

service ✦ social justice ✦ dignity and worth of the person ✦ importance of human relationships ✦ integrity ✦ competence ✦ WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING ON DOING WITH YOUR LIFE?



The Social Work Department at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) is designed to utilize the strengths of the liberal arts perspective and an innovative, learner-centered/ability-based curriculum with enhanced cultural competence training for work with the largest diverse population groups in southeast Tennessee.

Furthermore, the UTC Social Work

Department incorporates specialized training in child welfare knowledge and skills into the curriculum to address the personnel needs in the Tennessee Department of Children's Services. Specifically, the program's focus is on generalist social work practice with emphasis on strengths and systems perspectives in the context of local and global diversity. The UTC BSW Program seeks to be at the forefront of innovative undergraduate social work programs through its integrated, ability-based curriculum, its integration of social work practitioners as mentors in the curriculum and field experiences, its high academic standards, its use of a learner-centered E-Portfolio, and its continuous program outcomes assessment process.

THE PROFESSION OF SOCIAL WORK

A social work professional must be comfortable with many different kinds of people and must be able to deal with the realities of people's every day life objectively while maintaining their compassion and caring. Social workers perform many different types of tasks in their communities which may include:

- working with families in the child welfare system who are at-risk for having their children removed from the home.
- working with the caregiver of an older adult to find the right assisted living or nursing facility.
- facilitating a support group for parents of children with cancer.
- working with a neighborhood to institute an after-school tutoring program.
- collaborating with the police department to educate police officers about domestic violence issues.
- facilitating the translation of social service agency materials into Spanish to meet the needs of that population.
- collecting data and writing reports to document the need for better mental health resources in the community.

Social workers' most frequent specialty practice areas are mental health (37%), child welfare/family (13%), health (13%), and aging (9%).

JOB OUTLOOK

Three specific areas of social work (child, family and school social workers; mental health and substance abuse social workers, medical and public health social workers) are expected to have an "excellent" job outlook through 2012 meaning there is an expectation of more job openings than qualified candidates and the annual growth rate for these jobs is above average (TN Job Outlook, 2005, June). These statewide statistics indicate a healthy and growing job market for BSW graduates in several areas of social work practice. **Since July 1, 2006 professional social workers in TN are protected by title protection legislation which requires that positions listed as "social work" must be filled by either a BSW or MSW trained social worker. Effective July 1, 2008 all social workers must become licensed beginning with BSW social workers.**

PRE-REQUISITE COURSES

The UTC Social Work Department requires specific prerequisite courses in addition to the general education courses required by the university. The required pre-requisite courses for the Social Work Department are: PSY 101, SOC 151, BIOL 121, SOCW 110, and SOCW 207 in addition to the general education requirements (see course catalog for course descriptions). Students must have either completed these courses or be in the process of completing these courses when applying for formal admission to the program. Students must meet the admission requirements of the University prior to submitting a formal application to the Social Work Department. All students interested in social work as a career choice should contact the Social Work Department at (423) 425-4266 to schedule an appointment with a social work faculty. Prior to being formally accepted into the Social Work Department, all students majoring in social work are considered pre-social work majors.

ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM

Admission to the University does not guarantee acceptance into the Social Work Department. Selection by the admissions committee is based on information gathered through the Application to the Social Work Department packet. Pre-social work majors and transfer students seeking admission to the Social Work Department must complete the following admission process by February 1st of the sophomore year.

- Complete the Application to the UTC Social Work Department available on the department website: www.utc.edu/socwk
- Have a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.00 or higher on a 4.0 point scale.
- Have a social work major Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.50 or higher on a 4.0 point scale in SOCW courses.
- Earned a grade of "C" or better in the following pre-social work courses: SOCW 110 or an equivalent introductory social work course and SOCW 207 or an equivalent Interviewing Skills course.
- Completed the following cognate courses with a passing grade: PSY 101 (Introduction to Psychology), SOC 151 (Introduction to Sociology), BIOL 121 (Principles of Biology I) NOTE: The following courses must be completed prior to the junior year – SOCW 201, ANTH 208 or ECON 101, POLS 101(American Government).
- Complete a criminal background check process.
- Participate in a scheduled group interview process with the Social Work Department faculty.

FIELD EDUCATION

Students wishing to enter field education in their senior year must meet the following requirements:

- Complete all prerequisites for Field Education I (Social Work 412) as listed in the university catalog.
- Achieve a 2.00 overall grade point average.
- Satisfactorily complete all incomplete grades.
- Submit a completed Field Education Application to the field education coordinator which includes a recent transcript, current resumé, and peer evaluation form.
- Participate in the annual Field Fair.

Expenses and Transportation

In addition to regular education costs, social work students must meet the following expenses: liability and insurance for field education, and others as required. Since field experiences in social work are obtained in a variety of health care and social service settings in local and remote areas, students are individually responsible for transportation to these sites.

Visit our website for more information: www.utc.edu/socwk

CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Freshman Year English 101, 102.....6 Approved Cultures/Civ Courses.....6 Math 123 or 131.....3 Social Work 110.....3 Approved Science* (not BIOL 121).....3 Sociology 151.....3 Psychology 101.....3 Approved Fine Arts course.....3 Total..... 30 credit hours	Sophomore Year Biology 121.....4 Anthropology 208.....6 Social Work 207.....3 Social Work 201.....3 Religion 236.....3 Political Science 101.....3 Elective courses.....9 Total..... 31 credit hours
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NOTE: The curriculum sequence for the freshmen and sophomore year are suggested; each student must consult with their assigned academic advisor to determine the correct sequence of courses each semester. *See catalog for list of approved science courses **See catalog for list of approved social work elective courses +See catalog for list of approved statistics courses

Junior Year FALL SEMESTER Social Work 306.....3 Social Work 312.....3 Social Work 333.....4 Social Work 308.....1 Social Work elective**.....3 Total..... 14 credit hours	Junior Year SPRING SEMESTER Social Work 307.....3 Social Work 342.....3 Social Work 376.....3 Social Work 408.....1 Approved statistics course+.....3 Independent Study.....3 Total..... 16 credit hours
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Senior Year FALL SEMESTER Social Work 407.....4 Social Work 417.....3 Social Work 412.....4 Social Work 413.....1 Independent Study.....3 Total..... 15 credit hours	Senior Year SPRING SEMESTER Social Work 410.....3 Social Work 490.....2 Social Work 476.....1 Social Work 442.....4 Social Work 441.....1 Approved 300/400 level gen ed course*.....3 Total..... 14 credit hours
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*****TOTAL HOURS NEEDED FOR BSW DEGREE: 120**

** social work majors who participate in the TN Child Welfare Stipend and Certification Program, SOCW 323 and SOCW 423 are required courses as part of that program's certification process

Social Work Continuation Standards

The nature of the social work profession requires the following program continuation standards - *to progress in the social work program students are required to:*

- a. Achieve grade of C or higher in all Social Work courses;
- b. Maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00;
- c. Maintain a Social Work major grade point average of 2.500 or higher on a 4.0 scale in all Social Work courses.

To enroll in 300-level and 400-level Social Work courses, a student must be a Social Work major formally accepted into the program and in good standing.

FACULTY	CERTIFICATION & STIPEND PROGRAMS
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Valerie L. Radu, PhD, LCSW
*Social Work Department Head/ BSW Program Coordinator
 Bridges to the BSW Principle Investigator*

Kathy Purnell, MSW
Field Education Coordinator

Dorothy Williams, PhD
Associate Professor

Amy Doolittle, PhD, LCSW
*Assistant Professor
 Child Welfare Initiative Principle Investigator*

Craig Pressley, MSW
Instructor & Child Welfare Program Stipend Coordinator

Mary Bricker-Jenkins, PhD, LCSW
Adjunct Professor (Community Practice)

Rhonda Jacks, LCSW
Adjunct Instructor (Policy & Practice)

Veliska Thomas, MSW
Adjunct Instructor (Policy)

Robert Zylstra, Ed.D, LCSW
Adjunct Instructor (Interpersonal Practice/ Aging Families)

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK CERTIFICATION
 A school social work certification option is available to BSW students - this certification meets state of Tennessee requirements for school social work. Students complete all required social work (SOCW) courses and also complete the following three additional courses:
 EDUC 400 - Survey of Exceptional Learners (3)
 EDUC 512 - Theories of Learning (3)
 SOCW 435 - School Social Work and Law (3)
A 400-hour field experience in a school setting during the senior year is also available to students interested in completing the school social work certification program.
Students who are interested in the school social work certification program should notify their academic advisor and must register with Connie Cloud, State Certification Officer (office is located on the 2nd floor of Hunter Hall).

CHILD WELFARE CERTIFICATION & STIPEND PROGRAM
 The program provides financial support for selected baccalaureate level social work majors who have expressed an interest and made a commitment to work with children and families through employment with the Tennessee Department of Children Services (DCS), upon completion of the social work degree program. The stipend program provides full-time students with tuition reimbursement and stipend payments to assist the students with living expenses for up to four semesters. Upon graduation, BSW students are eligible for DCS employment at a higher beginning salary level than other newly hired employees with non-BSW degrees. In return, students participating in the BSW Stipend Program are required to work for DCS for two years. Students who are interested in the stipend program must complete a formal application process which includes a criminal background check and interview with DCS staff and social work faculty. Students must have at least four semesters of coursework left in order to receive the stipend.
Students interested in the child welfare certification or stipend program should contact Mr. Craig Pressley in the Social Work Department for more information.