



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Social Work

Department of Social Work, College of Education & Human Services

Program of Study

The department offers the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree, which is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and is the beginning level professional degree. Graduates of the program will be well-grounded in the knowledge, values, and skills of the generalist social work method and may be licensed as professional social workers. Social work is committed to the enhancement of human well-being and the alleviation of poverty and oppression through the promotion, restoration, maintenance, and enhancement of optimal functioning of individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities, and societies. A guiding value of the profession is social justice.

Faculty

Social Work courses are taught by excellent faculty holding the terminal practice (MSW) degree and/or doctoral degrees. All faculty have social work practical experience, which enhances their teaching as they draw on personal experiences to demonstrate the application of the knowledge, values, and skills of generalist social work. They are also involved in research and publication, and they are active in professional and community service.

Scholarships

The department offers the Lillian and Florence Snyder Scholarship to the outstanding senior Social Work major to honor her or his active participation in community service and scholarship; the Nancy Coney Field Education Grant, which provides emergency assistance for some students in their Practicum semester; and the Departmental Scholar Award, which honors the outstanding academic senior in the department. The department is also developing the Danielle Nguyen Memorial Scholarship in honor of Ms. Nguyen, who died tragically while traveling to her Practicum site. The department offers scholarship information to its majors and assists them in their applications. Detailed information is available from the department adviser, (309) 298-2484, Western's Scholarship office, (309) 298-2001, or on the web at www.wiu.edu/Scholarship.

Honors in Social Work

To be eligible for the Illinois Centennial Honors College, entering freshmen must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 OR have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15% of their graduating class OR have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. Transfer students with at least 12 semester hours and up to 59 semester hours of undergraduate courses are admitted with a grade point average of at least 3.3 OR 3.4 for 60 semester hours or more. To find out more, visit www.wiu.edu/Honors.

General honors seminars in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences provide students with the opportunity to explore key academic issues with distinguished faculty members. In the Social Work major, students take courses for honors credit and, as seniors, prepare an honors thesis under the direction of department faculty members.

Student Activities

The department offers various ways in which students may get involved in departmental, college, University, and community service. The Social Work Student Association (SWSA) is a student organization that sponsors student activities, speakers, community volunteer opportunities, and campus activities. The Kappa Sigma Chapter of the Phi Alpha National Honor Society gives outstanding students recognition through membership and is involved in providing volunteer

HIGHER VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

opportunities. Each year, two students are elected to represent Social Work majors at departmental meetings, where they give input concerning the students' views on academic and administrative issues. A wide variety of student activities and organizations are available to all Western students. Learn more at <http://osa.wiu.edu>.

Special Opportunities

The department offers small classes with accessible faculty; personalized professional, academic, and career advising; and opportunities to attend professional meetings and activities with faculty. The Practicum course, the final course in the professional curriculum, provides a minimum of 450 hours of social work experience in a social service agency under professional supervision. The Practicum course is designed to integrate theory and practice and prepare Social Work majors to begin their professional careers with skills developed in a practice setting.

After College

Our majors graduate with an accredited professional degree, which leads to state licensure after three years of supervised social work practice and/or to graduate studies in social work or other disciplines. Graduates have found rewarding practice in child welfare, healthcare, mental health, domestic violence, and geriatric settings. They work in schools, local and state governments, correctional settings, family service agencies, and residential facilities. Many of our graduates have gone on to complete their MSW degrees at universities across the nation. In fact, one of our graduates is now a faculty member in our department!



For More Information

We welcome visitors. Please feel free to call the Department of Social Work adviser at (309) 298-2484. You may also e-mail us at social-work@wiu.edu.

Higher Values in Higher Education

Located in Macomb (population 20,000), with a campus in the Quad Cities (Moline, IL), Western Illinois University offers a caring and supportive learning environment to more than 13,000 students in west-central Illinois. Western students have all the advantages of a large public university—strong faculty, state-of-the-art technology and facilities, and a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities—in an atmosphere free from distractions. Western Illinois University is a member of the NCAA and competes at the Division I level, sponsoring 20 intercollegiate sports in a broad-based athletics department. Western's presence in the Quad Cities spans more than 40 years, and that campus offers undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 1,500 students. The core values that are at the heart of the University are academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth, and social responsibility.

Western's GradTrac and Cost programs guarantee that students can achieve their degrees within four years while paying a fixed rate for tuition, room, and board.

Western Illinois University complies with all state and federal nondiscrimination laws, orders, and regulations. Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity institution and affirms its commitment in all programs and activities to nondiscrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, national origin, and status as a disabled veteran or Vietnam era veteran.

Campus Visits

The Admissions Reception Center (Sherman Hall 115) is open most weekdays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM when the University is in session. Group information sessions are available at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, and campus tours are conducted at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM daily. Individual appointments with an admissions counselor, advisers/faculty, or a financial aid adviser may be arranged during the week. The Admissions Reception Center is open from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM most Saturdays when the University is in session. A group information session is available at 10:00 AM, and a campus tour is conducted at 11:00 AM. An individual appointment with an admissions counselor may be arranged. You may schedule your visit or tour online at www.admissions.wiu.edu by selecting "Visit Campus." You may also schedule a visit, tour, or individual appointment by calling toll free (877) PICKWIU [742-5948] or (309) 298-3157, or by e-mailing admissions@wiu.edu.

www.wiu.edu/socialwork

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