What Is Social Work?

According to the International Federation of Social Workers “The social work profession promotes social change, problem solving in human relationships and the empowerment and liberation of people to enhance well-being. Utilizing theories of human behavior and social systems, social work intervenes at the points where people interact with their environments. Principles of human rights and social justice are fundamental to social work.”

Social Work is the professional activity of helping individuals, families, couples, groups, communities and/or organizations improve, strengthen, and enhance functioning; to empower people and the environments and systems with which they interact. The BSW provides a professional foundation for students. This foundation allow for employment in a variety of settings, populations, and problem areas (National Association of Social Work).

What Careers Exist In Social Work?

Social work offers a broad range of opportunities and settings including:
- administration/management
- advocacy
- child welfare
- community organization
- criminal justice/corrections
- developmental disabilities
- drug and alcohol
- gerontology
- health care
- mental health
- policy
- research
- school social work

Course Offerings:

Courses currently offered comply with the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE) mandated curriculum for a BSW program applying for accreditation. Courses include Ethnicity, Diversity and Cultural Awareness; Human Behavior and the Social Environment; Social Policy; Social Work Practice; Research, and a Field Education internship.

General Description of the Program:

West Liberty University currently offers a BSW degree program and a minor in Social Work.

What types of students might be interested in such a program?

Common characteristics for social workers include flexibility, concern for people, patience, ability to express ideas, resourcefulness, and emotional and physical energy. Social work is an excellent career choice for people who care about human dignity and social justice.

Distinctive features of the program:

A wide range of courses including an internship offers students the knowledge, values, and skills necessary for success in the field of social work. West Liberty has begun the process of accreditation for our Social Work Program with the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). This status will allow students to graduate with a BSW (Bachelor of Social Work) degree. Accreditation is recognition that the social work program complies with nationally recognized standards. An accredited BSW degree is required for employment in most states and for advanced standing acceptance into MSW programs. Graduating with a BSW also allows a student to sit for licensure in many states, including West Virginia.

For more information:
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**SAMPLE CURRICULUM**

**BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK**

**Social Work Core Required Courses** ............................................ 63
- ECON 101 Principles of Macroeconomics
- PSYC 101 Intro to Psychology
- SOC 150 Basic Concepts of Sociology
- SWK 200 Introduction to Social Work
- SWK 201 Ethnicity, Diversity and Cultural Awareness
- POLS 201 American Government
- EDUC 201 Human Development
- SS 250 Statistics in the Social and Behavioral Sciences
- SWK 300 Social Welfare Policies and Services
- SWK 304 Growth and Personal Awareness
- SWK 306 Counseling Theories
- SWK 310 Social Work Research Methods
- SWK 400 Social Work Practice I
- SWK 401 Social Work Practice II
- SWK 402 Social Work Practice III
- SWK 416 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I
- SWK 417 Human Behavior and the Social Environment II
- SWK 480 Social Work Field Placement (9 cr)
- SWK 484 Social Work Field Placement Seminar

**Restricted Electives** ................................................................. 12
Must be approved by advisor

**Electives to total** ................................................................. 128 credit hours

**MINOR IN SOCIAL WORK**

**Required Courses** ..................................................................... 15
- SWK 200 Introduction to Social Work
- SWK 201 Ethnicity, Diversity, and Cultural Awareness
- SWK 300 Social Welfare Policies and Services
- SWK 304 Growth and Personal Awareness
- SWK 400 Social Work Practice I

Minimum grade of "C" required in ENG 101 and 102 and COM 101.
Overall GPA of 2.0 required.
Minimum of 128 cr required for graduation. At least 40 of these must be upper level (300 or 400).