

# DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

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**Administrative Assistant:** Ms. Nancy Hall, Ms. Tanasha Driver

**Faculty:** Dr. Matthew Corrigan, Department Chair; Dr. Dawn Apgar, BSW Program Director; Professor Mary Landriau, BSW Practicum Director; Professor Christine Heer, MSW Program Director; Dr. La'Tesha Sampson, MPA Director and MSW Practicum Director; Dr. Jared Best; Dr. Amy Gladstone; Dr. Adam Kuczynski; Dr. Widian Nicola; Dr. Anthony Nicotera; Dr. Juan Rios

The Department of Social Work and Public Administration houses an undergraduate major – the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (B.S.W.) (<https://www.shu.edu/academics/ba-social-work.html>), a graduate degree in Social Work the Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) (<https://www.shu.edu/academics/msw-social-work.html>), and a graduate degree in Public Administration the Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.). The Department also contributes to several minors, certificates and dual-degree programs within the realm of social science. All programs are designed to provide students with the knowledge areas and skill sets to analyze, critically evaluate and understand global and domestic concerns and how to apply that knowledge to ameliorate and prevent social problems. The Department places strong emphasis on social change, human diversity, cross-cultural awareness, social justice and service.

The Social Work programs at Seton Hall University are dedicated to excellence in the education of professional social workers at the bachelor's and master's level and serves as an exemplar and model for the University's mission pertaining to servant leadership. The programs are committed to student-centeredness and active community engagement in the pursuit of social and economic justice. Therefore, the mission of the programs is to serve the needs of society by preparing professionals who are competent in social work methodology and practice using an evidence-based framework that is grounded on the values and principles of the profession. Both the BSW and MSW programs are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The MSW program is ranked as a Best Graduate Program for Social Work by U.S. News & World Report

The Public Administration program serves students interested in careers in the public and nonprofit sectors. Also ranked as a Best Graduate Program for nonprofit management by U.S. News & World Report, the program is accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA). As part of that process, our New Jersey based department goes through a rigorous self-study process where every aspect of the program is critically examined.

## Major

- Social Work Major (B.A.) (<http://catalogue.shu.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/department-of-social-work/social-work-major-ba/>)

## Minor

- Nonprofit Studies Minor (<http://catalogue.shu.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/department-of-social-work/nonprofit-studies-minor/>)

- Social Work Minor (<http://catalogue.shu.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/department-of-social-work/social-work-minor/>)

## Certificate

- Interdisciplinary Certificate in Gerontology (<http://catalogue.shu.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/department-of-social-work/interdisciplinary-certificate-gerontology/>)
- Social Work Policy and Justice Certificate (<http://catalogue.shu.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/department-of-social-work/social-work-policy-justice-certificate/>)

## Accelerated and Dual Degree

- /graduate/college-arts-sciences/department-political-science-public-affairs/ba-political-sciencesociologyreligion-master-public-administration/ (<http://catalogue.shu.edu/graduate/college-arts-sciences/department-political-science-public-affairs/ba-political-sciencesociologyreligion-master-public-administration/>)

### SOWK 1111 Introduction to Social Work (3 Credits)

Introduces components of generalist social work practice including social work fields of practice, special (at risk) populations, the value of human diversity, issues of poverty and oppression, and the values and ethics of the profession.

### SOWK 1191 Independent Study in Social Work (1 Credit)

Individualized and guided study in social work. Covers a variety of topics and can include fieldwork, community service and research. Prerequisite: permission of program director.

### SOWK 1193 Independent Study in Social Work (3 Credits)

Individualized and guided study in social work. Covers a variety of topics and can include fieldwork, community service and research. Prerequisite: permission of program director.

### SOWK 1311 Children and Youth in Society (3 Credits)

Overview of principal supportive, supplementary and substitutive child and youth welfare services: family and child guidance, social insurance, public assistance, education and employment, day care, protective services, adoption, institutional care and advocacy. This course is required for social work majors who have been accepted into the Baccalaureate Child Welfare Education (BCWE) Program.

### SOWK 1314 Social Work and Law (3 Credits)

Examines the interaction of the disciplines of law and social work, as well as interactions between lawyers and social workers and the relationships of ethics and law.

### SOWK 1333 Current Issues and Trends (3 Credits)

Examines selected issues and trends in social work practice. Areas selected for study vary each semester as need and demand indicate.

### SOWK 1335 Family Violence (3 Credits)

Examines the causes, manifestations, preventive strategies, and interventions applicable to the inappropriate use of force between and among persons known to each other, including acquaintance rape; spouse battering; child, adolescent and elder abuse.

### SOWK 1911 Introduction to Gerontology (3 Credits)

Overview of the basic facts about aging and aging processes, including demography, biology, psychology, sociology and policy analysis.

**SOWK 1912 Psycho-Soc Aspects of Aging (3 Credits)**

Examination of the person/situation of older adults, focusing on factors contributing to behavioral stability and change over time. Emphasis on traits, self-concepts, and lifestyles; the roles of older adults; and the relationship of both person/situation to successful aging.

**SOWK 2201 Social Prob and Programs (3 Credits)**

Introduces students to the nature and extent of social problems and governmental and not-for-profit programs that attempt to ameliorate, prevent, or eliminate these problems.

**SOWK 2311 Child Welfare Policy-Practice (3 Credits)****SOWK 2312 Trauma-Informed Social Wk Prac (3 Credits)**

Over the last 20 years, there has been increasing recognition of the role that psychological trauma plays in a wide range of health, mental health, and social problems. Trauma includes a wide range of situations where people are physically threatened, hurt or violated, or when they witness others in these situations. This course explores the nature and experience of traumatic events including but not limited to child abuse, intimate partner violence, grief and loss, homicide, suicide, campus violence, and race-based trauma. Historical perspectives, neurobiology, and various theories will be explored. Multiple assessment tools will be examined. Various examples of interventions and therapeutic techniques will be examined for their usefulness in working with survivors of trauma. The concepts of vicarious trauma and self-care will also be taught in order to prepare students to effectively work with trauma survivors.

**SOWK 2314 Social Work and the Law (3 Credits)****SOWK 2327 Organizing Grassroots Communities (3 Credits)**

Methods of organizing Black communities to alter the responsiveness of institutions, assume control of them, or replace them. Heavy emphasis on the theories of power, politics and community control along with practical examples.

**SOWK 2333 Current Issues-Trend Social Wk (3 Credits)****SOWK 2334 Social Wrk Approach Race Bias (3 Credits)**

This course explores the complexities of racism in America: the construction of racial and ethnic categories, the impact of racism and discrimination on individuals and social institutions, and the influence of ideology and oppressive policies and practices on social welfare systems and their clients. Students learn about forms and patterns of social and economic injustice based on race and ethnicity that impact American social systems at individual and, particularly, institutional levels. Students develop conceptual frameworks and social work practice approaches necessary to fulfill their professional responsibility to combat social ills and to work to dismantle racism and bias.

**SOWK 2335 Family Violence (3 Credits)****SOWK 2653 Substance Abuse Asmnt-Interven (3 Credits)**

This course provides an introduction to the recognition, assessment, and intervention with persons who abuse substances. Topics explored in the course will include: theories of chemical dependency; models of substance abuse therapy; and the comparison of selected models of intervention and prevention. This is an elective course for majors and minors. It counts for three credits toward the minor and can be used as one of two required electives for social work majors.

**Prerequisites:** SOWK 1111

**SOWK 2911 Soc Wrk & Cath Stud Internshp (3 Credits)****SOWK 2912 Psycho-Soc Aspects of Aging (3 Credits)****SOWK 2980 Gender & Sexualities in Social Work (3 Credits)****SOWK 2990 Disability Studies Soc Work (3 Credits)****SOWK 3201 Social Problems and Programs (3 Credits)**

This course introduces students to the nature and extent of social problems and governmental and not-for-profit programs that attempt to ameliorate, prevent, or eliminate these problems. This course is designed to further inform students of the history and operation of social welfare programs as responses to social problems. The course focuses on history within the contexts of politics, economics, and social values at respective points in time, up to the present. This course focuses upon learning about understanding social justice; advocacy for human rights; and advancing social and economic justice by means of learning about social welfare programs as a response to social problems.

**Prerequisites:** SOWK 1111

**SOWK 3301 Social Policy Analysis (3 Credits)**

**Prerequisites:** SOWK 1111

**SOWK 3335 Ethics in Social Work Practice (3 Credits)**

Social workers frequently face ethical issues and dilemmas requiring ethical decisions-making across practice settings. This course will help students acquire the knowledge needed to identify ethical issues in social work and the skills necessary to resolve these ethical dilemmas. It will also increase their capacity to make ethical decisions consistent with social work's values based, code of ethics, and laws relating to clients, colleagues, employers, the profession, and society. 3 credits.

**SOWK 3336 Global Justice: Integrating CST Worldwide (3 Credits)**

Amidst the ongoing global realities of social and political polarization, racial reckoning, and health and environmental crises, what does it mean to work for justice? How can Catholic Social Thought (CST) and social work core values help foster the building of a more global, just beloved community? The See, Reflect, Act Circle of Insight paradigm, inspired by CST core principles, provides the framework for the exploration of global justice at the intersection of CST and core social work values, including: a belief in the inherent dignity of all persons; solidarity; self-determination; subsidiarity; service; centering those most vulnerable; and working for social justice. A case study approach is utilized to examine stories of individuals and communities motivated by CST and social work principles in their work to promote and practice justice globally. Case studies examined include the work and insights of: social workers and Nobel Peace Laureates Jane Addams and Jody Williams; international social worker and Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh, a Vietnamese Buddhist monk nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; the Polish Solidarity movement; social worker and Secretary of Labor in the FDR administration, Frances Perkins; Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker Movement; Martyr and Saint from El Salvador, Oscar Romero; Mairead Maguire, Nobel Peace Laureate from Northern Ireland; and Fathers Phil and Dan Berrigan and the Catonsville 9, who used napalm to burn draft files in protest of the Vietnam War, inviting nations to beat swords into ploughshares. The course invites deeper understanding of the intersection and confluence of CST and core social work values. It also explores creative tensions at this intersection. Finally, it invites constructive, creative, faith-inspired application of these values and principles in the fierce urgency of now.

**SOWK 3511 Behavior and Environments (3 Credits)**

Intensive elaboration of the life course with emphasis on the interactive effects of economic, physical, social, and technological environments (the ecological perspective) on the growth and development of individuals and families. There is emphasis on the interactive effect of these environmental variables. Social work majors only. Prerequisites: BIOL 1101, PSYC 1101, SOCI 1101, SOWK 1111.

**Prerequisites:** SOWK 1111

**SOWK 3512 Behavior and Environments II (3 Credits)**

Intensive elaboration of the life course with emphasis on the interactive effects of economic, physical, social, and technological environments (the ecological perspective) on the growth and development of individuals and families. There is emphasis on the interactive effect of these environmental variables. Social work majors only.

**Prerequisites:** SOWK 1111

**SOWK 3611 Theory and Practice I (3 Credits)**

Introduces and furthers comprehension and application of ethical caring, self-awareness, respect, effective communication and resource mobilization. Social work majors only. Prerequisite: SOWK 1111. Corequisite: SOWK 3811.

**Prerequisites:** SOWK 1111

**SOWK 3811 Junior Practicum (3 Credits)**

Introductory field work experience for students planning a career in social work. Students maintain written records and learn under professional supervision at social agencies for 84 hours paced over the semester, plus a minimum of three, one-hour in-class meetings with the Director of Field Education over the semester. Social work majors only. Corequisite: SOWK 3611.

**Prerequisites:** SOWK 1111

**SOWK 3910 Research Methods Social Work (3 Credits)**

**Prerequisites:** MATH 1203 and SOWK 1111

**SOWK 4800 Senior Practicum I (3 Credits)****SOWK 4801 Senior Practicum III (3 Credits)****SOWK 4811 Senior Practicum I (6 Credits)**

First of a two semester sequence that is the signature pedagogy of the program and designed for students to gain competency in the aforementioned list of competencies. Under professional supervision, students function in a social work agency to gain beginning level generalist social work competencies. An internship of approximately 200 hours is to be completed during this fall semester learning experience. This course also includes periodic meetings with students as a group in class and with the Director of Field Education. Prerequisites: Formal admission to the social work program. The admission process takes place over the spring semester of the junior year and is explicated in the Program Handbook, and implemented by the program under the leadership of the Director of Field Education. Corequisite: 4911.

**Prerequisites:** SOWK 3611 (may be taken concurrently) and SOWK 3811 (may be taken concurrently)

**SOWK 4812 Senior Practicum II (6 Credits)**

Second of a two-semester sequence. Under professional supervision, students function in a social work agency to gain beginning-level generalist social work competencies. Includes various student reports and periodic class/group meetings with the Director of Field Education. Total number of practicum hours for the SOWK 4811-4812 sequence is 400. Prerequisites: SOWK 4811, 4911. Corequisites: SOWK 4912, 5111.

**Prerequisites:** SOWK 4811 and SOWK 4911

**SOWK 4911 Theory and Practice II (3 Credits)**

Consists of the first of two theory and practice methodology courses designed to help students develop the competencies required for ethical, effective and compassionate generalist professional practice. Prepares students for micro/mezzo practice with individuals, families, small groups, organizations and communities. Emphasizes problem solving, strengths, cultural competence, best practices, and evidence-based practice.

**SOWK 4912 Theory and Practice III (3 Credits)**

Develops the competencies required for ethical, effective and compassionate generalist professional practice. Prepares students for professional mezzo and macro practice to serve individuals, families and large groups, organizations, communities, and society at large. Emphasizes problem solving, strengths, cultural competence, best practices, and evidence-based practice.

**Prerequisites:** SOWK 4811 and SOWK 4911

**SOWK 5111 Senior Research Seminar (3 Credits)**

Consists of a capstone learning experience designed to help social work students integrate their beginning preparation for professional practice and/or graduate school and to explore major issues confronting the profession and society today. The course focuses on specific areas of interest identified by participants with the guidance of the instructor. Through a written research requirement, student presentations, group discussions, community observations and guest lectures, the selected areas of interest will be integrated with the strengths perspective especially in needs assessment, with the fullness of cultural competency, in evidence-based/research-based best practice.

**Prerequisites:** SOWK 4812 (may be taken concurrently) and SOWK 4912 (may be taken concurrently)