

Advising for Social Work Major
 Department of Sociology & Social Work
<http://www.uwsp.edu/sociology/Pages/default.aspx>

Course Requirements and Sequencing

The sequencing of courses below is the ideal way in which students move through the social work major. Faculty advisors recognize, though, that students have unique needs due to their other life responsibilities, and as such, appropriate modifications may be made.

**Note: Variation exists in the number of credits students must take to fulfill General Education requirements due to the possibility of testing out, fulfilling multiple requirements with a single course, and/or meeting the requirement through a non-credit option. As such, the grid below may not exactly reflect the needs of all students specifically with respect to General Education. Students should carefully review their Degree Progress Reports and consult with their advisor to determine individualized needs.*

Year 1-Fall Sociology 101 (3 cr.) Political Science 101 (3 cr.) General Education Courses (9 cr.)	Year 1-Spring Social Work/Sociology 261 (3 cr.) Psychology 110 (3 cr.) General Education Courses (10 cr.)
Year 2-Fall Social Work/Sociology 262 (3 cr.) Economics 110 (3 cr.) General Education Courses (9 cr.)	Year 2-Spring Communication 280 (3 cr.) General Education Courses (12 cr.) <i>Apply for Admission into SW Major</i>
Year 3-Fall Social Work 316 (3 cr.) Social Work 359 <u>or</u> 361 (3 cr.) Social Work/Sociology 364 (3 cr.) Social Work/Sociology 363 (3 cr.) <u>or</u> General Education Course or Elective (3 cr.) General Education Course or Elective (3 cr.)	Year 3-Spring Sociology 350 (3 cr.) Social Work 359 <u>or</u> 361 (3 cr.) Social Work 365 (3 cr.) Social Work/Sociology 376 (3 cr.) Social Work/Sociology 363 <u>or</u> General Education Course or Elective (3 cr.) <i>Apply for Admission into Field Education</i>
Year 4-Fall Sociology 351 (4 cr.) Sociology/Social Work 201 or 301 (3 cr.) General Education Course or Elective (3 cr.) SW 494 (4 cr.) SW 495 (1 cr.)	Year 4-Spring Sociology 352 (3 cr.) Sociology/Social Work 201 or 301 (3 cr.) SW 362 (3 cr.) SW 494 (4 cr.) SW 495 (1 cr.)

- Be aware that some of the upper-level social work-specific courses are only offered one semester per academic year. These are currently: SW 316, SW 362, SW/SOC 364, SW 365, and SW/SOC 376. Plan accordingly.
- Some social work courses are cross-listed with sociology. When you register, you can register either under social work or sociology. Both will count toward your social work major.

- Some social work courses are restricted to students who have been formally accepted into the social work major. You may not enroll in the following courses until you have applied and been formally accepted: SW 316, SW 359, SW 361, SW 362, SW, 365, SW 494, SW 495.
- The grid below does not include summer or winter sessions. We do not typically offer social work options during these sessions, though you may be able to take sociology courses or meet general education requirements during winter/summer. The exception is that the Social Work Practicum (SW 494 and SW 495) may be partially completed during summer.
- The Social Work Practicum (SW 494 and SW 495) is typically completed during the final one or two semesters of your undergraduate education.

Declaring an Intended Major

You can declare an “intended social work major” at any time by going to the Department of Sociology and Social Work office. When this declaration is made, you are assigned an advisor within the Department of Sociology and Social Work, and the social work major shows up on your DPR. If you are then accepted into the social work major, your status will change to “accepted” social work major.

Gaining Relevant Experience and Networking

Please consider gaining experience and networking with fellow students and professionals through entry-level employment, student organization involvement, volunteering, or study abroad experiences. This will not only help you get accepted into the social work major at UWSP, but will also be valuable as you pursue your practicum and future employment opportunities.

Professionalism

There is an expectation that students in the social work program demonstrate professionalism. In particular, this is an important component of successful participation in the field practicum. Once accepted into SW 494 and 495, students are expected to treat their internships like professional jobs. It is expected that students placed in community agencies will demonstrate reliability and ethical behavior, show initiative, and dress appropriately. It is important that students understand that not only are they representing themselves, but they are also representing the University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point. Conduct during the practicum experience can impact the student’s academic and professional career, and can also have an effect on the ability to secure internships for future social work students.

Application into the Major

To complete a major in social work, students must go through a formal application process. Applications are accepted each semester, with a fall deadline of October 10 and a spring deadline of March 1. Ideally, students apply for the major during the second semester of sophomore year. To be eligible, students must have completed (or be in progress with completing) the following requirements:

- At least 45 credits of undergraduate coursework at the time of application
- A minimum grade point average of 2.5 from all accredited institutions attended
- A minimum grade point average of 2.5 in the required pre-admission courses (SOC 101 and SW/SOC 261) and a minimum grade of C- in Social Work/Sociology 261
- Be in good academic standing in the semester of application

Fulfillment of these requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the social work major. Students also submit letters of recommendation and a personal statement discussing interests, goals, relevant experiences, strengths, and weaknesses. These materials are reviewed and taken into account by the admissions committee.

The application for the social work major is located on the Department of Sociology and Social Work website at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/sociology/Pages/Social-Work-Application.aspx>

The Social Work Practicum (i.e. internship, field experience)

Students apply for the Social Work Practicum the semester before they intend to start the experience, which is typically during the final semester or two semesters at UWSP. Students wanting to complete their placements in just one semester must plan to do so in the fall or spring semester (placements cannot be completed entirely over the summer session). In addition to being an accepted social work major, students must demonstrate that they have:

- Completed at least SW/SOC 261, SW/SOC 262, SW 359, SW 361 and 6 additional credits specifically in social work (can be in progress at time of application)
- Attained senior standing by the time internship is anticipated to start.
- Attained cumulative GPA of at least 2.75 and GPA in Social Work Major of at least 2.75

Students should be aware that some community organizations require background checks and/or health screens prior to accepting students for placement.

Completing Additional Majors, Minors, and Courses

Students are not required to complete additional majors and minors to graduate. Because of the collaborative nature of the Department of Sociology and Social Work, though, and the importance for social work students to gain a broader perspective, many sociology and social work courses count towards both majors. As such, students might consider completing a second major in sociology.

The Department of Sociology and Social Work also houses minors that may be of particular interest to social work students, including Gerontology, Native American Studies, and Social Science in Health. Students are encouraged to review these minors in the UWSP Catalog and consult with their advisors as needed.

There are also a number of offerings outside of Sociology and Social Work that are a good complement to the social work major. Students may decide to enroll in an additional major or minor, or simply take courses in other areas as electives to enhance their knowledge and skill. Students may want to consider the following, depending on their particular interests: Health Science, Health Promotion & Human Development, Political Science, Psychology, Religious Studies, Spanish, and Women's and Gender Studies.

Primary Social Work Faculty

Social work students are required to take sociology classes, as well as classes offered in other departments. The primary social work faculty serving the program, though, are Alton "Sonny" Smart, Amy Boelk, and Jess Bowers. The program also makes use of local community professionals, who teach courses as adjunct instructors.

Resources

Information on the social work major and the Social Work Student Handbook:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/sociology/Pages/majors.aspx>

Information on the social work practicum (i.e. internship, field experience) and the Field Manual:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/sociology/Pages/Field-Education-Program.aspx>