

THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK

The mission of the Christopher Newport University Social Work Program is to provide an undergraduate social work program of excellence designed to educate the Christopher Newport University social work major for baccalaureate level generalist social work practice. Built on a strong liberal arts base, the BA degree in Social Work also prepares students for graduate studies. In its educational mission, the Social Work Program promotes scientific and intellectual inquiry and fosters qualities of leadership. Finally, the Program advocates service to community and Commonwealth and commitment to the values of the social work profession.

The goals of the Social Work Program are to produce: 1) excellent practitioners prepared as liberal arts based baccalaureate level generalist social workers; 2) social science 170 scholars who are prepared for scientific inquiry, technologically competent and knowledgeable of diverse and special populations; 3) citizens of the community and Commonwealth who are informed about the world around them, and ready advocates for social and economic justice; 4) communicators who are capable of collaboration across disciplines, client populations, and communities; 5) professionals imbued with the social work strengths perspective and able to use self-as-instrument in practice that includes biological, psychological, sociological and spiritual views of person-situation-interaction; 6) leaders dedicated to service and prepared with an understanding of the value base of the social work profession and its ethical standards and principles.

In addition to successful completion of all general education and degree studies requirements (see index), the Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work requires successful completion of the following courses in major and elective studies:

- 1) BIOL 107*, 108*/109L*;
- 2) HLTH 200*;
- 3) MATH 125*;
- 4) PSYC 210*, 211*; or PSYC 201 and PSYC 307;
- 5) SOCL 201G*, 205G*, 303, and 316;
- 6) SOWK 260, 367, 368W, 391, 392, 399/399L, 400, 401, 402, 406W, and 490;
- 7) Three hours from SOWK 369, 373, 395, 471, 474, 492, 495 or 499.

*Courses bearing an asterisk may be used simultaneously to satisfy, in part, certain general education and degree studies requirements. For details, see your academic advisor.

Because of their highly sequential nature, students are required to meet regularly with a social work faculty advisor. Social Work majors desiring to combine a major in Social Work with a minor in gerontology can learn of the special agreements regarding field instruction by consulting the Chair of Social Work.

ADMISSION AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES FOR THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK

Admission to the Social Work Major

In addition to admission as a classified student at CNU and formal declaration of social work as a major, students must still apply for “accepted status” as a CNU baccalaureate social work major. Requirements for admission to accepted status include:

- Completion of at least 30 hours of academic work, showing progress toward meeting CNU’s general education requirements;
- Successful completion (a grade of *C* or better) of SOWK 260 or acceptable equivalent, to insure at least a basic understanding of the career choice being made;
- An overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 and a GPA of at least 2.75 in all courses required for social work; and
- Three reference letters, a written application, an admission statement, and a personal and/or panel interview.

For continuance in the Social Work Program, a student must demonstrate readiness to enter and continue in the professional or upper level courses in the baccalaureate social work program of study. This requires:

- Academic achievement (maintenance of overall GPA of 2.5 and GPA of 2.75 in the courses required for social work);
- Personal and professional behavior consistent with the NASW Code of Ethics;
- Effectiveness in work with client systems as demonstrated through laboratory and field courses; and
- Capacity to master the necessary skills of generalist social work practice.

For further information on these requirements, the Social Work Program furnishes an information and application package to interested students through the department office. Admission to accepted status in the major consists of the following parts:

- **Application.** Applications for admission to the social work major are accepted from students who are currently enrolled at the University, have at least 30 hours of academic work, and have completed or are now enrolled in Introduction to Social Work (SOWK 260). Transfer students who meet these requirements and who transfer a course evaluated by the Chair of Social Work as equivalent to SOWK 260 may also apply. **Application packages may be obtained from the Social Work Office or from the Chair of Social Work.** Applications are accepted throughout the year, but students **MUST** be admitted to the social work major prior to enrollment in Social Work Practice I (SOWK 399) and the corresponding laboratory class (SOWK 399L).
- **Interview.** Once a complete application package is received, an interview or panel interview will be scheduled. Interviews are usually scheduled with the Chair of Social Work. However, the applicant, a social work faculty member, or the Chair of Social Work may request an interview and decision by a panel of three social work faculty members in lieu of an individual interview and decision by the Chair of Social Work.
- **Disposition.** Students will be informed of the disposition of their applications, in writing, within two weeks of the interview or panel interview. The following dispositions are possible:

Full Acceptance

Probationary Acceptance (spells out requirements for full acceptance)

Denial

Students who have been granted probationary acceptance or who have been denied may appeal such decisions through the regular appeal channels of the University (see *University Handbook, Student Handbook*, or seek assistance from the Student Government or the Registrar's Office).

Continuing GPA and Other Requirements

Automatic review of accepted standing occurs when grades of *D* or *F* are made in any required course in the major or when a student is on academic probation. Probationary status in the major prevents a student from entering or continuing in 400-level social work (SOWK) courses. Readmission to good standing will be determined by GPA and approval of the Chair of Social Work and/or a panel of three social work faculty members.

Successful completion of SOWK 399 and 399L (grade of C or better)

A written evaluation of generalist practice skills demonstrated in the Social Work Practice I Laboratory class, completed by the 399L instructor(s), will become part of the student's permanent record. A grade below a C or an unfavorable laboratory evaluation of skills will result in automatic probationary status and denial of entry to 400-level classes until such time as accepted status is reinstated.

FIELD INSTRUCTION APPLICATION

Requirements include:

- 1) Senior status;
- 2) Successful completion (grade of C or better) of SOWK 399 and 399L, with favorable evaluation of skill performance in 399L;

- 3) Concurrent enrollment in SOWK 400 and 406;
- 4) Overall GPA of 2.5 and GPA of 2.75 in the courses required for the major; and
- 5) Completed and approved application for admission to Field Instruction I (SOWK 401).

An application for Field must be filed with the Field Instruction Coordinator in the spring semester directly preceding fall placement by the last day for withdrawing from classes without grade penalty.

Important Note: All of the foregoing may be appealed by students through regular University appeals channels.

[Social Work Home](#) | [CNU Home](#)