

SUU SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

Bachelors of Social Work Program

Southern Utah University

Frequently Asked Questions



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Admissions/Applications

1. What social work/FLHD classes can I take if I am not a Social Work major, or before I am formally admitted/apply for the social work program?

SW 1010 Intro to Social Work and Social Welfare
SW 2100 Human Behavior in the Social Environment
FLHD 1500 Human Development Throughout the Lifespan
FLHD 4100 Family Problems and Solutions
FLHD 4250 Marital Problems and Solutions
FLHD 4350 Fostering Family, School, and Community Partnerships

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2. What classes are required before acceptance into the BSW Program?

Along with all required GE courses, there are three prerequisite courses that students are required to complete before formal admission to the Social Work Program. Those prerequisite courses are SW 1010 – Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare (Intro); Math 1040 – Statistical Inference, or Math 1031 – Statistical Reasoning; and ENGL 1010 – Intro to Academic Writing, or ENGL 2010 – Intermediate Writing.

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3. Do I have to take math 1040 or math 1031 before being admitted into the BSW Program?

Yes, Math 1040 – Statistical Inference, or Math 1031 – Statistical Reasoning is required before formal admittance into the BSW Program.

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4. Can I apply to the BSW Program in the Spring?

Yes, admittance for the Fall semester application is due February 1st.

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5. Is there a fee to apply for the BSW Program?

No, however, official transcripts are needed and your individual institutions typically charge a fee for transcripts to be sent to the university.

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6. Why should I apply to the BSW Program?

Students who complete a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) will be prepared to pass the Utah exam for the Social Service Workers license, which is required for many social services jobs. Students will have the skills, knowledge, and competencies to work with individuals and families in a variety of social service careers. They will also have the

foundational knowledge to be accepted into a Master of Social Work degree program that prepares students to be licensed as social workers and clinicians.

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7. When should I apply for the BSW Program?

Students apply during the semester when prerequisites will be completed.

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8. When is my BSW application due?

Admittance for Spring semester application due September 15th

Admittance for Fall semester application due February 1st

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9. After submitting my application, when will I know if I am accepted into the social work program?

Students submit their applications in the semester before desiring to be admitted and are notified regarding their admission status the month following their application due date regarding acceptance for the next semester.

Students are notified in writing and via email regarding their admission status at least 8 weeks prior to the start of the semester.

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10. How do I apply for the SUU BSW Program?

- a. Ensure you are eligible for the program
- b. Complete the application at the following link (<https://www.suu.edu/ed/flhd/bsw/>)

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11. How many times can I apply to the SUU BSW Program?

Students may not apply to the BSW program more than two times.

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12. Am I eligible to be admitted into the SUU Social Work Program?

In order to be admitted to (and remain in) the BSW program, students must:

1. Be currently admitted to SUU
2. Have a minimum of cumulative GPA of 3.0
3. Have completed
 - a. ENGL 1010 with a C+ grade or higher
 - b. ENGL 2010 with a C+ grade or higher

- c. SW 1010 with a B- grade or higher
- d. Math 1040 or 1031 with a C+ grade or higher
- e. All general education requirements (before beginning the program)

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Transfer Credits

1. Will my credits transfer?

The Social Work Program Director and FLHD Department Chair make final decisions about the evaluation of transfer credit for social work required classes. This is done in consultation with SUU Social Work Program Director and social work faculty who teach the same or similar course as the transfer course. Courses proposed for transfer credit for core SUU Social Work Program practice courses must have been taught in a social work program with Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accreditation and be equivalent to a course taught in the SUU Social Work Program.

All other courses proposed for transfer credit must have been taught at a regionally accredited institution of higher education, and must be equivalent to the course taught at SUU.

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Field Practicum

1. What is the purpose of field education?

The purpose of field education is for the social work student to practice application of theory and other classroom knowledge in the field under the direct supervision of a field instructor who is an experienced social worker while demonstrating proficiency in the CSWE Social Work Competencies in preparation for generalist practice and professional licensure as a social worker.

“Field education is the signature pedagogy of social work. The intent of field education is to integrate the theoretical and conceptual contribution of the classroom with the practical world of the practice setting. It is a basic precept of social work education that the two interrelated components of curriculum—classroom and field—are of equal importance within the curriculum, and each contributes to the development of the requisite competencies of professional practice. Field education is systematically designed, supervised, coordinated, and evaluated based on criteria by which students demonstrate the Social Work Competencies.” Council on Social Work Education

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2. How do I complete my field education if I am completing the online BSW program?

Students completing the online BSW program will work with their assigned field education faculty to identify potential practicum sites in their geographical area. Once a site(s) is (are) identified, the field education faculty will contact the site(s) to inquire about the site's ability to provide necessary experiences and supervision for online BSW students. Student placement will be secured once these steps have been completed and satisfied.

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3. Do field education and practicum/field practicum mean the same thing?

Yes, field education/practicum is the coursework that is completed in the field, or on the job, under the direct supervision of a practicing social worker.

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4. Do I have to apply for my field practicum?

Yes, students must apply for the program and field practicum placement in the Social Work major.

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5. How is my practicum placement determined?

Field education faculty will collaborate with practicum sites to place practicum students with practicum sites in a manner that will meet the needs of both students and practicum sites. Ideally, students will be matched with organizations and agencies that allow them to practice with individuals, families, groups, and communities in various ways.

Students are assigned to social services agencies by the Field Director, with consideration of the student's interests and learning needs, and the availability of field agencies.

To help match students to practicum sites, each year there will be two internship fairs that will give students the opportunity to find and present themselves to a suitable practicum site. Practicum site assignments will be based on student interest, agency/organization need, and availability of field instructor(s).

The Field Director makes field agency assignments with input from the student and field agency staff.

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6. When will I know where I will be completing my field practicum?

Field education faculty will collaborate with practicum sites in order to place students who have completed the form with practicum sites by the end of the Spring Semester for students beginning practicum during the Fall Semester.

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7. Can I do my field placement with all evening and/or weekend hours?

Most practicum placements will take place during business hours which are generally Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. There may be occasional opportunities for students to complete their hours during evenings and weekends. Students should not plan on this. Students completing practicum hours need to be available during business hours or whatever their assigned practicum hours are. The Practicum Application (Appendix A) includes space for students to indicate their preference for hours.

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8. If I dislike my field placement can I change placement sites?

The SUU Social Work Program adheres to the SUU Grievance Policy and will attempt to resolve any student grievances at the instructor, program, or department level as appropriate. If efforts to resolve students grievances are not successful at the department level, students pursue their grievances at the college or university level.

On occasion, students and/or field instructors may find that the placement is not an adequate fit for the student for a variety of reasons. If this happens, the SUU BSW Director of Field Education will work with the student and field instructor to resolve the issue(s) in order to practice conflict resolution within the workplace as well as avoid a disruption in field placement. Avoiding disruption of field placement is important within the field education experience in order to maintain continuity within the learning process. If this is not possible, students may be reassigned practicum sites by the Field Education Director.

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9. How do I enroll in SW 4891?

In order to be eligible for a social work practicum, students should have senior status and be eligible for SUU graduation at the end of the academic year and/or semester in which they complete Advanced Practicum.

Students will not be allowed to register for SW 4891, Beginning Practicum unless the Practicum/Program Application (Appendix A) is completed and turned in by the due date.

Enrollment in SW 4891 Beginning Practicum and SW 4892 Advanced Practicum will be with the field education director's approval only.

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10. Do I have to pay for my background check?

Students will follow the policies of their field placement site in regards to a background check which will be paid for by the SUU Department of Family Life and Human Development as long as it is completed with the SUU Campus Police Department. If the student is unable to complete their background check with the SUU Campus Police Department, they will be required to pay for their background check.

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11. When does my background check need to be completed?

The background check does not need to be completed until a student is matched with field placement. At that time, students will follow the policies of their field placement site in regards to a background check.

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12. Will my practicum site change from SW 4891 to SW 4892?

Practicum placements will remain the same for both SW 4891 and SW 4892 unless an unresolvable issue between practicum student and practicum site arises at which time student and field education faculty shall follow the process for a change in placement as outlined in the field education manual.

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13. I am already employed at a social work agency, can I complete my practicum there?

The purpose of field education is to practice a baccalaureate level of practice. A student completing their practicum at their current place of employment is discouraged in order to 1) ensure baccalaureate level of practice is being completed and 2) encourage the student to diversify their experience. Exceptions to this *may* be made by assigned field education faculty if the practicum experience is separate from the student's current work duties and is under the direct supervision of a field instructor who meets the criteria for a field instructor as outlined in this practicum manual. Additionally, a student's field instructor must be a different person than their employment supervisor.

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14. If I exceed my hours can I discontinue my placement early?

No, an important part of the experiential learning process happens over time. Because of the evolving experiences, situations, circumstances, and cases, learning will be far more impactful if it is done over the course of the semester(s) as opposed to condensing all hours into a few weeks. The goal is to gain practice working as a professional not simply to log hours in the field. Practicum students are expected to be at their practicum site 16 hours per week throughout the duration of the semester. Banking hours is not permitted. This means that, as a general practice, a student is not allowed to work 32 hours one week and 8 hours for the following 2 weeks.

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15. What happens during school breaks and other holidays?

If a student's normally scheduled workday falls on a holiday or other day in which their field placement site is closed (including snow days), the student is expected to make those hours up within a 2 week period of when the holiday/day off falls - either before or after missing regularly scheduled hours.

Semester Breaks: For practicums that are completed during the course of an academic year, for liability purposes, students are not able to work during the semester break when they are not currently enrolled in a course. The exception to this is if they are in a paid practicum placement and their hosting agency/organization is providing liability insurance for them. If this is the case, students may not count these hours towards their practicum.

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16. Who is my field instructor?

The field instructor is an on-site instructor who is an employee of the practicum site who is responsible for weekly supervision of the BSW student. The field instructor is responsible for preparing and submitting end of term evaluations for student performance in the field.

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17. How many internship hours are required?

Beginning Field Practicum: 238 hours

Advanced Field Practicum: 238 hours

Total Practicum hours: 476

The field experience entails completion of 476 clock hours at the field agency, weekly attendance at a seminar on campus, and enrollment in related, concurrent classes.

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18. Is there a minimum number of hours I need to work each week?

Yes, students must complete 16 hours per week at their site with an additional 1 hour weekly for practicum seminars during both the Fall and Spring semesters. Students who complete practicum during the summer semester will complete 32 hours per week at their site with an additional 2 hours of practicum seminar weekly.

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19. How is field practicum graded?

Students will not receive a letter grade for the Practicum I and II courses; they are pass/fail courses. Students must earn a minimum of 85% in the courses to pass.

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20. Can I complete my practicum during the summer semester?

Yes, students who complete their practicum during summer semester will complete 32 hours per week at their site with an additional 2 hours of practicum seminar weekly.

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21. Am I eligible for BSW field practicum?

In order to be eligible for a social work practicum, students should have senior status and be eligible for SUU graduation at the end of the academic year and/or semester in which they complete Advanced Practicum. They must have completed the following courses with a “B” or better *before beginning* their field education: SW 2100, 3200, 3300, 3370, and 4500.

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Graduation

1. How many credits do I need to graduate?

Completion of a minimum of 120-semester credits, 40 of which must be upper-division.

Please note: All students must complete a minimum of 30 credits between the Core and Knowledge Area requirements.

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2. What are the graduation requirements?

1. Completion of a minimum of 120-semester credits, 40 of which must be upper-division.

2. Overall grade point average of 3.0 or above.

3. Residency hours -- minimum of 30 credit hours through course attendance at SUU, with at least 10 credit hours earned in the last 45 credit hours.

4. Cumulative GPA of a 3.0 B or better and at least a *B-* in SW 1010; *B-* in SW 3100, SW 3200, SW 3300, SW 4891, and SW 4892; *C* in remaining major courses. Major requirements may *not* be taken on a pass/fail basis.

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3. How do I get my Social Service Worker (SSW) license and what does that mean?

To become licensed in Utah, prospective social workers must take the required Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) licensing exam prior to submitting an application to the Board. SSW candidates must apply through the ASWB for permission to take the [ASWB Bachelor's exam](#). The \$230 (as of January 2019) exam is designed to test the candidate's knowledge of general social work practice through 170 multiple-choice questions. You may be able to request permission to take this exam when you are in the final semester of your program; contact the ASWB for more information.

After passing the ASWB Bachelor's exam, SSW candidates must submit an application to the Board. You can complete the application [online](#) or mail in a completed [SSW application form](#). In addition to paying the \$85 application fee (as of January 2019), you must submit your official ASWB exam score, a transcript (if you completed the exam prior to finishing your degree), and a form documenting your supervised experience (if applicable).

Once you have satisfied the above requirements, the Board will grant your SSW license. After this, you can practice general social work under supervision in Utah.

For more information about licensing in Utah and other states, go to: [Social Work Licensing Requirements](#)

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4. What careers can a BSW get?

Social work careers are as varied as the populations and communities who benefit from the knowledge, skills, and expertise of the people who dedicate their work lives to helping others overcome life's challenges.

While a master's degree may be required for advanced clinical practice, your bachelor's degree can help you pursue licensure in your state or start your generalist social work practice. Licensure may not be required in all states to practice at the BSW level, as licensure requirements vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Please check with your local licensing/certification board for details.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, your BSW can help you qualify for administrative and caseworker roles in direct-service and nonclinical settings. Or, it can set you up to pursue further education — and, in some cases, finish your graduate degree more quickly.

Put your BSW to work in a variety of settings, including:

- Schools and children's services
- Hospitals, clinics, and assisted living facilities
- State and local governments
- Nonprofit organizations
- Substance abuse facilities
- Correctional facilities

- Military locations and VA offices
- Private practice and individual/family services
- In-home/virtual care

Career opportunities for BSW grads include:

- General social worker
- Behavioral management aide
- Child, family, and school social worker
- Healthcare social worker
- Social or human services manager
- Mental health/substance abuse social worker
- Community outreach worker
- Case manager/case worker
- Probation officer
- Correctional treatment specialist
- Youth advocate/counselor

For more information go to: Maryville.edu

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5. Will I be an LCSW when I graduate?

The Social Service Worker (SSW) requires a bachelor's degree, and with a BSW from an accredited program (or from a program in candidacy), students may take the exam during their last semester in the program, rather than having to wait for a year, and fulfill the supervision requirements. The Certified Social Worker (CSW) and Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) both require an MSW from an accredited program (or from a program in candidacy). For more information go to: <http://www.dopl.utah.gov/>.

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Advising/Mentoring

1. How do I schedule an appointment with my social work advisor?

To schedule an appointment with the Social Work advisor, call the Family Life and Human Development Department.

Phone: (435) 865-8320

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2. Who is my professional mentor and how are they different from my advisor?

Each student will be provided career advising/mentoring by social work SUU faculty and be oriented to open office hours so that they can meet with faculty for further professional or academic support. Professional mentoring includes discussing career goals, graduate

school opportunities, providing letters of reference, and consulting about employment opportunities. Academic advising addresses issues such as course sequencing, meeting course requirements, selecting electives, and improving academic performance.

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General

1. How do I contact the BSW Field Education Director or Program Director?

Program Director E-mail: bradsimpson@suu.edu

Program Director Phone: (435) 586-7803

Director of Field Education E-mail: marenhirschi@suu.edu

Director of Field Education Phone: (435) 865-8125

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2. If I want to major in social work, what classes should I take in my first year?

During their first semester at SUU students will enroll in:

- SW 1010 Intro to Social Work and Social Welfare
- NFS 1020 Scientific Foundations of Human Nutrition
- ENGL 1010 Intro to Academic Writing
- FLHD 1500 Human Development Throughout the Lifespan

During their second semester at SUU students will enroll in:

- Humanities
- American Institutions
- ENGL 2010 Intermediate Writing

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3. What is generalist practice in social work?

Generalist practice means social workers are prepared to work with individuals, families, groups, communities, and systems within the environment.

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4. Why should I major in social work?

Social work impacts all parts of our lives. It is a very noble profession that is geared toward helping those who are often the most neglected of society. Social work seeks to ennoble the disenfranchised through educating individuals who are professional, ethical, and highly skilled.

The BSW Program subscribes to the mission statement of social profession as adopted by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) (2008),

The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human wellbeing and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. A historic and defining feature of social work is the profession's focus on individual well-being in a social context and the well-being of society. Fundamental to social work is attention to the environmental forces that create, contribute to, and address problems in living. Social workers promote social justice and social change with and on behalf of clients. Social workers are sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity and strive to end discrimination, oppression, poverty, and other forms of social injustice.

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5. Does SUU have a good social work program?

The SUU BSW program is a challenging program. In this program you will have many opportunities to engage in service, be steeped in scholarship, and become a talented professional through experiential learning. This program is uniquely positioned to prepare you in an experiential way. BSW graduates from Southern Utah University are prepared for careers in child and adult protective services, schools, mental health settings, women's shelters, nursing homes, hospitals, treatment centers and other agencies that serve people in need. You also will be ready for graduate school if you choose to pursue a higher-level degree.

The SUU Social Work Mission:

The Social Work program at Southern Utah University prepares generalist Social Work professionals through experiential learning, high-impact practices, and attention to the dignity and worth of each individual. Graduates will lead locally, nationally, and globally by serving others with integrity, standing for social and economic justice, human rights, and human relationships. Their ability to integrate evidence-based practices and research applicable to individuals, families, communities, and groups will create lasting practice-based evidence and outcomes for generations.

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6. What is the length of study for the BSW Program?

Four years (8 semesters)

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7. Is there an online option for the BSW Program?

Some classes in the program will be offered online. In the future, we may have an online option. The date for this is TBA

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8. When do I have to declare social work as my major?

Students may declare pre-social work as their major at any time. Students will be able to declare their major as social work after they have applied and been accepted to the program.

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9. Are there scholarships available to BSW students?

Currently, they are outside sources where you may find some social work scholarships. Over time we hope to grow this option.

For more scholarship information go to: <https://www.suu.edu/finaid/>

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10. What can I do with a degree in social work?

BSW graduates from Southern Utah University are prepared for careers in child and adult protective services, schools, mental health settings, women's shelters, nursing homes, hospitals, treatment centers and other agencies that serve people in need.

When you pursue a social work career, you can find yourself uniquely positioned to make an immediate and much-needed impact. With your BSW, you can help serve those in need, regardless of and with consideration of age, class, color, culture, disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, marital status, political ideology, race, religion/spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status.

According to the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), there's a chronic shortage of qualified social work professionals in the United States that disproportionately affects rural populations. This comes as the need for social workers is on the rise. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the number of careers in the field is projected to grow by 16% between 2016 and 2026, with some specialties growing even more quickly.

That means there's plenty of opportunity for people who seek a rewarding career in almost any setting. Whether you practice in a city or rural community, you can pursue work in hospitals, schools, military settings, and correctional facilities, just to name a few. Earn your BSW and begin making a positive difference for individuals and communities. We can help you get there.

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11. How will I manage classes, field placement, my job, and life in general?

There is no doubt that good time management is critical as well as utilizing the support of family, friends, peers, and campus resources to help you manage what can be a very stressful year. The FLHD and BSW advisors and practicum coordinators are here to help you. Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us.

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12. What is the Social Work Student Organization?

Participating in the Social Work Society is an excellent way to meet others interested in social work, share resources, and make a difference in others' lives. You do not need to be a social work major to participate but do need to be a social work major to participate in the leadership of the society. The social work society meets together regularly during the semester to address issues such as navigating the social work program, planning for graduate school, learning about different areas of social work practice, providing service, and networking with others. The society also provides an opportunity to organize and address policy changes in the SUU Social Work Program.

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Accreditation/Candidacy

1. What does it mean when a program is in candidacy?

a. Candidacy indicates that the social work program has made progress toward meeting criteria for the program quality assessment as evaluated via a peer review process. A program that has attained Candidacy has demonstrated a commitment to meeting the compliance standards set by the Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS), but has not yet demonstrated full compliance.

b. Students who enter programs that attain Candidacy in or before the academic year in which they begin their program of study will be retroactively recognized as having graduated from a CSWE-accredited program as long as the program attains Initial Accreditation. Candidacy is typically a three (3) year process and attaining Candidacy does not guarantee that a program will eventually attain Initial Accreditation. Candidacy applies to all program sites (i.e., locations) and delivery methods of the program. Accreditation provides reasonable assurance about the quality of the program and the competence of students graduating from the program.

c. Programs in candidacy are issued a retroactive accreditation date which goes into effect once the program gains Initial Accreditation. This date is the academic year in which the program was granted candidacy status. For example, if a program was granted candidacy status in the academic year of 2020-2021, any student entering the program in the fall of 2020 and beyond will be considered to have graduated from an accredited social work program so long as the program receives its eventual Initial Accreditation.

d. Read more about the Candidacy process in the Candidacy section of the EPAS Handbook housed on the CSWE website.

e. To understand how candidacy status will affect you as a student, contact your social work program director and/or a member of the accreditation team. Contact information for social work programs is located in the Directory of Accredited Programs.

For more information go to: [\(CSWE, COA, DOSWA Accreditation FAQ\)](#)

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2. What does it mean when a program is pre-candidacy?

Pre-Candidacy indicates that the social work program has submitted an application to be reviewed for Candidacy. A program that has attained Pre-Candidacy has not yet been reviewed by the Commission on Accreditation (COA) or been verified to be in compliance with the Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS).

Students who enter the program while it is still in Pre-Candidacy will not be recognized as attending a program in Candidacy unless the program attains Candidacy in the academic year in which those students enter. The Candidacy Process is typically a three (3)-year process and there is no guarantee that a program in Pre-Candidacy will eventually attain Candidacy or Initial Accreditation. Students who enter programs that attain candidacy in or before the academic year in which they begin their program of study will be retroactively recognized as having graduated from a CSWE-accredited program as long as the program attains Initial Accreditation. Pre-Candidacy applies to all program sites (i.e., locations) and delivery methods of the program. Accreditation provides reasonable assurance about the quality of the program and the competence of students graduating from the program.

For more information go to: [\(CSWE, COA, DOSWA Accreditation FAQ\)](#)

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3. How do I know if my social work program is accredited?

A comprehensive list of accredited and candidacy programs is housed in the Directory of Accredited Programs on the CSWE website.

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4. Where can I find trustworthy accreditation information?

CSWE's Department of Social Work Accreditation (DOSWA) is the only trusted, verified, and accurate source of accreditation information.

The accreditation team has worked diligently to clarify and provide disclaimers that accreditation-related information not published or provided directly by the accreditation team or COA is not vetted by nor officially endorsed.

This includes any information shared by CSWE members, faculty, administrators, consultants, and vendors in shared academic spaces, such as CSWE's Annual Program Meeting (APM).

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5. Is SUU's BSW Program accredited?

Southern Utah University's Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) is currently in Candidacy for Accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education's Commission on Accreditation (CSWE).

Candidacy by the CSWE indicates that a baccalaureate or master's social work program has submitted an application to be reviewed and has successfully advanced to the next step. A program that has attained Candidacy has been reviewed by the CSWE's Commission on Accreditation or been verified to be in compliance with the Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards. The CSWE publicly discloses whether programs have currently attained Candidacy Status (see the [CSWE Directory of Accredited Programs](#)).

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6. What does candidacy mean for social work students?

Students who enter the program while it is still in Candidacy will be recognized as attending an accredited program when that program achieves initial accreditation. The Candidacy Process typically takes three years to complete, and there is no guarantee that a program in Candidacy will eventually attain initial Accreditation.

Students who enter programs that attain Candidacy in or before the academic year in which they begin their program of study will be retroactively recognized as having graduated for a CSWE-accredited program once the program attains initial Accreditation. Candidacy by the CSWE's Commission on Accreditation applies to all sites and delivery methods of an accredited program. Accreditation provides reasonable assurance about the quality of the program and the competence of its graduates.

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