



# **Bachelor of Arts in Social Work Student Handbook**

Social Work Department  
College of Liberal Arts

270 Millett Hall

937-775-2751

<http://liberal-arts.wright.edu/social-work>

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**College of Liberal Arts**  
**Department of Social Work**  
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.  
Dayton, OH 45435-0001  
(937) 775-2751  
FAX (937) 775-4228  
[www.wright.edu/cola](http://www.wright.edu/cola)

Dear Social Work Students,

Welcome to the exciting field of social work. You are embarking on a journey to master the knowledge, values, and skills of generalist social workers.

The Bachelor of Arts in Social Work degree from Wright State University is fully accredited with the Council on Social Work Education and has been reaffirmed every 8 years since 1974. Our graduates go on to take the Ohio LSW exam. Our alumni are social workers in agencies such as the CAREHouse, the Alzheimer's Association, local child welfare agencies, CareSource, Catholic Social Services, and many others.

This handbook is meant to assist social work students in meeting the requirements to complete the BA in Social Work from Wright State University. You are responsible for following all of the social work department policies, the NASW Code of Ethics, and all university requirements and policies. The handbook supplements other university policy documents, including, but not limited to, the university student handbook, course catalog, and university code of student conduct.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions at 937-775-2751.

Sincerely,

Faculty and Staff  
Department of Social Work

# SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT AT WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

The Department of Social Work is located in the College of Liberal Arts. The program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) at the undergraduate level ([www.cswe.org](http://www.cswe.org)). This assures that the curriculum and faculty meet established, national standards. A degree in social work from an accredited educational institution is a prerequisite to apply for the Ohio social work license, effective October 1992 ([www.cswmft.ohio.gov](http://www.cswmft.ohio.gov)).

The Social Work Department Interim Chair is:

Dr. Jerri Killian, Professor  
270 Millett, (937) 775-2751, [jerri.killian@wright.edu](mailto:jerri.killian@wright.edu)

The full-time faculty and staff in the Social Work Department are:

Dr. Shreya Bhandari, Professor, MASW Program Co-Director  
271 Millett, (937) 775-2244, [shreya.bhandari@wright.edu](mailto:shreya.bhandari@wright.edu)

Dr. James R. Carter, Associate Professor  
272 Millett, (937) 775-2751, [james.carter@wright.edu](mailto:james.carter@wright.edu)

Dr. Jennifer Hughes, Associate Professor, BSW Program Director  
275 Millett, (937) 775-3431, [jennifer.hughes@wright.edu](mailto:jennifer.hughes@wright.edu)

Andrea Jordan, Instructor  
288 Millett, (937) 775-4580, [andrea.jordan@wright.edu](mailto:andrea.jordan@wright.edu)

Doug Keown, Instructor, Field Education Director  
299 Millett, (937) 775-4168, [doug.keown@wright.edu](mailto:doug.keown@wright.edu)

Dr. Hyejin Kim, Associate Professor  
277 Millett, (937) 775-2751, [hyejin.kim@wright.edu](mailto:hyejin.kim@wright.edu)

Paula Long, Instructor, University Partnership Program Campus Coordinator  
288 Millett, (937) 775-3980, [paula.long@wright.edu](mailto:paula.long@wright.edu)

Dr. Theresa Myadze, Professor  
279 Millett, (937) 775-2240, [theresa.myadze@wright.edu](mailto:theresa.myadze@wright.edu)

Carole Staruch, Administrative Support Coordinator  
270 Millett, (937) 775-2751, [carolyn.staruch@wright.edu](mailto:carolyn.staruch@wright.edu)

Dr. Sarah Twill, Professor  
273 Millett, (937) 775-2751, [sarah.twill@wright.edu](mailto:sarah.twill@wright.edu)

The Part-Time Adjunct Faculty in the Department are:

Kimberly Bayless, MS. Ed., [kimberly.bayless@wright.edu](mailto:kimberly.bayless@wright.edu)

Kari Higgins, MSW, [kari.higgins@wright.edu](mailto:kari.higgins@wright.edu)

Alisha Murray, MSW, [alisha.murray@wright.edu](mailto:alisha.murray@wright.edu)

The best way to reach these instructors is by email.

# DEFINITION OF GENERALIST SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

The faculty in the Social Work Department at Wright State University supports the following definition of generalist social work practice:

“Generalist social workers work directly with client systems at all levels, connect clients to available resources, intervene with organizations to enhance the responsiveness of resource systems, advocate just social policies to ensure the equitable distribution of resources, and research all aspects of social work practice.

Generalist Social Work practice:

- Utilizes generic practice processes to organize work with client systems
- Recognizes the potential for change at multiple system levels-within human systems, between systems, and among environmental systems
- Views human behavior in the context of the social environment
- Integrates direct practice with social policy and social work research activities”

Taken from Miley, B., & Dubois, K. (2013). *Social work: An empowering profession* (8<sup>th</sup> ed). Boston: Pearson/Allyn & Bacon, page 7.

Generalist Social Work Practice

- Uses a systems or person-in-environment perspective
- Uses the strengths and client empowerment perspectives
- Requires multi-systems level intervention
- Involves the application of critical thinking skills to the planned change approach/process
- Integrates direct practice with social policy and social work research
- Is guided by the professional code of ethics
- Provides the core competencies (knowledge and skills) for beginning level practice in a variety of social and human service settings
- Serves as the foundation for advanced practice

You will learn more about generalist social work practice as you progress through the introductory social work courses. By way of introduction, generalist practice prepares you for beginning practice with individuals, small groups, families, communities and organizations. You will develop basic knowledge of human behavior in the social environment, social welfare policy and services, practice, and research. You will develop beginning skills in socio-behavioral problem solving, such as intervention planning, interviewing, and leading groups. You will be prepared to intervene with clients of diverse backgrounds in a variety of social service settings. Upon graduation you will not be a specialist in any particular social work field. Rather, you will start out as a generalist social worker who can apply a common knowledge, skill, and value base across many settings.

# **SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT**

The Social Work Department's mission aligns well with the WSU Mission and Vision Statements\*:

## **WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT**

We transform the lives of our students and the communities we serve.

\*The full WSU Strategic Plan is available at [Strategic Plans | Wright State University](#)

## **WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY VISION STATEMENT**

Wright State University, inspired by the creative spirit of the Wright brothers, will be Ohio's most learning-centered and innovative university, known and admired for our inclusive culture that respects the unique value of each of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni and for the positive transformative impact we have on the lives of our students and the communities we serve.

## **SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT**

The Social Work Department at Wright State University is dedicated to preparing ethical, competent, creative, and critically thinking generalist practitioners who pursue their work from a social justice perspective. The program strives to prepare students who are self-aware life-long learners, who deliver culturally competent interventions, and who are optimistic about their abilities to promote well-being through all levels of social intervention.

# **SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM GOALS**

1. Prepare students to be professional, ethical, and competent generalist social workers as measured by Competencies and Practice Dimensions.
2. Prepare students to practice without discrimination and be advocates for social justice as measured by Competencies and Practice Dimensions.
3. Prepare students with a generalist knowledge, skills, and values foundation as measured by Competencies and Practice Dimensions.

## **ACCESS**

Wright State University is committed to achieving full equal opportunity in all aspects of university life. We are proud of the diversity of the university community and strive to make all members of the community feel welcome.

The policy of Wright State University is to not discriminate against any persons on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, disability, veteran status, national origin, age, or ancestry. In addition, we take affirmative action to recruit and assist members of various racial or ethnic groups, women, Vietnam-era veterans, and persons with disabilities whose ability to achieve academic success might otherwise be unrecognized because of cultural barriers. Our policy is fully consistent with the various federal and Ohio statutes which prohibit discrimination.

# **ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAM GOALS, AND COMPETENCIES AND PRACTICE DIMENSIONS**

The Social Work program has developed an assessment plan in accordance to the WSU Assessment requirements ([www.wright.edu/assessment/bpra/outcomes/index.html](http://www.wright.edu/assessment/bpra/outcomes/index.html)) and in compliance with the 2015 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards as stipulated for accreditation and reaffirmation with the Council on Social Work Education ([www.cswe.org](http://www.cswe.org)).

## **9 COMPETENCIES AND 31 PRACTICE DIMENSIONS**

### **Competency 1 – Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior**

Students will:

1. Make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision-making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics as appropriate to context.
2. Use reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice situations.
3. Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior, appearance, and oral, written, and electronic communication.
4. Use technology ethically and appropriately to facilitate practice outcomes.
5. Use supervision and consultation to guide professional judgment and behavior.

### **Competency 2 – Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice**

Students will:

6. Apply and communicate understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.
7. Present themselves as learners and engage clients and constituencies as experts of their own experiences.
8. Apply self-awareness and self-regulation to manage the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse clients and constituencies.

### **Competency 3 – Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice**

Students will:

9. Apply their understanding of social, economic, and environmental justice to advocate for human rights at the individual and system levels.
10. Engage in practices that advance social, economic, and environmental justice.

### **Competency 4 – Engage in Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice**

Students will:

11. Use practice experience and theory to inform scientific inquiry and research.
12. Apply critical thinking to engage in analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods and research findings.
13. Use and translate research evidence to inform and improve practice, policy, and service delivery

#### **Competency 5 – Engage in Policy Practice**

Students will:

14. Identify social policy at the local, state, and federal level that impacts well-being, service delivery, and access to social services.
15. Assess how social welfare and economic policies impact the delivery of and access to social services.
16. Apply critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.

#### **Competency 6 – Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities**

Students will:

17. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks to engage with clients and constituencies.
18. Use empathy, reflection, and interpersonal skills to effectively engage diverse clients and constituencies.

#### **Competency 7 – Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities**

Students will:

19. Collect and organize data, and apply critical thinking to interpret information from clients and constituencies.
20. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the analysis of assessment data from clients and constituencies.
21. Develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives based on the critical assessment of strengths, needs, and challenges within clients and constituencies.
22. Select appropriate intervention strategies based on the assessment, research knowledge, and values and preferences of clients and constituencies.

#### **Competency 8 – Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities**

Students will:

23. Critically choose and implement interventions to achieve practice goals and enhance capacities of clients and constituencies.
24. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in interventions with clients and constituencies.
25. Use inter-professional collaboration as appropriate to achieve beneficial practice outcomes.
26. Negotiate, mediate, and advocate with and on behalf of diverse clients and constituencies.
27. Facilitate effective transitions and endings that advance mutually agreed-on goals.

#### **Competency 9 – Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities**

Students will:

28. Select and use appropriate methods for evaluation of outcomes.

29. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the evaluation of outcomes.
30. Critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate intervention and program processes and outcomes.
31. Apply evaluation findings to improve practice effectiveness at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.

# UNIVERSITY AND COLA REQUIREMENTS

## CORE COURSES

The social work program builds on a strong Liberal Arts foundation before beginning the upper-level social work courses. Thus, most of the Core courses will be completed prior to beginning the major. ([General Education | Academic Affairs | Wright State University](#)).

Students must apply to the Social Work major by February 1<sup>st</sup> of their second year in order to graduate in four years. Students are permitted to still be taking pre-requisite courses at the time they apply to the major, as long as all pre-requisite courses will be completed by the end of summer term.

Upon completing your Core courses, you should have, at a minimum:

1. Developed your critical, analytical thinking abilities to be able to separate facts from assumptions and values and then to put them together again in a logical fashion to develop casual explanations and support rational actions.
2. Developed beginning problem-solving skills. Be able to use knowledge (especially socio-behavioral knowledge) and your critical thinking abilities and apply them to any specific client-problem situation in order to develop a rational, workable approach.
3. Developed your communication skills, both verbal and written. Communication skills are the primary tools of our profession. Social workers must speak accurately, clearly, and often times convincingly. Social workers must also write in the same fashion. The University Writing Center ([Writing Center | University College | Wright State University](#)) is available to assist with papers and other writing requirements, including the application to the major.
4. Become aware of your values, how they differ from others' values, and how they guide your interpersonal behavior. This awareness will help you make a positive, workable synthesis between your value system and that of the profession.

## ADVISING

### uAchieve (formerly DARS)

Students can access uAchieve through WINGS Express using their University Identification Number. uAchieve reports the requirements currently met toward a student's progress toward receiving the BASW. Students who are not yet Social Work majors can request a "What If" report by answering the prompts as if your major was Social Work. All Social Work faculty utilize uAchieve to help students with advising

questions. Instructions on using uAchieve can be found at <https://www.wright.edu/student-success/academic-advising/degree-audit-uachieve>.

The advising process assists students in assessing how their decision-making approaches, knowledge of curriculum and knowledge of career choices, all have an impact on their educational plan at this particular time in their life.

Once a student has chosen social work as a major, the advising process can help students map out a curriculum plan. This curriculum plan will take into account the schedule of offered courses in social work, the application date to the major, the graduation plan, and the personal needs of students to meet their goals within this major. The curriculum plan is Appendix E.

The BSW Program Director is available to clarify curriculum requirements of Wright State University, the College of Liberal Arts, and the Social Work major. The BSW Program Director will update your Curriculum Plan and initial it at your request or the request of your faculty advisor. During the term you apply for graduation, your faculty advisor will review uAchieve to confirm that all graduation requirements are met. If you have any questions related to social work requirements call 775-2751 to set up an appointment.

## **FACULTY ADVISOR**

Once admitted to the major, you will be assigned a social work faculty advisor. Your advisor will assist you in planning for a graduation date, answer questions about the profession, assist you in preparing for graduate school, and, in general, help guide you into the profession.

Since we all have different practice backgrounds, we can also assist you in assessing different fields of social work. Some of the more traditional areas of practice are child welfare, medical social services, substance abuse, counseling, family and mental health. Newer, but growing fields, are providing social services to older adults (e.g. adult day care, nursing homes, senior citizen centers) and occupational social services (e.g. providing social services in the workplace). For more detailed listings of employment opportunities, please ask the BSW Program Director or your faculty advisor.

Career preparations that students can start as early as their first year are volunteering and summer jobs. The benefits of these experiences are two-fold:

1. They provide exposure to various practice roles.
2. They provide practical experience that will assist the social work major in deciding the area of specialty they are interested in and/or determining the desire and abilities to continue with the major.

For volunteer work, visit the United Way website at [www.dayton-unity.org](http://www.dayton-unity.org).

Many of our alumni employed in social work are willing to talk with you and have you visit their agencies. From them you can gain some realistic insights to career challenges and satisfactions.

Most employers are looking for someone who has had some practical experience in the social services. We suggest getting volunteer or paid experience early. Also, a person willing to leave their local town or move into a rural setting is more likely to find other employment opportunities.

The Department also has copies of articles related to careers in Social Work and brochures from NASW and other professional organizations. The Social Work office is located in 270 Millett Hall.

## ADVISING TIPS

- ❑ Follow the College of Liberal Arts uAchieve that was completed by the COLA advisor. You can access uAchieve through WINGS Express.
- ❑ Keep a copy of all important documents related to meeting graduation requirements:
  - ✓ Updated Social Work checklists initialed by Social Work Advisor
  - ✓ Transcripts from other colleges or universities
  - ✓ Letters and emails received from Social Work, COLA, or University Registrar
- ❑ Meet with your Social Work advisor each term.
- ❑ Complete your curriculum plan and review each term. Do not wait until the term you wish to graduate to find out whether all requirements are met.
- ❑ Discuss any changes in your curriculum plan with your advisor.
- ❑ Get the most from your education. Plan your electives to prepare you for career goals.

# SOCIAL WORK MAJOR ADMISSIONS

## ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

The admissions criteria to the Bachelors of Arts in Social Work program at Wright State University were developed to accept students who have the capability to meet the program mission, goals, and competencies and program practice dimensions for generalist social work practice.

The admissions criteria include:

- \* Completing specific course work that builds the foundation for upper level social work requirements.
- \* Maintain a Grade Point Average of 2.25 that demonstrates a capability to complete upper level requirements in the major.
- \* Complete a professional statement in which the student demonstrates their knowledge, values, and skills base for pursuing the social work major and profession.
- \* Complete the professional references and criminal record disclosure to demonstrate preparation for pursuing the social work major and profession.

Students must complete and submit the Social Work application by February 1. The complete application is available on the Social Work website, [liberal-arts.wright.edu/social-work](http://liberal-arts.wright.edu/social-work), and is Appendix D.

The requirements for admission into the BA in Social Work program at WSU are:

- Meet College of Liberal Arts requirements for admission which include completion of ENG 1100 and submit the application for changing majors to the CoLA advising office in

Millett 120. Students can apply to CoLA to be a pre-Social Work major at any time that they meet the CoLA requirements. Students must still complete the Social Work application for acceptance into the Social Work program.

- Complete the following course content within the liberal arts foundation for the social work curriculum. The course meeting the content at WSU is in parenthesis.

\*Students may take an equivalent course\* at another college that was approved by, the State of Ohio's TAGS, the Social Work Articulation Agreements (with Sinclair, Clark State, and Edison Community Colleges) or the BSW Program Director of the WSU Social Work Department.

- Academic Writing and Reading (ENG 1100)
- Research Writing and Argument (ENG 2100)
- Intro to Sociology (SOC 2000)
- Political Life (PLS 2000) or American National Government (PLS 2120)
- Interpersonal Communication (COM 2020)
- Economic Life (EC 2000) or Social Issues (EC 2900)
- Intro to Psychology (PSY 1010)
- Health and Disease (BIO 1070) or Biology of Food (BIO 1050)
- Pass or enroll in SW 2700 – *Introduction to Social Work* or an approved equivalent course\* with a minimum grade of C.
- Pass or enroll in SW 2710 – *Intro to Social Welfare* or an approved equivalent course\* with a minimum grade of C.
- Pass or enroll in SW 2720 – *Multicultural Competence in a Diverse World* or an approved equivalent course\* with a minimum grade of C.
- Earn overall GPA of 2.25.
- Complete the Social Work Application which includes:
  - Two letters of PROFESSIONAL reference.
    - One letter must come from a faculty member.
    - The 2<sup>nd</sup> letter should come from employers, professors outside the Department of Social Work, or volunteer coordinators.
  - Completed and signed criminal background disclosure statement.
  - Social Work Professional Statement and Social Issue Statement for admission.
  - Application for the major in Social Work.
  - Copy of transcripts with grades of all classes taken at another college or university.

Social Work faculty may request an interview to discuss your application, including if you do not follow the instructions for the Professional Statement and Professional References. The faculty may also request that you rewrite sections of the application if some items are not clear.

If you have taken courses at another university please arrange an appointment with a social work pre-advisor, before the due date to discuss which courses may meet requirements for the Social Work Major.

Students cannot receive Social Work course credit for life experience or previous work experience.

#### Admission Status/Decisions

The Department may take the following action based on the student's admission application:

\* admit to the major

\* request an interview to clarify concerns or missing information contained in the application

- \* admit to the major on a conditional basis (e.g., writing plan, meet pre requisites by the start of Fall)
- \* not to admit to the major

The faculty may feel a student meets all of the admissions criteria and would be a good candidate but there is an area of concern that needs to be addressed. In such situations, the faculty may request an interview with the student. The outcome of the interview could be to develop a plan to address the concern, admit without conditions if there is no concern after the interview, or not admit the student based on the concern.

Examples of concerns are a student's writing skills or personal issues that may affect a student's academic work. A student will remain on conditional status until the student and faculty agree the concern has been addressed. Conditional status must be removed before a student can begin Senior Field Education.

Students must have completed all prerequisites one week prior to the start of the fall term. Students may reapply for future admissions but they must notify the Department and make any updates to their application. The BSW Program Director is available to assist students in considering other alternatives if they are not accepted into the major.

The Department admits 60-90 students each year. If more than 60-90 students are eligible in a given year, students not accepted will be able to apply in subsequent years.

Once admitted to the major, each student is assigned a social work faculty advisor for general professional and career advising, to formulate a curriculum plan, and to discuss senior field education. Students can also check with the BSW Program Director for specific academic and course information. Students are encouraged to meet with their faculty advisor each term. Students must have their curriculum plans signed by their advisors during the semester they apply for field education and the semester prior to graduation.

## **CURRICULUM PLAN**

In the six weeks following your admission to the major, you complete a curriculum plan with your faculty advisor. This plan is a way for you to consider all of the requirements and class schedules that have been described above. The curriculum plan is provided in Appendix E.

Fill out the curriculum plan and discuss it in person with your advisor. The plan is then signed by your advisor. The Department Advisor may review the plan and make recommendations regarding graduation requirements. You may need to adjust your plan according to your own circumstances, both academic and non-academic.

When you develop your curriculum plan make sure you pay attention to the term that each course is offered. You are the person responsible for meeting graduation requirements. It is worth the time to check your plan each term. If you change the plan, make sure the revised plan is signed by your advisor.

Sometimes students need to take a break from classes in the major for one or more terms. This may mean not attending any classes at Wright State or it may mean not taking any Social Work courses. Since students enter our major at different times there are some terms when required classes reach the seat limit of 25. The class limit of 25 is set by CSWE and agreed upon by the Social Work faculty as the required class maximum to meet the intensity of the theory and application taught in the upper level Social Work classes.

If you take a break from Social Work courses at any time, meet with your advisor right away! You and your advisor will work out the schedule that is best for you. Your revised plan will then be presented to the BSW Director who will review it within the availability of seats for the appropriate course.

## **TRANSFER STUDENTS**

The Social Work Program is a professionally accredited program by the Council on Social Work Education. Thus, the curriculum demonstrates continuity, integration, and sequencing of knowledge acquisition. This includes the core courses, related courses, and a structured sequence of social work courses.

Transfer students must meet the same, aforementioned admissions criteria.

Students, transferring from other accredited social work programs, will have their coursework reviewed by the BSW Program Director to prevent duplication of academic content and to ensure equivalent content of WSU social work courses. Students transferring from social work programs that are not accredited will have their transcripts and courses reviewed on a case-by-case basis for equivalent content as well as validation of the credentials of the faculty teaching the courses. Students will be required to provide the following: the institution's course catalog, copy of the syllabus, and credentials of the instructor.

## **LIFE/PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE**

The Department of Social Work does not provide academic credit for life experience and previous work experience, in whole or in part, in lieu of the field education or of courses in the professional foundation areas (social work values and ethics, diversity, promotion of social and economic justice, populations-at-risk, human behavior and the social environment, social welfare policy and services, social work practice, research and field practicum).

## **REQUIRED SOCIAL WORK COURSES**

Below is the Wright State Undergraduate catalog description of the required Social Work courses in the major. A grade of “C” or higher is required in all Social Work courses.

### *A. Introductory Courses available to any students*

#### **SW 2700 – Introduction to Social Work**

Includes an introduction to: the historical development of social work as a profession, the major fields of practice, social systems theory, the ecological perspective on social problems, and the tenets and value base of the profession.

3 credit hours

#### **SW 2710 - Introduction to Social Welfare**

Study of federal and state social welfare in the United States, with an emphasis on policies that reduce poverty, oppression, and discrimination. Study the values and ethics that form the foundation of social services. 48 hour agency observation required.

3 credit hours

#### **SW 2720 - Multicultural Competence in a Diverse World**

This course provides an introduction to the methods of inquiry in the social sciences used to develop the knowledge and skills required to work and relate in a multicultural world.

Content covers the historical development of discrimination in the U.S.  
3 credit hours

*B. Courses in the first year of the major:*

**SW 3000 – Research Methods in Liberal Arts**

Introduces social science and humanities majors to research design, and the kinds of data produced, in describing, explaining, and understanding social problems.  
3 credit hours

**SW 3700 - Human Behavior in the Social Environment - Micro**

Analysis of human behaviors in order to guide assessment, intervention, and evaluation of social work practice. Includes theories such as the psychoanalytic, behavioral, ecological, and normative life stages.  
3 credit hours

**SW 3800 – Ethics and Social Work Practice I**

Focus on ethics and an introduction to practice skills. Field observation required to apply skills related to ethics, rapport building, interviewing techniques, and bio-psycho-social assessment. Integrated Writing course.  
3 credit hours

**SW 4700 - Social and Economic Justice**

Examination of how social welfare policy affects service delivery and active engagement in policy practice to promote social and economic justice. Integrated Writing course.  
3 credit hours

**SW 4900 - Social Work Research and Critical Thinking**

Basic skills of quantitative and qualitative social research methodology and techniques of gathering, analyzing and interpreting data. Evaluation of research reports for relevance to practice with at-risk populations.  
3 credit hours

*C. Courses in the second year of the major:*

The remaining 4000 level social work courses are taken concurrently with the field education and field seminar. These courses are only offered once each year. If you miss taking any of these courses (including practicum) or you do not receive a “C” or higher in one or more of these courses, you will need to wait one year to re-take the course and thus your graduation date will be pushed back one year.

**SW 4810 - Social Work Practice II**

Develops a framework for understanding micro-inclusive practice interventions with individuals and families. Integrated Writing course.  
3 credit hours

**SW 4820 - Social Work Practice III**

Develops a framework for understanding mezzo-to-macro inclusive practice interventions in groups within organizations throughout communities of varying types.  
3 credit hours

**SW 4860 – Social Work Field Practicum I**

First of two field practicum courses where students apply generalist social work practice knowledge to practice in agency settings. Individual learning experiences under the supervision of an agency field instructor, with guidance from the faculty-field liaison.  
3 credit hours

**SW 4870 – Social Work Field Seminar I**

Faculty-field liaison utilizes individual and group feedback to assist students in applying generalist social work practice knowledge while planning, implementing, and processing activities at their practicum sites. Integrated Writing course.  
3 credit hours

**SW 4880 – Social Work Field Practicum II**

Individual learning experiences under the supervision of an agency field instructor, with guidance from the faculty-field liaison.  
3 credit hours

**SW 4890 – Social Work Seminar II**

Faculty-field liaison utilizes individual and group feedback to assist students in applying generalist social work practice knowledge while planning, implementing, and processing activities at their practicum sites.  
3 credit hours

## **ELECTIVES**

All students are required to take one Social Work elective. In addition, electives are courses you choose to take in order to meet the minimum 120 hours needed to graduate.

**SW 3890 - Selected Topics in Social Work**

Selected topics related to current issues in social work practice; readings, research, and discussion. Examples of past topics include, mental health, death and dying, caregiving across the lifespan, and domestic violence.

**SW 3990 - Independent Study Social Work**

Independent research on social work topic. Requires 3.0 GPA, a faculty sponsor, and completed independent study form.  
1-3 credit hours

**SW 4620 - Social Gerontology I**

Study of the social aspects of aging, the needs of the aging population, and society's response to those needs. A life course perspective that incorporates cultural, economic, historical, and structural contexts provides the framework for examining aging-related issues, particularly in regards to the impact on quality of life for older adults.  
3 credit hours

The Social Work Department offers two electives in child welfare, SW 4730 – Child Welfare I in Fall and SW 4740 – Child Welfare II in Spring. There are no pre-requisites for either course. They are required of students in the Senior Child Welfare Program, but are open to all students.

### SW 4730 - Child Welfare I

Framework for categorizing child welfare problems. Historical and current examination of legislation, policies, programs, and services to address child welfare needs including the role of the child welfare worker.

3 credit hours

### SW 4740 - Child Welfare II

Addresses the developmental and permanence needs of children in the child welfare system.

3 credit hours

## GRADES

A grade of “C” or higher is required in all Social Work courses.

Incomplete grades will be given only for valid, verifiable reasons such as personal illness or injury of a dependent who needs your direct care. Even in this circumstance, satisfactory arrangements must be made with the professor prior to the end of the course (and as soon as possible), or an X grade will be given. The University policy on incomplete grades can be viewed at [Grading | Registrar | Wright State University](#).

## INDEPENDENT STUDY

- Students who want to deepen their understanding and expertise in an area already familiar to them or who wish to develop and improve their research capacities in that area may pursue independent study.
- Courses offered for independent study may not substitute for core curricular offerings.
- Independent study should not be used as a substitute for a closed class. Independent study should not be used to accommodate a student’s work or study schedule.
- In order to qualify for independent study, a student must have attained a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above.
- Students who wish to complete an independent study must have a faculty sponsor. Together, the student and faculty enter a written contract related to one work product.
- The independent study includes the following:
  1. The specific topic, subject, or problem to be investigated.
  2. The minimum number of meetings between the student and faculty member during the term in which the study is to occur.
  3. The basis for evaluating the student effort.
  4. Approval of the department chair or designee prior to registration.
- The Independent Study form is Appendix F.

## FIELD EDUCATION

In the Senior year, students must complete 420 hours in the field. Early in the Spring term, the Field Director will come to a class and discuss the field process. Students must complete the Student Profile form and meet with the Field Director during the Spring term preceding the year in which field education will begin. Students will then take field practicum and seminar during the following Fall and Spring terms. The Field Director, taking into account the interest areas and needs of the student, plans the placement. Students are in the agency approximately 15 hours per week.

It is the student's responsibility to make initial contact with the Field Director regarding the practicum process. The initial practicum interview will include:

- Reviewing the types of practice sites available
- Student interest
- Role Clarification
  - Student
  - Field Director
  - Agency Based Field Instructor/Supervisor

Students cannot receive social work course credit for life experiences or previous work experience. For more information about field, see the Field Education Handbook.

### **POINTS TO REMEMBER ABOUT FIELD EDUCATION**

- All social work majors are encouraged to volunteer as early in the major as possible in a social service setting.
- Students must start the field education by taking SW 4810, SW 4860, and SW 4870 concurrently.
- Students must take practice courses, SW 4810 and 4820 concurrent with SW 4860, 4870, 4880, and 4890.
- Students should have obtained and completed the Student Profile Form (on the department web page, [liberal-arts.wright.edu/social-work](http://liberal-arts.wright.edu/social-work)) before the initial practicum advising appointment.
- Students should develop a list of goals and objectives for their field education experience.
- Emotional readiness is an integral part of the field education requirements. If you need mental health assistance, please contact Counseling and Wellness at <https://www.wright.edu/student-affairs/health-and-wellness/counseling-and-wellness>.
- Because SW 4860 and 4870 requires permission of the instructor, all students registering for these courses must be interviewed by the Field Director and have the Field Director's permission to register for SW 4860 and 4870.
- Students must meet with their faculty advisor and develop a curriculum plan. The curriculum plan must be signed by the advisor and presented to the Field Director at the practicum advising appointment.
- Successful completion of both the agency observations in SW 2710 and SW 3800 and the major field education is necessary to graduate as a social work major.

## **COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS (COLA) REQUIREMENTS**

The College of Liberal Arts has a dual-advisor model where students are assigned both an academic advisor and a faculty advisor.

CLASS Academic Advisors advise students on:

- How to choose appropriate CORE courses, college requirements (BA language requirement, Research Methods, upper-level credits, etc.), and transfer courses within the CORE

- How to read uAchieve as it relates to CORE/college requirements
- Process requests for changing and adding majors and minors
- Creating balance between work family and school
- Other campus resources that can help a student to be successful

To schedule an appointment with your academic advisor, call (937) 775-2601 or stop by 120 Millett Hall.

CoLA Faculty Advisors advise students on:

- Courses specific to majors
- Appropriate substitutions or changes for major-related classes (along with the academic advisor)
- Professional development and ethics
- Progress toward professional goals
- Other campus resources that can help a student to be successful

Students can be admitted into the College of Liberal Arts after completing ENG 1100 or ENG 1105 with a grade of C or better and at least two other courses in the Wright State Core taught by CoLA while maintaining a GPA of 2.0 or above.

In addition to completing the program of study for a specific major and university requirements such as the Wright State Core, residency, and Integrated Writing, College of Liberal Arts B.A. students must complete the Language and Research Methods requirement. This consists of a foreign language through the 2020 level and two methods of inquiry courses, one in research methods and one in critical thinking.

- Proficiency in foreign language equivalent to two years of college-level study (through 2020)
- Critical Thinking course: Philosophy 3000
- Research Methods: SW 3000 or WGS 3700
- Fulfill university requirements including Wright State CORE, residency, and integrated writing (IW)
- Complete at least 120 credit hours with a 2.0 cumulative GPA, including no more than 4 hours in physical education
- Complete at least 42 credit hours in 2000 and 4000-level courses, with at least 20 of these taken at Wright State
- Your major courses cannot account for more than 45 credits toward graduation

Students may need more than 120 hours to graduate if they take developmental course work and/or they exceed the maximum limit of Social Work courses or Physical Education skills courses.

The curriculum for the Social Work majors contains 33 hours at the 3000/4000 level. All majors will need at least 9 hours of additional courses at the 3000/4000 level to meet the Liberal Arts requirements of 42 hours at the 3000/4000 level. PHL 3000 and SW 3000/WGS 3700 meet an additional 3 hours each of the 3000/4000 level requirements.

You should check your progress towards meeting the CoLA requirements each term by reviewing your uAchieve. You may review your uAchieve on-line at any time through WINGS Express. Contact your Social Work faculty advisor or the BSW Program Director if you have any questions about uAchieve.

## RESEARCH METHODS

CoLA students are required to take at least one Critical Thinking-Quantitative Methods course. Taking SW 3000 meets the COLA requirement. Students must take PHL 3000 in order to meet the CoLA Critical Thinking-Qualitative Methods course.

Students are required to take one of the following Logic Courses: PHL 2150, PHL 2230, PHL 4710, or PHL 4720. Social Work students tend to perform best in *Philosophy 4720 – Philosophy of Social Science*. Taking PHL 4720 also meets 3 hours towards the requirement of taking at least 60 credit hours at the 3000 or 4000 level.

## LANGUAGE

Students may demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language at the 2020 level either by satisfactorily completing course work or by taking an examination. For proficiency exams in French, German, and Spanish, consult the [Department of Modern Languages](#). For proficiency exams in Greek or Latin, consult the [Department of Classics](#). Other languages are acceptable, subject to approval by the Liberal Arts advising office.

Students who are continuing a language that they began studying elsewhere need to be placed at the appropriate level. For placement in French, German, and Spanish, contact the [Department of Modern Languages](#). For placement in Greek or Latin, consult the [Department of Classics](#).

## WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) at Wright State University is a comprehensive program extending writing throughout each student's undergraduate career. The Writing Across the Curriculum program consists of two parts—Writing in the Wright State Core and Writing in the Major—and has the following goals:

- To help students grow as writers,
- To encourage students to use writing as a tool to discover and communicate ideas, and
- To introduce students to discipline-specific ways of writing.

## WAC LEARNING OUTCOMES

The WAC program will be looking for five major outcomes:

- Improved student writing
- Writing used as means of inquiry
- Students introduced to disciplinary aspects of writing
- WI requirements being met (Core and major)
- Effective faculty development

## WRITING IN THE MAJOR

All students must successfully complete two integrated writing courses in their major field in order to graduate. Students pursuing a dual major may have the writing requirements for the second major waived at the discretion of the department or college.

## INTEGRATED WRITING COURSES IN THE MAJOR

The IW designation for a course must be approved by the WAC Committee, a standing subcommittee of the Undergraduate Curriculum and Academic Policy Committee. Courses will have at least 5000 words (20 double-spaced pages) of writing, which will be evaluated for content, form, style, correctness, and overall writing proficiency and give students the opportunity for revision and improvement. Assignments may take many forms and include a mix of formal writing (e.g., a number of short papers evaluated in both draft and final form, a long assignment broken into smaller parts, thus allowing for multiple drafts, feedback, and revisions,) and informal writing (e.g., journals, logs, short responses to lectures, essay examinations). All writing will count as part of students' performance in the course. Responsibility for ensuring that these course requirements are met rests with the colleges offering the courses and the Writing Across the Curriculum Committee.

Guidelines and examples of how the writing requirement may be met are available from the Writing Across the Curriculum Coordinator. Additional assistance is provided by the University Writing Center. Returning students must complete the two-course writing requirement in the major.

It is important to note that departments may designate certain sections of a course as Integrated Writing during any term. Course sections designated as Integrated Writing are identified in the class schedule.

Social Work courses currently designated as Integrated Writing (IW) are: SW 3800, SW 4700, and 4810.

## APPLYING FOR GRADUATION

All students must apply for graduation according to the timeline established by the Registrar's Office. Students who complete all graduation requirements by Spring semester will appear on the program for Spring commencement. Students who complete all graduation requirements by Summer or Fall semesters will appear on the program for Fall commencement. Please contact Raider Connect, 775-4000, [RaiderConnect@wright.edu](mailto:RaiderConnect@wright.edu) if you have any questions. There is a graduation fee charged by the Bursar.

### ANTICIPATED GRADUATION DATE

Fall Semester

Spring Semester

Summer Semester

### APPLICATION DEADLINE

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of Fall Semester

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of Spring Semester

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of Summer Semester

# POLICIES

## MANDATORY ADVISING or ACADEMIC PROBATION

A student whose Wright State University GPA is less than 2.0 after 12 attempted hours will be placed on probation. When a student subsequently attains a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 he/she is removed from probation.

Students who are on probation must have an advisor's approval of their course selection before they register for classes. Advisor approval is also required for all drop-add transactions. Students on probation may have their course loads limited and may be required to take particular courses and participate in academic support programs as indicated by their advisor. ([Academic Standing: Good Standing and Probation | policy.wright.edu | Wright State University](#))

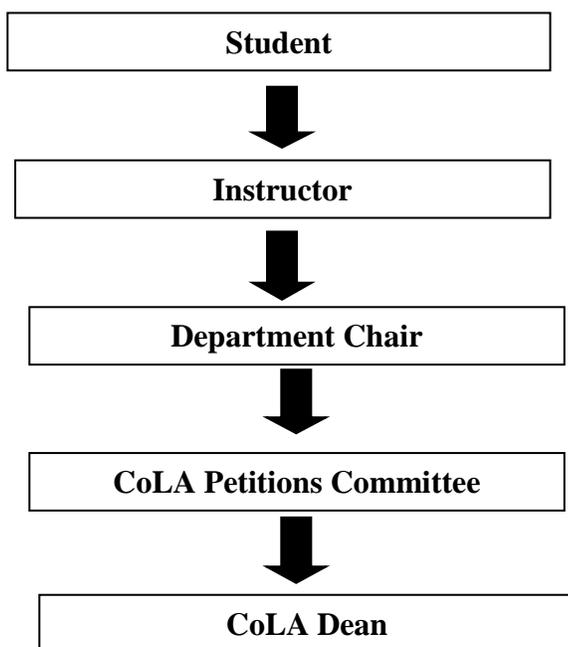
Social Work students admitted to the major must maintain a 2.25 GPA. If a Social Work student's GPA falls below 2.25, the student must meet with the BSW Director to discuss the next steps.

## **PETITIONS and APPEAL PROCESS (Grades)**

Any university, college, or department rule or requirement can be petitioned. A valid petition is for good reasons and contains as much supporting evidence as possible. Only in very rare circumstances are academic requirements ever waived. ([Undergraduate Petition Policy | policy.wright.edu | Wright State University](#)).

Students who have concerns with a specific instructor about a grade on a specific assignment or about their final grade should follow the College of Liberal Arts Academic Mediation Process found on the CoLA website. Students should first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If the student does not agree with the resolution, they then can send a written complaint to the chair of the Social Work Department (with a copy to the instructor) within 15 days of the meeting with the instructor. The chair will meet with the student and instructor separately and together to discuss the concern. The chair will provide a written notice of the decision related to the concern within 15 days of the meeting between chair, instructor, and student. If the student does not agree with the chair's decision, the student may then submit a written complaint to the CoLA Petitions Committee. The CoLA academic mediation petition is available in the CoLA Advising Office in 120 Millett Hall. The CoLA Petitions Committee will collect information and then make its recommendation to the Dean. The student may submit a written appeal to the CoLA Dean of the Petitions Committee's decision. The Dean will meet with the instructor and chair and make a final decision. See CoLA policy. ([CoLA academic mediation policy](#))

## **ACADEMIC MEDIATION CHART**



## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK STUDENT CARE AND CONCERN POLICY

Students in the Social Work program, at new student orientation, are given a list of expected positive behaviors to become healthy, responsible, and ethical students. Students are also given a list of resources on campus to assist them in meeting these behavioral expectations. Students are directed to the on-line version of the Social Work Student Handbook which outlines the curricular expectations and supportive resources available in the department and university.

All WSU students are expected to abide by the Code of Student Conduct as specified by the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct. The Code of Student Conduct specifies behaviors expected in and outside of the classroom. For a complete list of behaviors that are in violation of the Code of Student Conduct go to [Conduct Policies: Code of Student Conduct | Student Affairs | Wright State University](#). The faculty of the Social Work Department follows the procedures outlined by the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct ([Non-academic Violations Process | Student Affairs | Wright State University](#)) to report violations of student conduct, take actions in response to the violations, notify students of the reported violation and recommended action, inform students of their right to appeal the faculty decision, and cooperate with the appeal process if taken by the student. Some severe violations of student conduct and repeated violations of student conduct can result in dismissal from the University by the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct.

There are expectations of student behavior in the Social Work Department that are outside of the auspices of the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct. There are times when a student's behaviors prevents them from being able to complete the expectations in the Social Work curriculum, especially the application of course work in the field education setting. The WSU Social Work Department's Dismissal Policy focuses on responses to student concerns when that behavior prevents a student from completing the Social Work requirements.

Minimally, the Social Work requirements are:

- \* Students must maintain a 2.25 GPA to be accepted into the program and to begin field education.
- \* Students must receive a "C" or higher in all Social Work classes.
- \* Students may NOT repeat a Social Work course more than two (2) times.
- \* Students must follow the student responsibilities outlined in the Social Work Handbook and Social Work Field Manual.

The Social Work Department's Care and Concern Policy attempts to help students overcome concerns that may affect their ability to meet the Department requirements. The Care and Concern Policy below defines student concerns, the procedure to report student concerns, a plan of action to address the concern, consequences of not meeting the Social Work requirements, and the appeal process for the student if they disagree with the actions taken by the Department.

### Definition of Student Concerns:

Wright State University's Department of Social Work adheres to the following definition of concern: Students who show an inability to insightfully understand and resolve their own issues so that these issues do not interfere with generalist social work practice is a student concern (adapted from Bemak, Epp, & Keys, 1999, p. 21). The student concern can be reflected in one or more of the following ways: " (a) an inability and/or unwillingness to acquire and integrate professional standards into one's repertoire of professional behavior , (b) an inability to acquire professional skills in order to reach an acceptable level of competency, and (c) an inability to control personal stress, psychological dysfunction, and/or excessive

emotional reactions that interfere with professional functioning” (Lamb, Presser, Pfof, Baum, Jackson, & Jarvis, 1987, p.598).

This definition of student concern is in sync with the *NASW Code of Ethics, Section 4.05*:

(a) Social Workers should not allow their own personal problems, psychological distress, legal problems, substance abuse, or mental health difficulties to interfere with their professional judgment and performance or to jeopardize the best interests of people for whom they have a professional responsibility.

(b) Social Workers whose personal problems, psychological distress, legal problems, substance abuse, or mental health difficulties interfere with their professional judgment and performance should immediately seek consultation and take appropriate remedial action by seeking professional help, making adjustments in workload, terminating practice, or taking any other steps necessary to protect clients and others.

### **First Identification of Student Concern:**

The identification of a concern is a necessary entity in order to maintain the integrity of the social work program. This identification can happen in one of the following ways:

- 1) A **student** can self identify for issues regarding concern.
- 2) A **student** may observe a concern in a fellow student.
- 3) A **faculty member** may observe a concern in a student.
- 4) A **field supervisor** may observe a concern in a student.
- 5) A **staff person** may observe a concern in a student.

There are 3 possible options when a student concern is identified to the social work faculty for the **first time**:

- 1) The student and at least one social work faculty meet to discuss the concern and develop a Plan of Action to resolve the concern.
- 2) An Ad Hoc Committee intervenes if the student does not agree that there is a student concern and develops a Plan of Action to resolve the concern.
- 3) Dismissal from the major is recommended if the concern is severe.

### **1) Procedures for Care and Concern Form when a student agrees there is a concern**

If a faculty member or field supervisor has cause for concern for issues of student concern, the faculty member/field supervisor is to complete the Plan of Action form and meet with the student privately to discuss the matter. If a student self-identifies issues of concern, or if a student or staff member observes a concern in a student, the student or staff member is to take the issue to the Chair of the Department of Social Work. The Plan of Action form is Appendix G.

Examples of concerns warranting a Plan of Action are: students habitually coming late to or missing class; students having difficulty with writing assignments, or students not demonstrating professional behavior in the field education setting.

If all agree that the student behavior causes concern, the student, faculty member, and if necessary, the Chair, will write a Plan of Action form in order to remediate the concern. The plan could include, but is not limited to: a referral to the WSU Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct for a Health

and Wellness Conference, self-monitored behavioral change, taking additional course work, or repeating field experiences.

The methods and goals discussed at the meeting will be written on the Plan of Action form, and all pertinent parties will sign the document. The Chair will monitor the plan of action and follow up as the agreed upon timeline indicates. The faculty will also be aware of the plan. The Plan of Action form will become part of the student's departmental record. Students may have no more than two Plan of Action forms during their academic time in the Department of Social Work.

## **2) Procedures for Plan of Action Form when a student does not agree there is a concern**

If the meeting between student and faculty member/field supervisor has not resolved the issue, then either/both parties are free to notify the chair that they want to bring the issue to a review by an Ad Hoc Committee. The committee will consist of three voting members and the Chair of the Department of Social Work, who will facilitate the committee. Membership will include: one member of the Professional Advisory Council and/or the Social Work Alumni Society, one member of the faculty, and a representative from the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct.

- Ideally, within two weeks (but up to thirty days) of notification to the Chair, the Ad Hoc Committee will have a formal meeting with the student. Documentation, from written notice of the meeting to written notice of the allegations, will be made available to all parties.
- All parties present will discuss the student's behavior of concern, and all parties present will agree on time-based/outcome-focused goals. Possible methods that could be recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee for the attainment of these goals could include, but are not limited to: a referral to the WSU Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct for a Health and Wellness Conference, self-monitored behavioral change, additional course work, or additional field experiences.
- The methods and goals discussed at the meeting will be written on the Plan of Action form, and all pertinent parties will sign the document. In the event that the parties still cannot agree, the Department Chair will be the final decision maker of the Plan of Action.
- The student's Social Work advisor will monitor the plan of action and consult as needed with the Department Chair for two weeks following the meeting.
- All faculty will be informed at the next faculty meeting of the student concern and the Plan of Action.

## **3) Procedures for Recommended Dismissal after first student concern:**

Given the severity of the behavioral concern (eg., incidences when criminal charges would be pressed, significant confidentiality breaches, or a social work license revoked), the Social Work Department may suggest immediate dismissal. Students who disagree with the recommendation for dismissal can follow the appeal procedures described later.

### **Second Identification of Student Concern:**

Once the Plan of Action Outcomes/Goals are met and the student and faculty agree, students will be able to end the Plan of Action. However, a student may be asked to develop their second and last Plan of Action under the following circumstances:

- 1) The student is not meeting the Plan of Action 1 Outcomes/Goals within the stated timeline and agrees to a second Plan of Action;

- 2) A second concern has been identified that warrants a Plan of Action and the student agrees to a second Plan of Action;
- 3) The student is not meeting the Plan of Action 1 and/or a second concern arises and the student does not agree there are concerns.
- 4) A second concern occurs that is severe and warrants a recommendation for dismissal from the major.

The same procedures described for the identification of the first student concerns apply here:

- 1) & 2) Students who agree there are concerns will develop a second Plan of Action with their faculty advisor.
- 3) If sufficient student progress is not made in the time that was set forth in the Plan of Action and the student denies there are concerns, the student will meet again with the Ad Hoc Committee to discuss consequences for not rectifying the concerns, including dismissal from the program.
- 4) Dismissal or voluntary withdrawal from the major will be discussed for severe concerns. (eg. incidences when criminal charges would be pressed, significant confidentiality breaches, or a social work license revoked).

### **Student Appeal of Decision for Plan of Action or for Dismissal**

Students may withdraw from the major voluntarily based on not being able to resolve the areas of concern. If students disagree with the Plan of Action and/or the recommendation for dismissal, they may request an appeal meeting with the Ad Hoc Committee. The student will be given 14 days from the date of receipt of the letter of written notification from the Chair to appeal a decision.

The student may bring witnesses in their own defense to that meeting. Students may not bring an attorney to represent them, and if they do so, the meeting will be cancelled and the student and attorney will be referred to the WSU counsel. The possibility to termination or extended probation for the student will be discussed at this time. The student is free to voluntarily resign from the program at any time.

All meetings/decisions should contain humanist values, with the understanding that the University is to balance the well-being of the student as well as future clients.

All student concern actions will fully comply with state and federal anti-discrimination laws and regulations.

Academic decisions or decisions of clinical insufficiency will be made in good faith by the members of the Ad Hoc Committee. The decision at this time may include recommendation for dismissal from the program. All decisions/proceedings will be documented, and all documentation will be signed by the student and members of the Ad Hoc Committee. This documentation will be presented as a suggested course of action to the Chair of Social Work. Upon receipt of the written recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee, the Chair of Social Work will consult with all social work faculty and with the Associate Dean for Students and Curriculum in the College of Liberal Arts. The decision including recommendations will be determined by the Department Chair. A letter detailing the decision made by the Chair will be sent to the student, ideally within two weeks but up to thirty days after the Chair's receipt of the Committee's recommendations.

If the student disagrees with the appeal hearing decision, the student may proceed with the College of Liberal Arts academic mediation process ([Policy and Procedure for Undergraduate Academic Mediation College of](#)

[Liberal Arts](#)). Students should begin their process and pay specific attention to Phase Four of the CoLA appeal protocol.

## **STUDENT RIGHTS**

Student records are handled according to the stipulations of the Family Educational and Privacy Act of 1974.

Students are permitted to inspect official records, files, and data directly related to them and may challenge the content of their records, to request correction or deletion of information which is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy of other rights of the students. For more detailed information, copies of the statutes and implementing regulations are available in the Social Work Office. Social work majors can review their files by contacting the Social Work Office at (937) 775-2751.

Other student rights are detailed in the [WSU Student Handbook](#).

## **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

Students are expected to follow NASW Code of Ethics regarding confidentiality and social media. Students will follow the policies of their agencies regarding social media usage. If a social media policy does not exist at an agency, student will at a minimum:

1. Not post any content on social media during practicum hours or while at the agency delivering services.
2. Students will not disclose the name of the agency.
3. Students will not post confidential or negative statements, about clients or the agency. (e.g. “my supervisor is a jerk” or “I hate it when clients no show. It wastes my time”.)

See field handbook and practicum seminar for additional details. Social media breaches will be taken seriously and may result in dismissal from practicum and the social work program.

# GETTING INVOLVED

## FACEBOOK

Follow the Social Work Department Facebook page at [wright.state.socialwork](https://www.facebook.com/wright.state.socialwork). We are continually posting upcoming events in the department, university, and social work community, as well as employment opportunities. You will also be reminded of important dates, such as applying for graduation.

## DESSERT WITH THE BSW DIRECTOR /FACULTY

Each semester all social work students are invited to Dessert with the BSW Director or faculty. This is your opportunity to discuss concerns, ideas, and general chat with the Social Work Department BSW Director or faculty and your fellow students. Announcements will be made via email and the Department of Social Work Facebook page.

## DEPARTMENT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

There are many ways you can become involved in decisions and activities of the Department.

There are student representatives who attend the Professional Advisory Council (PAC), meetings once a semester.

We encourage student involvement on Department Committees. Student Committee Members work with the faculty to address tasks such as developing procedures to assess our program or discussing the admissions process for the major.

The Social Work Alumni Society welcomes Student Representatives to be involved in the Alumni Society meetings and events.

If you are interested in being a Student Representative, or would like more information, please contact the Department BSW Director.

## SOCIAL WORK CLUB

The Social Work Club invites you to join. The club sponsors many events, from social related lectures and workshops to community service activities and social gatherings. The Social Work Club application is Appendix H. Copies are also available in the social work office.

## PHI ALPHA

The Department also houses the Phi Eta Chapter of Phi Alpha, a national social work student honor society.

Student members must be a social work major. An undergraduate member must:

1. Have completed a minimum of three required social work courses.
2. Have achieved an overall Grade Point Average of 3.00 and 3.25 in all social work courses.
3. Have achieved junior or senior standing.

4. Have demonstrated leadership ability, a high standard of personal behavior and a dedication to social work practice.

The Phi Alpha application is Appendix I. Copies are also available in the social work office.

## **ASSOCIATION OF BLACK SOCIAL WORKERS**

The National Association of Black Social Workers is comprised of people of African ancestry, and is committed to enhancing the quality of life and empowering people of African ancestry through advocacy, human services delivery, and research. The organization will make Wright State a better place by promoting social change + progression, and professional development. For more information: <https://orgsync.com/165242/chapter>

## **ANNUAL SENIOR RECOGNITION CEREMONY**

Each spring, the Social Work faculty, staff, and students celebrate the accomplishments, support, growth, and challenges of the past academic year.

This celebration is co-planned by the Social Work Club and the Social Work Department. Preparation for the event often begins as early as the Fall Semester. Please contact members of the Social Work Club to contribute your ideas.

## **OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARD**

Each year the faculty gives an award to the outstanding senior. This award does not necessarily go to a student with the highest grades. Rather, the following criteria are important:

1. Attitude as a learner.

Is the student an active, positive learner, willing to participate in classroom as well as out-of-classroom learning experiences? Do they contribute to the learning of others?

2. Performance in the practicum experience.

Does the student demonstrate the values and behaviors that indicate they will be a credit to the profession? Do they put client interests above their own? Do they strive to uphold the code of ethics?

3. Interpersonal relationships.

Does the student strive to treat all people with dignity-clients, fellow students, staff, faculty? Are they willing to take risks to improve their interpersonal skills? Can they approach disagreements as problem-solving opportunities rather than personality conflicts?

# ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### University Scholarships

You may be eligible for University Scholarships. For more information contact the Raider Connect or visit their website at [www.wright.edu/raider-connect](http://www.wright.edu/raider-connect).

### The Department of Social Work Annual Scholarships

The Social Work Department at Wright State University awards several scholarships annually ranging from \$250 to \$1000+ each. Any student wishing to be considered for one of these scholarships must submit a scholarship application form with the Department of Social Work. Check with the Department for application due dates.

#### The Ellen Wiedemann-Berger Memorial Award

This is the longest standing scholarship awarded in the Social Work Department. It was first established in 1980 by the parents of Ellen Wiedemann-Berger, an Assistant Professor of Social Work at Wright State University who was killed in an auto accident. The faculty of the social work department selects one student each year who highly exemplifies the integrity and values of social work. Students eligible for this scholarship must be a senior in Social Work.

#### Blazer Scholarship

The Blazer award was established in 1993 in honor of the late Richard Blazer, a Dayton area social worker. Special consideration is given to students under-represented in the major, such as minorities, non-traditional aged students, or students with disabilities. Applicants should demonstrate a financial need that impacts their ability to complete the social work requirements.

#### Social Work Scholarship

Funds for the Social Work award come from the General Campus Scholarship Campaign Fund. Special consideration is given to students under-represented in the major, such as minorities, non-traditional aged students, or students with disabilities. Applicants should demonstrate a financial need that impacts their ability to complete the social work requirements.

#### Gladys Turner Finney Scholarship

The Gladys Turner Finney Social Work Scholarship was established in 1998 to promote and support academic excellence in social work through supplementary aid to African American students with a minimum GPA of 2.75 majoring in social work at WSU.

#### Gentile Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded to social work majors who have shown leadership qualities in class and/or in volunteer work that address social work issues. The fund is intended to support students who may not be eligible for other academic scholarships or need based grants.

#### Lewis P Twill Scholarship

Students eligible for this scholarship must be a senior in Social Work. Students must also be a first generation college student and meet the current University definition of a student from a middle income family, or below, with preference going to those with documented financial need. Preference will be given to students pursuing a practicum in Social Justice or Child Welfare.

#### Debra Downing Social Work Scholarship

This fund supports Social Work majors with demonstrated financial need. Students must demonstrate a passion for social work through volunteer or paid experiences, and demonstrate how they have overcome difficulties or challenges in life.

#### Social Work Alumni Society Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded by the Social Work Alumni Society and is based on the academic performance and career goals of the applicants. Students must have a 3.0 GPA.

#### Greishop/Wissman Social Work Scholarship

This scholarship helps support a senior social work major with 1) demonstrated leadership and 2) completing a practicum with older adults or substance abuse.

### **CERTIFICATE IN GERONTOLOGY**

This program allows you to study in the area of aging and is an excellent way to use your electives if you are interested in work with older adults. It allows you to add specialization to your social work preparation. Please contact Dr. Hyejin Kim, [hyejin.kim@wright.edu](mailto:hyejin.kim@wright.edu) for more information.

### **CHILD WELFARE UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

This partial tuition reimbursement program provides students with the educational and field experience to become beginning level social workers in the career of child welfare. Students complete their senior field education in a public child welfare agency, attend two required courses on child welfare, and attend additional practicum seminars with the program coordinator. For more information on how to apply to this program contact Paula Long at (937) 775-3980 or [paula.long@wright.edu](mailto:paula.long@wright.edu).

### **HONORS PROGRAM**

The Department, through the University Honors Program, offers Departmental Honors. A formal, individual project is required in the major. For more details and the specific eligibility criteria, please see the department's academic advisor/chair. The Honors application is Appendix J.

### **CERTIFICATE IN NONPROFIT ADMINISTRATION**

WSU offers an undergraduate and graduate certificate in Nonprofit Administration that enables students to become a Certified Nonprofit Professional through the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance (NLA). More information can be found at <https://liberal-arts.wright.edu/urban-affairs-and-geography/programs/non-profit-administration-certificate>

### **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

There are several professional organizations that have opportunities for local participation:

1. The National Association of Social Workers.

Our largest professional organization has a state chapter as well as a Dayton program unit. There are opportunities for student participation, especially at the local program unit level. Join now to take advantage of the student membership fee. The NASW website is [www.naswdc.org](http://www.naswdc.org). Check the local chapter's website for notices of meetings and work opportunities [Region 7: Dayton Area - National Association of Social Workers Ohio Chapter](#). The Ohio NASW conference is held every fall.

2. The National Association of Black Social Workers.  
The NABSW offers opportunities for student involvement. There are many local members as well as regional and national conferences. The NABSW website is [www.nabsw.org](http://www.nabsw.org)
3. The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).  
CSWE holds an annual conference. There are also planned activities for students from all over the U.S. as well as volunteer activities in return for conference fee waivers. The CSWE website is [www.cswe.org](http://www.cswe.org)
4. The Association of Social Work Boards  
The Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) is the association of boards that regulate social work. ASWB develops and maintains the social work licensing examination used across the country, and is a central resource for information on the legal regulation of social work. Through the association, social work boards can share information and work together. ASWB is also available to help individual social workers and social work students with questions they may have about licensing and the social work examinations. To register to take the licensure exam or with any questions regarding the exam contact the ASWB at [www.aswb.org](http://www.aswb.org) or (800) 225-6880.

## WHAT'S NEXT AFTER MY BSW

### CENTER FOR LIBERAL ARTS STUDENT SUCCESS (CLASS)

CLASS offers these workforce development services to help you complete your degree and achieve success after college. They are located in 120 Millett Hall.

- personalized career advising
- Liberal Arts Student Career Success Series
- Experiential education/internships
- career related programs and events
- Liberal Arts liaison for all Wright State Career resources and services

### WRIGHT STATE CAREER CENTER

Be sure, before your senior year, to register with the WSU Career Center. As most job vacancies are sent directly to us by area social agencies, the Department of Social Work will post positions to the Social Work Student email listserve and Social Work Facebook page. Fellow students, because of their practicum experiences, know of upcoming jobs. Frequently, our alumni will also notify us. Overall, get involved! Attend Job Fairs, go to local conferences and workshops, frequent local meetings of NASW and join the Social Work Alumni Society. This is the best way to assess the upcoming job market.

The Wright State Career Center provides assistance with resume writing and job searches as well as orientation sessions on posting your resume on the web. Please call (937) 775-2556 for Monday through Thursday walk-in hours or visit their website at [Career Center | Wright State University](http://Career Center | Wright State University). The Career Center is located at E334 Student Union.

## **GRADUATE STUDY**

If you plan to get your Master's, start preparing early in your senior year. Research different schools on their websites. Find out if they require the GRE (Graduate Records Examination) and/or Miller's Analogies Test. Also, find out about Advanced Standing Programs (one year MSW program) that are opened to baccalaureate graduates who have completed a CSWE accredited social work program. Some schools also offer a part-time program and/or a weekend program.

Wright State University offers the Greater Miami Valley Joint MASW Program between Miami University of Ohio and Wright State University. Persons graduating with a MASW are eligible to become Licensed Social Workers (LSW) and Licensed Independent Social Workers (LISW) in the state of Ohio. More information on the Greater Miami Valley Joint MASW Program can be found on our website, [WSU MASW Program](#), or by contacting the MASW Program co-director, Dr. Shreya Bhandari, [shreya.bhandari@wright.edu](mailto:shreya.bhandari@wright.edu).

Consult with your advisor and the other faculty to provide letters of reference for employment and/or graduate school. We want to support your future ventures.

## **SOCIAL WORK LICENSING**

The Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage & Family Therapist Board ([www.cswmft.ohio.gov](http://www.cswmft.ohio.gov)) licenses Social Workers (LSW) and Independent Social Workers (LISW). The requirement for the LSW is a bachelor's or master's degree in Social Work from an accredited university and receiving a 70 or higher on the basic social work exam. Information about the exam can be found at the [Association of Social Work Boards](#).

## **SOCIAL WORK ALUMNI SOCIETY**

Social Work Alumni Society helps graduates stay connected to a professional network and WSU Department of Social Work. Activities include a monthly book club, continuing education trainings, and the annual wine tasting fundraiser for student scholarships. For more information please contact social work alumni president Barb Keferl at [bkeferl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bkeferl@sbcglobal.net).