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**MINNESOTA STATE  
UNIVERSITY**  
MANKATO

## **SOCIAL WORK** *College of Allied Health & Nursing*

### **WHAT DEGREE AND PROGRAM DO WE OFFER?**

The department offers a Bachelor of Science in Social Work (BSSW) degree that is fully accredited which makes the graduate eligible to test for social work licensure in Minnesota. The Department also offers a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree.

### **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS COMPLETING THIS PROGRAM**

Graduates are eligible to become licensed social work practitioners through the Minnesota Board of Social Work and are qualified for a wide range of jobs. Graduates work in many public and private social welfare agencies and organizations. They work with children, adults and the elderly providing direct social services, and they also work in government and agency administration and planning. Graduates are employed in county human service agencies, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, regional treatment centers, Head Start programs, community action agencies, advocacy organizations and planning agencies.

Employment prospects are very good. U.S. News and World Report lists social work as one of the strongest growth fields in the coming years. Our graduates are sought after. Over the next 10 years, labor market indicators predict above-average to high demand for baccalaureate-level social workers.

Many graduates go on to graduate studies where they earn an MSW which will qualify them for clinical and administrative positions with proportionately more responsibility and higher salaries.

### **OPPORTUNITIES: WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH THIS DEGREE?**

Earning the BSSW degree will not only make your employment in an interesting job more likely, it will make eventual graduate study easier. The usual MSW course is a two-year program; persons who hold an undergraduate social work degree are often exempted from the first year of the master's degree and can therefore earn their MSW with only one year of additional education.

### **EXAMINING THE QUALITY OF OUR PROGRAM**

#### **Accreditations**

The Department of Social Work at Minnesota State Mankato has been accredited for more than 40 years and was one of the first BSSW programs in the nation to be fully accredited. It has retained accreditation continuously since that time.

#### **Faculty**

All probationary and tenured faculty hold the MSW degree, and most have doctoral degrees and hold a license as a social worker. Full-time faculty perform the majority of the teaching. A few elective courses are taught by experienced master's level social workers.

#### **Faculty achievements and scholarly activity**

Faculty receive grants to conduct research, training, and program development activities. They publish and present at scholarly conferences locally and around the world. Our Social Work faculty are engaged in research and teaching in Germany, Ghana, Nigeria, Norway, and South Africa.

Faculty are also involved in research related to domestic violence, women's issues, forgiveness, health care, the role of licensure in advancing social work practice, collaborative relationships with other professionals, and empowering persons with disabilities.

#### **How do we perform on our exams vs others taking national exams?**

BSSW graduates perform very well on the standardized ASWB exam required for licensure. Our graduates consistently out-perform the national average pass rate for the exam.

### **STUDENT EXPERIENCE/PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Faculty/Student Ratio**

Within the group of those formally admitted to the major, the ratio is about 1:20.

#### **Cohorts**

Students are formally admitted to the BSSW program in their junior year and form a cohort for the final three semesters.

#### **Scholarships**

The Social Work program offers scholarships and stipends, including the Sandee Scholarship, which is awarded annually to a student

of minority background; Anderson New Social Worker and Leadership scholarships; child welfare stipends; and MSSA Region Nine. Other scholarships, not directed toward a specific group, are also available, funded by faculty and alumnae.

### Clubs

The Student Social Work Club and Phi Alpha Honor Society are very active on campus and earn local and state awards for their activities. Projects include community service activities and sponsoring trips to conferences such as the annual MSSA State Conference and the annual NASW Social Work Day at the Capitol in St. Paul.

### Study Abroad Opportunities

The department offers international study abroad opportunities in South Africa, Finland, and Northern Ireland.

### How does a student prepare for this program?

A broad general education foundation with special emphasis on subjects associated with the understanding of human behavior and the environment is offered for the potential social worker. Written and oral communication skills are very important, including language skills such as Spanish, Somali, and English Language Learners (ELL), and American Sign Language (ASL).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

### Department of Social Work

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Mankato, MN 56001

### Phone

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800-627-3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY)

### Email

social-work@mnsu.edu

### Website

ahn.mnsu.edu/academic-programs/social-work

You are encouraged to visit the campus.

To arrange for a visit, please call:  
Office of Admissions: 507-389-1822  
Toll-free: 800-722-0544

## SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR CURRICULUM (SOCIAL WORK, BSSW)

First Year (Fall)	First Year (Spring)
ENG 101 Composition (4) (Gen Ed 1a) SOWK Req. Gen. Ed. Social, Economic, & Political Perspectives (3) SOWK Req. Gen. Ed. Values, Ethics, & Critical Thinking (3) General Education Course (3-4) General Education Course (3-4)	SOWK 212 Introduction to Social Work (4) SOWK Req. Gen. Ed., Diversity & Social Justice A or B (3) General Education, Goal Area 1b (3-4) General Education, Goal Area 11 (1-3) Introduction to Psychology (4)
Second Year (Fall)	Second Year (Spring)
SOWK 215 Social Welfare Services (4) SOWK Req. Gen. Ed. Social, Economic, & Political Perspectives (3) SOWK Req GenEd #3 BIO 100 Our Natural World (4) <b>OR</b> BIO 102 Bio of Women (3) General Education Course (3-4) General Education Course (3-4)	SOWK 235 Human Development (3) SOWK Req GenEd STAT 154 Elementary Statistics (3) <b>OR</b> SOC 202 Introductory Social Statistics (3) (Gen Ed #4) SOWK Req. Gen. Ed., Psychology (4) General Education Course (3-4) <b>Complete &amp; Submit Application for SOWK 316, Prof Skill Development</b>
Third Year (Fall)	Third Year (Spring)
SOWK 310W Human Behavior in the Social Environment (4) SOWK 316 Professional Skill Development (4) General Education, Writing Intensive (3-4) Other Gen Ed, Elective or Minor Course (3-4) Other Gen Ed, Elective or Minor Course (3-4) <b>Complete and Submit Application for BSSW Program</b>	SOWK 441 Generalist Social Work Practice (4) SOWK 410 Social Welfare Policy (4) SOWK 4XX Elective (3) Other Elective or Minor Course (3-4) Other Elective or Minor Course (3-4)
Fourth Year (Fall)	Fourth Year (Spring)
SOWK 435 Applied Social Work Research (4) SOWK 443 Interviewing & Counseling Skills (4) SOWK 446 Organizational & Community Practice (4) Other Major Elective or Minor Course (3-4) <b>Complete and Submit Application for Senior Practicum</b>	SOWK 450 Integrative Seminar (4) SOWK 455 Social Work Practicum (8)

For additional information about course requirements, please visit [ahn.mnsu.edu/academic-programs/social-work](http://ahn.mnsu.edu/academic-programs/social-work)

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