Why Study Social Work?

The study of social work prepares students to become professional social workers by helping them develop the knowledge, values and skills essential to competent social work practice. The study of social work gives students the opportunity to work with individuals through internships with local agencies to test what they have learned in the classroom and to identify where they need additional educational experience.

"My social work education at the University of Memphis answered the 'why' questions and prepared me to empower my clients to make needed changes. It inspired me to embrace the vulnerable populations within my community, while also providing me with the tools I needed to advocate for social justice. My experience at the University of Memphis continues to guide my practice today."

–Loretta Beard *(Class of 2010)*

Contact Info:

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The University of Memphis, a Tennessee Board of Regents institution, is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action University. It is committed to education of a non-racially identifiable student body.
UOM 229-FY1213/5C

Bachelor of Arts
Social Work Program

It's more than a major.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS®

Dreamers. Thinkers. Doers.

About the B.A. in Social Work

The Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Social Work degree program offers students a professional foundation based in the ethical code and competencies of the social work profession. The program curriculum provides students with an understanding of the purpose, history and values of the profession as it prepares them to become entry-level social workers for "generalist" practice. This focus of study is directed toward understanding a variety of problems that negatively impact peoples' well-being, and developing meaningful interventions in interactions with a range of client systems – individuals, families, groups, organizations and other community settings.

Students who complete the undergraduate curriculum of the Department of Social Work earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work that is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

Degree Requirements

The student must complete 120 undergraduate hours of study. This requirement is met by completing coursework that fulfills the requirements of various aspects of a liberal arts education.

Social work major course content includes:

- Human Behavior and the Social Environment
- Social Policy
- Research
- Social Work Practice
- Cultural Competence
- Field Placement (a field internship of 460 clock hours with a social service agency)

For detailed information regarding course requirements, please visit the Social Work website at *http://www.memphis.edu/socialwork* and click on "Academic Programs."

Collaboration with DCS

Students interested in working in the field of child welfare in the state of Tennessee are encouraged to apply for the BSW stipend program, which is administered by the Department of Children's Services (DCS). You are eligible to apply for this program if:

- You are a social work major with just 3 to 4 semesters of undergraduate coursework remaining for the completion of your degree.
- You desire to work for the Department of Children's Services upon completion of your degree.
- You are able to complete your field placement during daytime working hours.
- You take two additional Child Welfare courses.

Learn more about the program and application process by contacting the Department of Children's Services at *http://www.tn.gov/youth/training/TitleIV-E/bsw_overview.shtml.*

Make a Difference

The Student Social Work Organization (SSWO) coordinates fundraising events, organizes volunteer activities, hosts special events with guest speakers, and sponsors social activities of interest to students. For more information visit *http://memphistigersswo.weebly.com.*

NASW Student Membership

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) offers a discounted full membership to social work students. NASW is a great resource for students to develop their professional career and gain access to social work information and resources. For more information visit *www.socialworkers.org.*

Social Justice

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 (NASW Code of Ethics, 2008).

Why Study Social Work?

"The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs of those who are vulnerable, oppressed and living in poverty."

– National Association of Social Workers (2012)

The study of social work prepares you for a career in a strong growth area. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of social workers is expected to increase 25 percent from 2010 to 2020. The median annual salary for social workers was $42,480 in 2010, with the top 10 percent earning more than $70,390.

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Master of Social Work Program

Social workers change futures.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS®

Dreamers. Thinkers. Doers.

"I would not have missed the opportunity to pursue my MSW at the U of M for anything. My hands-on experience has taught me how important social work is to the community and how I am a part of something greater than myself. I will be able to make a difference in someone else's life because of my education on advocacy, policy and the truth of social injustice, and how it impacts others."

— Rachel Duerr, *MSW Graduate Student*

About the MSW Program

The Department of Social Work offers a program of study leading to the Master of Social Work (MSW) degree. The Department of Social Work is dedicated to:

- Educating social workers with knowledge, values and skills for evidence-based practice with children and families.
- Advancing the knowledge base of the social work profession.
- Providing regional leadership in the development and implementation of policies, programs and services for at-risk populations, particularly children and families.

Council on Social Work Education

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) is the accrediting body for social work programs. The University of Memphis MSW program is in candidacy for accreditation, with full accreditation anticipated for February 2014.

Three Study Options

Full-time study
(4 semesters of study; 60 credit hours)

Extended study
(6 - 8 semesters of study; 60 credit hours)

Advanced Standing
(3 semesters of study; 37 credit hours)*

Students in the full-time and extended-study options complete the same courses regardless of program of study and follow the same learning expectations for field education.

**Advanced standing is an accelerated program for students who have a BA in social work, a minimum GPA of 3.0 overall and 3.3 in social work courses. Advanced standing is anticipated Summer 2013, and is pending approval by the Tennessee Board of Regents.*

Course Content

- Human Behavior in the Social Environment
- Cultural Competency
- Social Work Practice
- Research
- Social Welfare Policy
- Advanced Practice with Children and Families

Admission Requirements

- A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university is required.
- An undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 or better (A = 4.0) is strongly preferred.
- Experience in social work (paid or volunteer) is strongly preferred.

How to Apply

Submit to U of M Graduate School Admissions:

- A complete Graduate School Application (may be completed online at *http://www.memphis.edu/gradschool/admproc.php*)
- Non-refundable fee ($35 domestic, $60 international)
- Official transcripts from ALL universities you have attended
- Official graduate record (GRE) score (TOEFL if applicable)

Submit to U of M Department of Social Work:

- Completed Master of Social Work Application (must be completed online via the "Apply Now" button on the Department of Social Work website)
- Three letters of reference on letterhead or using the social work form (1 from a faculty member, 2 from supervisors or from volunteer work)
- Completed professional goal statement (submitted as part of the online MSW application)

Deadlines

Scholarship/Assistantship Deadline: **March 1st**

Regular Admission Deadline: **April 15th**

The MSW Program accepts new full-time and extended study students in the fall. Advanced Standing students are accepted in the summer.