Nature of Work:

Social work is a profession for those with a strong desire to help improve people's lives. Social workers assist people by helping them cope with and solve issues in their everyday lives, such as family and personal problems and dealing with relationships. Some social workers help clients who face disabilities, life-threatening diseases, or social problems, such as inadequate housing, unemployment, or substance abuse. Social workers also assist families that have serious domestic conflicts, sometimes involving child or spousal abuse. Additionally, they may conduct research, advocate for improved services, or become involved in planning and policy development. Many social workers specialize in serving a particular population or working in a specific setting such as mental health, substance abuse, medical, public health, schools, geriatrics, developmental disabilities, corrections, child welfare, counseling, administration, research, policy development, and community organization.

Professional Training:

A bachelor's degree in social work (BSW) is the minimum requirement for entry into the occupation, but some positions require a master's degree (MSW). Bachelor degree programs prepare graduates for direct service positions, such as a case manager, mental health assistant, group home worker, and residential counselor. The BSW program includes courses in social work values and ethics, cultural competence and at-risk populations. In addition, it promotes social and economic justice, human behavior and the social environment, social welfare policy and services, social work practice skills, social research methods, and field education. A minimum of 420 hours of supervised field experience is required.

Job Outlook:

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, jobs for social workers are expected to grow by about 12 percent by 2024, which is faster than the average for all occupations. (See www.bls.gov)

Earnings:

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports the median annual wage for social workers in May 2016 as $46,890, and child, family, and school social workers as $43,250. For health social workers, the median annual wages were reported as $53,760 and mental health and substance abuse social workers’ average as $42,700. (See www.bls.gov)
The chart below details one suggested path a student may take to complete a bachelor’s degree in Social Work. **Classes that are offered with multiple sections are listed in each quarter they are available.** Cognates, general studies courses, and electives should be taken to complete 192 credit hours to complete a Bachelor of Social Work. See the Undergraduate Bulletin for complete requirements.

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<th>Autumn</th>
<th>Winter</th>
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<td><strong>Freshman</strong></td>
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<td>SOWK 264</td>
<td>Introduction to Social Work</td>
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<td><strong>Sophomore</strong></td>
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<td>SOWK 266</td>
<td>Historical Development of Social Welfare</td>
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<td>SOWK 260</td>
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<td><strong>Junior</strong></td>
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<td>SOWK 371</td>
<td>Social Work Practice with Individuals</td>
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<td>SOWK 465</td>
<td>Social Work Practice with Org. &amp; Communities</td>
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<td>SOWK 375</td>
<td>Policy &amp; Advocacy Practice for Social Justice</td>
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<td><strong>Senior</strong></td>
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<td>*SOWK 490 Field Practicum</td>
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<td>SOWK 466</td>
<td>Comparative Theories of SOWK Practice</td>
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<td>SOCI 451</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
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<td>SOCI 453</td>
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Major electives in SOWK, SOCI, CORR, ANTH, and PSYC.

**Students are required to defend a senior portfolio prior to graduation.**

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**Total Credits Required:**
192 Credits

**Cognates:**
- **Freshman**
  - PSYC 130 – General Psychology
  - SOCI 204 – General Sociology
  - SOCI 236 – Privilege & Oppression
  - PLSC 224 – American Government
  - ECON 213 – Principles of Macroeconomics

- **Sophomore**
  - SOCI 234 – Current Social Problems
  - ECON 204 – Fundamentals of Economics
  - HIST 359 – The American Economy
  - BIOL 105, 106 OR BIOL 141, 142 OR BIOL 121, 122 – Contemporary Biology OR General Biology OR Anatomy & Physiology

**English Requirements:**
- **Freshman**
  - ENGL 121 & 122 – College Writing

- **Sophomore**
  - ENGL 223 – Research Writing

**Colloquium Requirements:**
- Social Work majors – of senior status – are required to attend a colloquium at least once every quarter to complete their degree requirements.

**General Requirements:**
- Health & P.E. 2 cr.
- History 8 cr.
- Social Science 4 cr.
- Humanities 12 cr.
- Language Arts 12 cr.
- Mathematics 4 cr.
- Natural Science 8 cr.
- Religion & Theology 18 cr.

**Notes:**
- *Classes offered even years
- - Classes offered odd years
- *Field Practicum 420 clock hours arranged in senior year.