

# DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

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## What is Social Work?

The historic mission of social work has been to help people who are disadvantaged. Today, social workers assist people from all walks of life with all kinds of problems in all kinds of settings. They help people cope with complex interpersonal and social problems and assist in obtaining resources for people. A Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) provides you the education and training you need to begin a career helping those who need it most.

The primary purpose of the social work program is to prepare students for beginning generalist social work practice. The social work program requires both liberal arts and professional foundation courses. The major provides beginning generalist social workers with a specific body of professional knowledge, values, and skills to practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Professional content includes social work values and ethics, diversity, populations-at-risk, promotion of social and economic justice, human behavior and the social environment, social welfare policy and services, social work practice, research, and field practicum.

Individuals wanting to complete a social work degree will initially be considered pre-social work majors. Every pre-social work major must meet with the director of social work prior to applying for the program. Pre-social work majors must have completed 60 credit hours of coursework, including SOCW 260 Introduction to Social Work and be enrolled in SOCW 380 Generalist Practice: Foundations of Practice, before making formal application to the program. The student must earn a grade of "C" or better in each social work course, a 2.75 or better grade point average (GPA) in the major, and an overall cumulative GPA of at least 2.30.

The Social Work Program at Fort Hays State University is accredited at the baccalaureate level by the Council on Social Work Education.

In accord with the Council on Social Work Education's evaluative standards, the Social Work Program does not grant academic credit for life experience or previous work experience.

## Department of Social Work Faculty & Staff

*See department page online for full listing*