



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)

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BACHELOR OF ARTS SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM



It's more than a major.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS

College of Arts & Sciences



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).

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).

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 Online Catalogs website at catalog.memphis.edu and click on “Undergraduate Catalog.”

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Graduate Organization of Social Work (GO!SW) coordinates fundraising events, organizes volunteer activities, hosts special events with guest speakers, and sponsors social activities of interest to students. For more information visit memphis.edu/socialwork/graduate/go-sw.php.

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 socialworkers.org.

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 www.tn.gov/youth/training/TitleIV-E/bsw_overview.shtml.