

SOCIAL WORK, BACHELOR OF (B.S.W.)

The Bachelor of Social Work requires completion of 120 credits, including 46 credits in the major. The curriculum of the baccalaureate program is specifically designed to prepare students for beginning-level generalist social work practice. This practice model requires a broad base of knowledge about individuals, families, groups, communities and organizations and an appreciation of cultural diversity. General education courses provide an essential foundation for the upper-level professional curriculum and are required for admission to junior and senior social work courses.

Student learning outcomes

Upon completing this program, students will know and know how to do the following:

1. Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior
2. Engage diversity and difference in practice
3. Advance human rights and social, economic and environmental justice
4. Engage in practice-informed research and research-informed practice
5. Engage in policy practice
6. Engage with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities
7. Assess individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities
8. Intervene with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities
9. Evaluate practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities

Academic policies

Transfer students

Students who transfer to VCU from another institution as social work majors are not required to complete the UNIV 111 and UNIV 112 sequence. Instead, these students must transfer three credits in writing and composition course work with a grade of C or better (approved by the program director) in lieu of UNIV 111. Students may also transfer three additional credits in writing and composition course work with a grade of C or better (approved by the program director) in lieu of UNIV 112 or complete UNIV 200 at VCU with a grade of C or better. The remaining three credits from the UNIV 111, UNIV 112 and UNIV 200 sequence requirement may be completed as general electives. This policy applies only to students who transfer to VCU after their freshman year and may not be used by students who began their studies as freshmen at VCU.

Transfer of credits from other colleges or universities or from other programs at VCU is determined on an individual basis.

Application process

Students eligible to register for upper-level social work courses need to make an appointment with their adviser to review and complete the "Application for Admission to the B.S.W. Professional Preparation Program" form. This form is available from your student success adviser. Although the B.S.W. program can be completed on a part-time basis,

it cannot be completed exclusively in the evening because of field practicum requirements and the scheduling of some classes.

Course restrictions

Practice (SLWK 332, SLWK 441 and SLWK 442) and field education (SLWK 393, SLWK 494-SLWK 495) courses and the senior seminar (SLWK 499) are restricted to social work majors only. Students minoring in social welfare, or other students with permission of program director or course instructor, may take the following:

Course	Title	Hours
SLWK 311	Social Work and Anti-oppressive Practice	3
SLWK 313	Social Work Theory and Assessment With Individuals and Micro Systems	3
SLWK 330	Social Work Theory and Assessment with Families, Small Groups and Mezzo Systems	3
SLWK 380	Ethical Research for Social Work Practice I: Methods	3
SLWK 381	Ethical Research for Social Work Practice II: Application	3
SLWK 422	Social Welfare, Policy and Practice	3
SLWK 431	Social Work Theory and Assessment with Communities, Organizations and Macro Systems	3

In all cases, however, prerequisites must be satisfied.

Field placements require students to spend 14 hours a week in an agency and cannot be completed on nights and weekends.

Honors in social work

Undergraduate social work majors may earn honors in social work by excelling academically and completing a research-based honors thesis under the supervision of faculty mentors. Students apply for honors in social work in the second semester of their junior year (spring or summer). To graduate with honors in social work, students must satisfy all of the following conditions:

- Earn a 3.5 cumulative grade point average.
- Earn a grade of A in SLWK 380 and SLWK 381 and a minimum grade of B in all other social work courses.
- Complete six to nine credits of independent study (SLWK 492) with a minimum grade of B to propose and implement a research project under the supervision of a faculty mentor.
- Present and successfully defend in writing and orally the findings from the research project in the form of an honors thesis to a committee of three faculty members (one of whom is the student's mentor).

Students who meet these requirements and all other graduation requirements of the university will have honors in social work noted on their transcripts. For further information about the application process and detailed instructions for completing the honors thesis, students should contact the B.S.W. program director.

Special requirements

To complete lower-division requirements and begin the professional preparation curriculum of the B.S.W. program, students must:

1. Complete the following specific courses (37 credits):

Course	Title	Hours
ANTH 103	Introduction to Anthropology	3
BIOL 101	Biological Concepts	3
MATH 131	Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics	3
PHIL from approved list		3
PSYC 101 Play course video for Introduction to Psychology	Introduction to Psychology	4
PSYC 304	Life Span Developmental Psychology	3
SLWK 201	Introduction to Social Work	3
SLWK 230	Communication and Interpersonal Skills in Social Work	3
SOCY 101 Play course video for Introduction to Sociology	Introduction to Sociology	3
UNIV 111 Play course video for Introduction to Focused Inquiry: Investigation and Communication	Introduction to Focused Inquiry: Investigation and Communication	3
UNIV 112 Play course video for Focused Inquiry II	Focused Inquiry II	3
UNIV 200	Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication	3
Total Hours		37

2. Complete 17 additional credits from the general education requirements for a total of 54 credits to achieve junior status
3. Achieve a minimum grade of C in UNIV 112 and UNIV 200
4. Achieve a minimum grade of B in SLWK 201 and SLWK 230
5. Achieve a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5
6. Apply for admission with academic adviser to begin the professional preparation curriculum of the B. S. W. program.
7. Agree to abide by the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics as students and emerging professionals

Other program requirements and guidelines:

1. All 300 level SLWK prerequisite courses require a minimum grade of C before entering 400-level SLWK courses.
2. Students must have a minimum grade of C in all required social work courses to graduate.
3. A student who earns a grade of D or F in any required social work course may repeat the course once. If a grade of D or F is earned in the repeated course, the student will be terminated from the B.S.W. program.
4. Credit is not given for life experiences.

5. As a condition for graduation, students must submit in the spring term of a senior year a portfolio of selected assignments.
6. There are additional policies that affect students' progression in the professional degree program. Students are responsible for compliance with these policies. They are listed in the Student Policy Handbook, which is available on the School of Social Work website at socialwork.vcu.edu (<http://socialwork.vcu.edu>).

Foreign language requirement: Students who place into or are waived out of the 101 level in a foreign language must complete the 102 level in the same language. Students who place into or are waived out of the 101 and 102 level in a foreign language must complete at least one college-level foreign language course in any language. Credits earned by CLEP do not count toward the fulfillment of this requirement.

Degree requirements for Social Work, Bachelor of (B.S.W.)

Course	Title	Hours
General education (https://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/)		
Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an adviser.		30
Major requirements		
• Major core requirements		
SLWK 201	Introduction to Social Work	3
SLWK 230	Communication and Interpersonal Skills in Social Work	3
SLWK 311	Social Work and Anti-oppressive Practice	3
SLWK 313	Social Work Theory and Assessment With Individuals and Micro Systems	3
SLWK 330	Social Work Theory and Assessment with Families, Small Groups and Mezzo Systems	3
SLWK 332	Generalist Social Work Practice I	3
SLWK 380	Ethical Research for Social Work Practice I: Methods	3
SLWK 381	Ethical Research for Social Work Practice II: Application	3
SLWK 393		3
SLWK 422	Social Welfare, Policy and Practice	3
SLWK 431	Social Work Theory and Assessment with Communities, Organizations and Macro Systems	3
SLWK 441	Generalist Social Work Practice II	3
SLWK 442	Generalist Social Work Practice III	3
SLWK 494	Senior Field Practicum I	3
SLWK 495	Senior Field Practicum II	3
SLWK 499	Senior Capstone Seminar	2

Ancillary requirements

ANTH 103	Introduction to Anthropology (satisfies general education BOK for social/ behavioral sciences and AOI for global perspectives)	3
BIOL 101	Biological Concepts (satisfies general education BOK for natural sciences and AOI for scientific and logical reasoning)	3

BIOL 103	Global Environmental Biology	3
or BIOL 201	Human Biology	
or BIOL 217	Principles of Nutrition	
or SOCS 340	Human Sexuality	
or PSYC 401	Physiological Psychology	
or PSYC 406	Perception	
or PSYC 412	Health Psychology	
MATH 131	Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics (satisfies general education quantitative foundations)	3-4
or MATH 141	Algebra with Applications	
or MATH 151	Precalculus Mathematics	
or MATH 200	Calculus with Analytic Geometry I	
PHIL 201	Introduction to Ethics ¹	3
or PHIL 211	History of Ethics	
or PHIL 212	Ethics and Applications	
or PHIL 213	Ethics and Health Care	
or PHIL 221	Critical Thinking	
or PHIL 222	Logic	
PSYC 101 Play course video for Introduction to Psychology	Introduction to Psychology (satisfies general education AOI for diversities in the human experience)	4
PSYC 304	Life Span Developmental Psychology	3
PSYC 407	Psychology of the Abnormal	3
SOCY 101 Play course video for Introduction to Sociology	Introduction to Sociology (satisfies general education AOI for diversities in the human experience)	3
Electives from HIST, POLI or ECON		3
Foreign language through the 102 level (including ASL)		6
Open electives		
Select any course.		21
Total Hours		120

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If PHIL 201 or PHIL 221 is taken, students may need to take additional open electives to meet degree requirements.

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.

Students who complete the requirements for this degree will receive a Bachelor of Social Work.

What follows is a sample plan that meets the prescribed requirements within a four-year course of study at VCU. Please contact your adviser before beginning course work toward a degree.

Freshman year

Fall semester		Hours
ANTH 103	Introduction to Anthropology (satisfies general education BOK for social/behavioral sciences and AOI for global perspectives)	3
MATH 131	Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics (satisfies general education quantitative foundations)	3

PSYC 101	Introduction to Psychology (satisfies general education AOI for diversities in the human experience)	4
Play course video for Introduction to Psychology		
SOCY 101	Introduction to Sociology (satisfies general education AOI for diversities in the human experience)	3
Play course video for Introduction to Sociology		
UNIV 111	Introduction to Focused Inquiry: Investigation and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
Play course video for Introduction to Focused Inquiry: Investigation and Communication		

Term Hours: 16

Spring semester

BIOL 101	Biological Concepts (satisfies general education BOK for natural sciences and AOI for scientific and logical reasoning)	3
UNIV 112	Focused Inquiry II (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
Play course video for Focused Inquiry II		
Electives from HIST, POLI or ECON		3
General education course		3
Open elective		3

Term Hours: 15

Sophomore year

Fall semester

SLWK 230	Communication and Interpersonal Skills in Social Work	3
UNIV 200	Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
Foreign language 101		3
General education course (select a BOK for humanities and fine arts and AOI for creative inquiry)		3
Open elective		3

Term Hours: 15

Spring semester

PHIL 201	Introduction to Ethics ¹	3
or	or History of Ethics ¹	
PHIL 211	or Ethics and Applications ¹	
or	or Ethics and Health Care ¹	
PHIL 212	or Critical Thinking ¹	
or	or Logic ¹	
PHIL 213		
or		
PHIL 221		
or		
PHIL 222		

PSYC 304	Life Span Developmental Psychology	3
SLWK 201	Introduction to Social Work	3
Foreign language 102		3
Open elective		3

Term Hours: 15

Junior year

Fall semester

SLWK 311	Social Work and Anti-oppressive Practice	3
SLWK 313	Social Work Theory and Assessment With Individuals and Micro Systems	3
SLWK 380	Ethical Research for Social Work Practice I: Methods	3
Open electives		6

Term Hours: 15

Spring semester

SLWK 330	Social Work Theory and Assessment with Families, Small Groups and Mezzo Systems	3
SLWK 332	Generalist Social Work Practice I	3
SLWK 381	Ethical Research for Social Work Practice II: Application	3
SLWK 393		3
Open elective		3

Term Hours: 15

Senior year

Fall semester

BIOL 103	Global Environmental Biology	3
or	or Human Biology	
BIOL 201	or Principles of Nutrition	
or	or Human Sexuality	
BIOL 217	or Physiological Psychology	
or	or Perception	
SOCS 340	or Health Psychology	
or		
PSYC 401		
or		
PSYC 406		
or		
PSYC 412		

SLWK 422	Social Welfare, Policy and Practice	3
or	or Social Work Theory and Assessment	
SLWK 431	with Communities, Organizations and Macro Systems	

SLWK 441	Generalist Social Work Practice II	3
SLWK 494	Senior Field Practicum I	3
Open elective		3

Term Hours: 15

Spring semester

PSYC 407	Psychology of the Abnormal	3
SLWK 422	Social Welfare, Policy and Practice	3
or	or Social Work Theory and Assessment	
SLWK 431	with Communities, Organizations and Macro Systems	

SLWK 442	Generalist Social Work Practice III	3
SLWK 495	Senior Field Practicum II	3

SLWK 499	Senior Capstone Seminar	2
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Term Hours: 14

Total Hours: 120

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If PHIL 201 or PHIL 221 is taken, students may need to take additional open electives to meet degree requirements

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.