Social Work

The empowering profession that helps people

Social work is the professional activity of helping individuals, families, groups, or communities enhance or restore their social functioning. Social work practice consists of the professional application of social work knowledge, skills, values and ethics to: help people obtain tangible services; provide counseling with individuals, families, and groups; help communities improve social and health services; and participate in relevant legislative processes to promote social and economic justice.

Mission statement
The Social Work Department prepares culturally competent, effective, and ethical social work professionals committed to providing services to students to take leadership roles in the social work profession internationally.

Social Work at BYU–Hawaii
The Social Work Department prepares students for generalist social work practice with disadvantaged and oppressed populations. The uniqueness of this curriculum is the emphasis and understanding of Asians and Pacific Islanders. The BYU–Hawaii Social Work was the first undergraduate program in Hawaii to be accredited by the National Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The program was accredited in 1978 and has been re-affirmed continuously until 2016.

Social Workers are in demand
Students with a Baccalaureate Social Work degree can be immediately integrated into positions of responsibility in social work throughout the Pacific Islands, the United States, New Zealand, Mongolia, Fiji, South Korea, the Philippines and many other countries. Social work has been one of the top 20 professions in the United States for more than 20 years. Social work graduates are employed in:

- Addictions
- Substance Abuse Programs
- Aging Services
- Criminal Justice Agencies
- Disaster Relief
- Children and Youth Services
- Family Services
- Home Care Agencies
- Hospitals
- Developmental Disabilities Services
- Gerontology
- Private and International NGO’s
- Community Action Agencies
- Homeless Shelters
- Residential Treatment Programs
Requirements for entrance into the Social Work major

Students majoring in Social Work at BYU–Hawaii must complete the following:

1. Have completed Math 106A and B, Psychology 111 Introduction to Psychology, and pass Social Work 160 Introduction to Social Welfare and Social Work with at least a C+
2. Have a cumulative grade point average of 2.5

Students who have not met these requirements will not be able to register for 300 or 400 level classes. Students must apply to the major by the first Monday of May for Fall semester entrance or the first Monday of October for Winter entrance.

Social Work curriculum

Generalist social work education is addressed throughout the professional foundation curriculum. Social work majors are required to successfully pass the following courses:

- SOCW 160 Intro to Social Welfare & Social Work (3)
- SOCW 357 Human Behavior in the Social Environment I (3)
- SOCW 359 Human Behavior in the Social Environment II (3)
- SOCW 362 Social Work Practice with Individuals (3)
- SOCW 364 Social Work Practice with Families and Groups (3)
- SOCW 461 Social Work Practice with Asians and Pacific Islanders (3)
- SOCW 462 Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities (3)
- SOCW 366 Social Welfare Policy (3)
- SOCW 368 Social Welfare in Asia and the Pacific (3)
- SOCW 485 Social Research Methods (3)
- SOCW 487 Applied Social Statistics (3)
- SOCW 463 Social Services for Children (3)
- SOCW 464 Populations at Risk (3)
- SOCW 467 Non-Government Program Development and Evaluation (3)
- SOCW 468 Community Mental Health (3)
- SOCW 469 Aging: A Global Concern (3)
- SOCW 470 Social Work with Substance Abusers (3)
- SOCW 491R Field Practicum (8 hours)
- SOCW 491L Field Seminar (4 hours)
- SOCW 492R Block Field Practicum (4-4 hours)
- SOCW 492L Block Field Seminar (2-2 hours)

Social Work content areas

- Community Mental Health
- Social Work with Substance Abusers
- Social Services for Children
- Social Services for Women
- NGO/Program Development and Evaluation
- Populations At Risk