



DEGREE PLANNING GUIDE FOR SOCIAL WORK

The profession of social work is based on a commitment to human service and social justice. Social workers are employed in a variety of public and private agencies to deliver services, to help individuals and families solve problems, and to improve our society for the poor and oppressed.

The primary objective of the St. Edward's Social Work Program is to prepare social work majors for beginning professional social work practice. Graduates will obtain the knowledge, values, and skills required for beginning generalist social work practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

The second objective of the program is to prepare social work majors for graduate studies in social work or related fields. The Social Work Program at St. Edward's is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and its graduates, therefore, may be eligible for advanced standing in many social work graduate programs across the country. There are two general components of your degree program at St. Edward's: a general study of the liberal arts (this is common for all majors and is often referred to as the general education requirements), and an in-depth study of your major. A complete degree takes approximately 120 credit hours (about 40 courses). Almost half of your study will be in the liberal arts area, with the balance of your program focused on your major field of study and its related courses and electives. Electives are courses you choose because they interest you, strengthen your career preparation, or provide you with a secondary area of emphasis.

YOUR GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Foundational Skills: 21 hours (7 courses) including math, computational skills, oral and written communication and foreign language

Cultural Foundations: 18 hours (6 courses) designed to provide you with an understanding of our heritage, an appreciation and recognition of other cultures, and an exposure to contemporary world issues. Some of these include Understanding and appreciating the Arts, American Dilemmas, History & Evolution of Global Process, and Contemporary World Issues

Foundations for Values and Decisions: 18 hours (6 courses) that stress critical thinking, moral reasoning, problem solving, and the assumption of social responsibility.

WHAT IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND? No problem! In fact, it is not unusual. Part of what college is about is a process to identify your area of interest. As long as that decision is made in the first two years, it is not likely to impact your degree program very much, as a good deal of your initial course work is the area of general education, that body of courses common to all students. There are a few exceptions - major change in direction after two years (philosophy to accounting for example) would lengthen your program. If you are a full-time student and take five courses each semester, you will graduate in four years. It's unusual to do it much faster and not uncommon for it to take a little longer. It all depends on how many courses make sense for you & if you enroll in summer(s). It is recommended students take a total of 6 hours in summer school so course load may be only 12 hours during senior field practica.

PLANNING YOUR FIRST YEAR OF STUDY We want you to take an active role in planning your degree program. While there are a good deal of requirements in your program, there are still decisions you will need to make. For example, which foreign language do you wish to study; which math classes do you want to choose to satisfy the math requirement; is there a particular religious study or philosophy course that appeals to you; are there any time conflicts? Your advisor will help, but your involvement is critical.

SUGGESTED DEGREE PLAN FOR SOCIAL WORK (SOCW)

FIRST FALL

FSTY 1310 Freshman Studies
FSTY 1311 Rhet & Comp I
SPAN 1311* Spanish I
SOCI 1301** Self & Society
SOCW 1301** Intro to Social Work
15 hours

SECOND FALL

COMM 1317 Pres'l speaking
CULF 1319 Und & App Arts
RELS 1304 Religions of the World
SOCI 3327** Marriage & Family
SOCW 2325** Social Policy
15 hours

THIRD FALL

SCIE 2320 Science in Perspective
CULF 3330 Hist Glob Process
Elective
PSYC 2317 Statistics
SOCW 3331** Human Behavior & Social Enviro I
15 hours

FOURTH FALL

CAPS 4360 Capstone
Elective
SOCW 4650** Field Practicum & Seminar I
SOCW 4344 Generalist Practice II: Macrosystems

15 hours

FIRST SPRING***

CULF 1318 Lit & Hum Exper
CULF 1320 American Exper
ENGW 1302 Rhet & Comp II
SPAN 1312* Spanish II
PSYC 2301 General Psychology
15 hours

SECOND SPRING***

BIOL 1305 (Human Biology)**
CULF 2321 American Dilemmas
Elective
Ethics
MATH 1314 or higher
15 hours

THIRD SPRING***

PSYC 4341 Abnormal Psychology
SOCW 3330 Social Research
SOCW 3640 Gen. Practice I: Individuals, Families & Groups
SOCW 3341** Human Behavior & Social Enviro II
15 hours

FOURTH SPRING

CULF 3331 Contemporary World Issues
Elective
SOCW 4651** Field Practicum & Seminar II
SOCW 4343 Race, Class & Gender
GDCT 4000.01
15 hours

* Spanish is recommended for all social work majors

** Key course for major—prerequisite for later course or must be taken in sequence

***It is recommended that students take a total of 6 hours in summers so that during senior field practice load is only 12 hrs