.
  - After 12 months, an **I** that has not been made up is changed to a grade of **F** or to the back-up grade indicated by the faculty member on the Assignment of Incomplete Grade form.
- **NR** is assigned for No Record when the grade is not available at the time final grades are submitted.

Students' grades are reported on Self Service Carolina. Students may also access grade reports in person at the Office of the University Registrar. Course syllabi provide the instructor's expectations including attendance, required assignments and exams and the weight to be accorded to each, and the grading scale.

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## Auditing a Course

A student must be admitted to the University and go through the regular registration process to be eligible for auditing any course. Auditing a course consists of attending classes and listening without responsibility for any assignments or examinations.

See the *Auditing* policy under the [Course and Academic Credit Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Policies and Regulation Bulletin for additional information.

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## Dropping Courses and Withdrawal

Students should check for the last day to drop a course without a grade of 'W' being recorded and for the last day to drop a course or withdraw without a grade of 'WF' being recorded by referring to the [Academic Calendar](#). Failure to complete the official course withdrawal process has serious implications for calculation of the final course grade and calculation of grade point averages.

There are multiple ways for students to drop or withdraw from undergraduate classes. Each option has separately defined rules for grades and tuition/fees. See the Dropping Courses and Withdrawal policies under the [Registration Policies](#) of the Undergraduate Policies and Academic Regulations Bulletin for additional information.

Students are prevented from dropping or adding courses during the Free Drop/Add Period if they have an active registration hold on their record. Students may drop or withdraw from courses through [Self Service Carolina](#).

Withdrawal from all courses constitutes withdrawal from the University. All students wishing to withdraw from the University, or to discontinue enrollment from all courses for the semester, should first consult with their academic advisor. When requesting to drop the last course and to withdraw from the University, the student should follow the instructions on Self Service Carolina. Additionally, the Student Ombudsman Office can provide information, referral assistance or counseling. Students requesting withdrawal for extenuating circumstances after the penalty date (last day for W grade) should contact their academic advisor or the BSW Program Coordinator.

Students should be aware of the academic and financial consequences incurred by withdrawing from all courses. Financial Aid and Scholarship recipients should contact the [Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships](#). University Housing residents should contact [Housing](#) before withdrawing.

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## Probation, Suspension, and Termination

The BSW Program has a responsibility to ensure its graduates will be prepared to meet the standards of professional social work practice, including the provision of competent service to client systems at all levels. All students will be provided access to and be expected to understand the criteria and procedures for suspension and termination. These

criteria and procedures are part of the student review policy located in **Appendix A** of this manual. Students will be asked to sign an acknowledgment form that will be maintained in their files.

Students are also expected to adhere to the [Code of Ethics](#) of the National Association of Social Workers.

Per University policy, students with cumulative University of South Carolina GPAs less than a 2.00 at the end of any semester will be placed on academic probation. Students must also maintain a minimum GPA of 2.50 in the major and must earn a grade of C or higher in all social work major courses.

- Additional information about [Academic Probation](#) may be found on the University's Academic Advising webpage.
- Additional information about [Academic Suspension](#) may be found on the University's Academic Advising webpage.

## STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of all students to be aware of the University of South Carolina's and the College of Social Work's standards and policies regarding both academic and nonacademic expectations of students.

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### Equal Opportunity Statement

The University of South Carolina does not discriminate in educational or employment opportunities on the basis of race, sex, gender, gender identity, transgender status, age, color, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, genetics, protected veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions.

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### Student Rights and Protections at the University

Below are some key policies that address the rights of protections of students at the University of South Carolina - this is **not** an exhaustive list. The full policies and procedures manual can be found [here](#).

- [Academic Freedom](#)
- [Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action](#)
- [Non-discrimination Policy](#)
- [Student Non-Discrimination and Non-Harassment Policy](#)
- [Handling of Student Records](#) (Student rights under FERPA)
- [Student Grievance Policy—Non-Academic](#)
- [Academic Grievance Policy](#)

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### Professional and Academic Responsibility - Student Conduct and Academic Integrity

The [Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity](#) empowers students to be responsible citizens and uphold the core values of our academic community.

Students are expected to adhere to the University's policy on [Student Code of Conduct](#).

*Be aware that arrests by law enforcement agencies outside of UofSC's Division of Law Enforcement and Safety must be reported by the student to the Office of Student Conduct within 72 hours of arrest. Penalties for non-compliance to this mandate may include suspension or termination from the BSW Program and/or University.*

Students are expected to adhere to the University's policy on [Academic Responsibility - The Honor Code](#).

*Every student has a role in maintaining the academic reputation of the university. It is imperative that you refrain from engaging in plagiarism, cheating, falsifying your work and/or assisting other students in violating the Honor Code.*

*Two important components of the Honor Code:*

- *Faculty members are required to report potential violations of the Honor Code to the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.*
- *When a student is uncertain as to whether conduct would violate the Honor Code, it is their responsibility to seek clarification from the appropriate faculty member.*

The [Carolinian Creed](#) is a complement to the University's conduct code and emphasizes openness and civility.

***As a Carolinian...***

*I will practice personal and academic integrity;*

*I will respect the dignity of all persons;*

*I will respect the rights and property of others;*

*I will discourage bigotry, while striving to learn from differences in people, ideas and opinions;*

*I will demonstrate concern for others, their feelings, and their need for conditions which support their work and development.*

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## College of Social Work Grievances, Petitions, and Appeals

Please see **Appendix B** for information about grievances, petitions, and appeals in the College of Social Work.

## STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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### University Leadership and Service

The University's [Leadership and Service Center](#) has a wealth of resources and services for the more than 500 student organizations that call the University of South Carolina home. Information about these organizations can be found via [Garnet Gate](#).

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### College of Social Work Student Associations

Students are offered the opportunity to participate in student associations within the College of Social Work. The associations are:



- The **Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society** provides an opportunity for BSW students who have excelled in Social Work scholarship to form bonds and promote Social Work values. Membership requirements are a minimum of 15 completed credit hours in the BSW Upper Division Program with a 3.5 or better Cumulative GPA.
- The **Undergraduate Social Work Student Association (USWSA)**. Members actively provide community service, facilitate educational and social events, and participate in fundraising activities. Membership is open to any undergraduate student registered full-time or part-time at the University of South Carolina-Columbia. Four officers of the association – the president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer - are elected annually by the College of Social Work's student body from among the student population.

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## Student Participation on College of Social Work Committees

In addition to the opportunity for active participation through the student associations, several standing committees of the College of Social Work include student representation. Students selected by their peers attend these meetings as voting members representing the student body.

- **Undergraduate Program Committee:** The primary function of the Undergraduate Program Committee is to administer the implementation of course, curriculum, and objectives for the BSW Program. One student representing the junior cohort is elected each fall for service through the current academic year. One student representing the senior cohort is elected each spring among juniors for service through the following academic year.
- **Field Education Advisory Committee:** This Committee advises and supports the Field Programs and includes one BSW student representative who will serve a one-year term.
- **Faculty Recruitment Committee:** The Committee is responsible for recruiting, screening, and coordinating campus visits for candidates; convening and facilitating a special faculty meeting to evaluate the candidates; and making recommendations to the Dean. Membership may include one BSW student.

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## Professional Development and Organizations

In addition to formal classroom and field experiences, students in the BSW Program are encouraged to work on their professional development in the following ways:

- Attend available College sponsored trainings and events.
- Join the [National Association of Social Workers](#) (NASW).
- Join the [Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors](#) (BPD).
- Join the [Council on Social Work Education](#) (CSWE).
- Join the [Society for Social Work and Research](#) (SSWR).

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## STUDENT RESOURCES

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### University of South Carolina Resources

[Financial Assistance and Scholarships](#): May be available for those students who qualify. Students are encouraged to apply as early as possible.

[Information Technology](#): Provides information and support to students for common resources such as Blackboard, email, IDs and security.

[Writing Center](#): Offers free consultations to UofSC students, faculty, and staff. Through collaborative consultations, the Center provides feedback to help writers accomplish their own goals.

[Academic Success Resources](#): Resources are available for any student looking to improve performance in the classroom and in life. Faculty serve as teachers, advisers and mentors, while current students serve as peer leaders and tutors.

[Student Disability Resource Center](#): Coordinates efforts to ensure that students with disabilities receive reasonable accommodations, and we serve as consultants to faculty, staff and campus partners. To apply for accommodations, students should start the application process as soon as they are admitted to the University.

[Career Center](#): Helps students realize their career goals and locate employment upon graduation. Services include resume writing, job searches, interview preparation, exploration of graduate school, etc.

[Thomas Cooper Library](#): Main library on the Columbia campus.

[Student Health Services](#): Provides comprehensive physical and mental health care services right on campus to help contribute to students' success and overall well-being.

[Wellness & Prevention](#): Encourages and supports healthy lifestyles for all members of the UofSC community.

[Counseling & Psychiatry Services](#): Provides essential therapy and emotional wellness services for students at the University of South Carolina.

[Stop Sexual Assault](#): Advocates offer support and a variety of services to students, faculty and staff who are survivors of interpersonal violence (sexual assault, attempted sexual assault, intimate partner violence and/or stalking).

[Suicide Prevention](#): Provides support and education to students.

[Carolina Closet](#): Provides business professional clothes to the University of South Carolina students.

[The Gamecock Pantry](#): Campus food pantry created for students, by students.

[Off-Campus Living & Neighborhood Relations](#): Provides information to students about off-campus housing.

[Transfer Student Success](#): Offers support for transfer undergraduate students. The office advocates for the need of transition services on campus, provides support resources for a seamless transition into UofSC, and provides consultation services.

[Office of Multicultural Student Affairs](#): Encourages students to work together to create an inclusive learning community at the University of South Carolina.

[Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#): Supports UofSC's commitment to creating and sustaining an inclusive learning, living and working environment where all members of the university's community feel that they are welcomed, valued and supported. Students have access to diversity data and programs, the *Student Access Scholarship* application, and the portal to report incidents of bias or hate.

[International Student Services](#): Provides a wide range of services for international students, including pre-arrival information, orientation programs, immigration advising, personal assistance, and student programs and activities.

[Parking and Transportation Services](#): A variety of parking options for the Columbia campus is available.

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## College of Social Work Resources

**Computer Lab:** Several computers are available for use in the BSW/MSW Student Computer Lab located in Hamilton College, Room 201B.

**BSW Student Listserv** [COSWBSW@listserv.sc.edu](mailto:COSWBSW@listserv.sc.edu): BSW students are automatically members of this listserv. The listserv is closed to the public - only current students, faculty and staff of the College of Social Work are eligible to join the listserv. The listserv is used by College administration to communicate with students about news, events, and activities.

## **APPENDIX**

### **A: Student Review Policy and Form**

### **B. Grievances, Petitions, and Appeals**

## **APPENDIX A: Student Review Policy**



## Student Review Policy

All COSW students are required to abide by the NASW Code of Ethics (<https://www.socialworkers.org/about/ethics/code-of-ethics>), and the rules for academic and behavioral conduct established by the University of South Carolina (for Undergraduate Academic Regulations: <https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/policies-regulations/undergraduate-academic-regulations/>; for Graduate Academic Regulations: <https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/graduate/policies-regulations/graduate-academic-regulations/#text>; for USC's Student Code of Conduct: <http://www.sc.edu/policies/ppm/staf626.pdf> ). Violations of these requirements may result in a review process, leading to possible sanctions including suspension or termination. Procedures for student review are described below.

## Student Review Procedures

*Efforts to remediate.* When a faculty member, instructor, or staff person identifies a concern related to a student's behavior, they shall first try to address that concern with the student directly and explore ways to resolve the problem. If the problem is not successfully resolved, the faculty member, instructor, or staff person may request that the appropriate Program Coordinator (BSW, MSW, or PhD) or the Director of Field Education (if the problem is occurring in field) become involved. This involvement might include but is not limited to: meeting with the student, facilitating discussion between student and referring faculty/staff member, engaging the student's advisor, and referring the student to academic support, mental health, or other services. Program Coordinators and the Director of Field Education will document their involvement and the outcome of that involvement, and this documentation will be maintained in the student's official file.

*When remediation is not adequate.* When a student's behavioral problems do not respond to remediation, or they are serious enough that efforts at remediation are not determined to be appropriate by the faculty/staff member, the student will be referred for review to the University's Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity and/or to the appropriate program committee within the College of Social Work (BSW, MSW, or PhD).

1. **COSW Program Committee Review.** Referrals for Program Committee review must be made in writing, to the appropriate Program Coordinator. The Program Coordinator will send written notification to the student, the student's faculty advisor, the Associate Dean for Curriculum, the academic advisor, and other relevant parties within five academic class days.

Within 5 academic class days of such notification, the Program Coordinator will assign at least 3 members of the Program Committee who will hold a meeting with the student, the student's advisor, and other relevant parties. The student may invite the Student Ombudsperson to be present at this meeting. If the student chooses to invite others who are not University personnel, the student will be required to sign an Authorization for Release of Education Records and Information form. Signed forms will be maintained in the student's official file. (See the attached form for additional information.)

In the event of a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, members of the Program Committee may recuse themselves. If recusals result in a Committee having fewer than 3 members, additional ad hoc members will be appointed by the Program Coordinator.

At the review meeting, Committee members consider any evidence provided by the referring faculty/staff member or by the student, and will ask questions and give the student the opportunity to share any information or perspective they would like. Following the meeting, the Committee will deliberate based on all the information and determine the course of action, which may include (but is not limited to) these options:

- a. *Let the student continue in the program with no conditions.* In these situations, the concern has either been determined to be unfounded, or to have been addressed such that no further action by the student or program is required.
- b. *Establish formal conditions for the student continuing in the program.* In these situations, specific conditions must be met in order for the student to remain enrolled in the program. The disposition must include specific actions requested of the student and a timeline for these actions to be taken. Actions may include the student participating in mentoring; the student writing an essay or otherwise demonstrating increased awareness of the consequences of their actions; placing the student on probation and monitoring the student during the probationary period; referring the student to counseling and/or advising services. A failure to meet any of the requirements of the plan of remediation may result in the student's termination from the program.
- c. *Consult with and/or refer to University officials.* In some instances, depending on the nature of the problem, the University's Vice President for Student Affairs, the USC Office of General Counsel, or the Division of Law Enforcement and Safety may be notified or consulted. Situations that may result in notification or consultation include, but are not limited to, scholastic dishonesty, racial or sexual harassment, possession or use of firearms or other weapons on University property, damage, destruction, or misuse of University property, and conduct that endangers the health or safety of any University student, employee, or campus visitor.
- d. *Suspend the student from the program.* When the student is suspended from the program, the student will be provided with documentation regarding the specific reasons for suspension and the conditions under which the student may be reinstated.
- e. *Terminate the student from the program.* When the student is terminated from the program, the student will be provided with documentation regarding the specific reasons for his/her dismissal.

Upon completion of a Program Committee review, the Program Coordinator will inform the Associate Dean for Curriculum of the Committee's disposition. The Associate Dean for Curriculum will then inform the student in writing within two academic class days of the meeting. The final disposition will be documented in the student's official file.

2. **Appeal Process.** Students may appeal Program Committee review decisions to the Associate Dean for Curriculum of the College of Social Work within 5 academic class days of receipt of the decision. The Associate Dean for Curriculum shall issue a written decision within 10 academic class days of receipt of the appeal. This decision may then be appealed to the Dean of the College of Social Work within 5 academic class days of receipt of the decision. The Dean shall

issue a written decision within 10 academic class days of receipt of the appeal. Right to any further appeal, if any, shall be determined by applicable University policies and procedures. To the extent consistent with university policies and legal requirements, if a student is suspended or terminated from the program and appeals that decision, the student is allowed to continue in the program until the appeal is concluded.

All information disclosed during any of these stages of remediation and will be kept confidential unless other relevant parties need to be notified based on their role within the educational context, or there is a legal requirement to report. Review processes with the College of Social Work do not supersede any of the University's policies and procedures related to both academic and behavioral issues.

## **APPENDIX B: Grievances, Petitions, and Appeals**

## Grievances, Petitions, and Appeals – College of Social Work

There are times when a student may believe that a decision regarding his or her status as a student needs to be reconsidered. Students have a right to seek reconsideration. The procedures for the request vary depending on the nature of the concern.

**Grade in a course or assessment of performance.** If a student disagrees with the mark, grade, or assessment placed on his/her work, the student should discuss the matter with the instructor who assigned the grade. Final authority regarding assignment of the grade shall remain with the instructor. If a committee assigns the mark, grade, or assessment, the student should meet first with the chair of the committee. Final authority regarding assignment of the grade shall remain with the committee.

**Unfair treatment.** If a student is concerned that he or she has been treated unfairly, the student should seek the advice of the **College of Social Work Ombudsperson**, who can advise about the course of action to take. Options include the following:

- Concern about discrimination or harassment (when academic or nonacademic in the university context): If the student believes that he or she has been treated unfairly in the basis of age, race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability status, veteran status, or sexual orientation, or has been sexually harassed, then the student shall seek assistance from the **USC Office of Equal Opportunity Programs** (<http://www.sc.edu/eop/>). Equal opportunity complaint processing policy is at: [https://www.sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/equal\\_opportunities\\_programs/documents/eop\\_complaint\\_processing\\_procedures.pdf](https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/equal_opportunities_programs/documents/eop_complaint_processing_procedures.pdf)
- Concern about responsible teaching: If the student believes the instructor has violated Teaching Responsibilities (contained in the *USC Columbia Faculty Manual*) or USC policies on Freedom of Expression or Protection Against Improper Disclosure, then the student may file a grievance with the **COSW Student Grievance, Standards, Petitions, and Ethics Committee**. Steps in the Grievance Procedure are below.
- Concern about unjust or inequitable treatment that is not based in discrimination or treatment that creates unnecessary hardship: The student may file a grievance with the **COSW Student Grievance, Standards, Petitions, and Ethics Committee** if the student believes she or he has been treated unjustly or inequitably for reasons other than discrimination or has been required to face unnecessary hardship. Such grievances include, but are not limited to, such problems as: mistreatment by any University employee, wrongful assessment and processing of fees, records and registration errors, or violations of the stated college policies. The concern may be academic or nonacademic. Steps in the Grievance Procedure are below.

**Petition for special exception.** If a student seeks an exception to standard rules and policies, the appeal should be made to the Coordinator of the program (BSW/Undergraduate, MSW, PhD, or Certificate). The Coordinator may make a decision regarding typical requests or may bring the matter to the Program Committee. All decisions regarding exceptions, whether director or committee makes the decision, will be documented. Final authority regarding exceptions to the rules and policies shall remain with the **Program Committee**. Students should plan ahead and allow adequate time (at least two weeks) for the committee to consider the case and gather essential information before a decision can be made.

**College of Social Work Grievance Procedure.** Students who seek to file a grievance should attend to the following procedures.



**Responsible Parties:**

- The **College of Social Work Ombudsperson** will advise the student about the grievance or petition procedure. The student also may seek assistance from the USC Ombudsman. In cases of alleged discrimination or harassment, the student may seek assistance from the USC Office of Equal Opportunity Programs (<http://www.sc.edu/eop>).
  - The COSW Ombudsperson will notify the COSW Associate Dean for Curriculum when a student has made a request. The COSW Ombudsperson is elected by the faculty to a two-year term.
- The **College of Social Work Student Grievance, Standards, Petitions, and Ethics Committee** will be comprised of a core committee to hear all grievances from students. Additional program representatives serve on the Grievance Committee as members only for cases involving the program they represent. Thus the committee includes three tenure-track, tenured or clinical faculty members. Substitute members may be appointed by the dean on an ad hoc, time-limited basis to participate on the Student Grievance, Standards, Petitions, and Ethics Committee when a regularly elected member cannot participate for reasons of conflict of interest or leave. The substitute must represent the same group (faculty, program, student) as the regular member.
- **Faculty adviser:** The student may have a faculty adviser present during any grievance procedure and one other person of the student's choosing. However, the adviser and the other person are not permitted to participate directly in the grievance process, or to speak for the student.

**Course of Action:**

A student who wishes to bring a grievance within the College of Social Work should take this course of action.

1. The student should discuss the matter and seek resolution with the faculty member or other person alleged to have caused the grievance. This should occur within ten working days of the date when the situation occurred that precipitated the grievance.
2. If no satisfactory resolution is achieved, the student should contact the Program Coordinator of the academic program in which the student is enrolled (BSW-Undergraduate, MSW, Certificate, PhD). This should occur within five working days after discussion with the faculty member or other person alleged to have caused the grievance.
3. If no satisfactory resolution is achieved, the student should contact the COSW Ombudsperson. This should occur within five working days after discussion with the Program Coordinator.
4. If the Ombudsperson advises the student to file a grievance with the COSW Student Grievance, Standards, Petitions, and Ethics Committee, within five days of the Ombudsperson's recommendation, the student should file a written request for a grievance hearing. The request is submitted to the Associate Dean for Curriculum, who notifies the chair of the Student Grievance, Standards, Petitions, and Ethics Committee.
5. The student bringing the grievance will have the opportunity to present to the COSW Student Grievance, Standards, Petitions, and Ethics Committee either in writing or in person any and all evidence pertaining to the grievance.
6. The student should be aware:
  - a. Within ten working days of receiving the request for a hearing, the Student Grievance, Standards, Petitions, and Ethics Committee will have a preliminary discussion of the case and will schedule a hearing. The Committee will notify all persons who may be a party to the grievance.
  - b. Those persons who disagree with the claims of the grievance or have additional information will have the opportunity to present to the COSW Student Grievance, Standards, Petitions,

and Ethics Committee either in writing or in person and all evidence pertaining to the grievance.

- c. All parties to the grievance have a right to see all evidence pertaining to the grievance.
- d. If evidence is presented in person, the committee will have the opportunity to ask questions for points of clarification.
- e. The Committee will ask all parties to the grievance to leave the room so that committee members only can deliberate the case.
- f. The Committee may make the following determinations:
  - i. There is no cause for grievance, the meeting is over, and the parties are dismissed.
  - ii. There is cause for a grievance and a reasonable and fair solution to all parties will be decided. All parties will be brought back to the meeting to hear the resolution. All parties are bound by the committee's decisions unless any party decides to appeal the grievance further.
  - iii. A student may appeal to the USC Ombudsman.
- g. The committee will make a written record of the findings and resolutions and submit a copy to all concerned parties and the Associate Dean for Curriculum.