Social Work, B.A.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University’s Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.

Admission to the major in social work is selective. The four-year graduation plan applies only to students who are admitted by the beginning of their fifth semester.

Before the fifth semester begins: four courses in the major and admission to the major.

Before the seventh semester begins: five more courses in the major and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

Before the eighth semester begins: five more courses in the major and finalized field placement.

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining coursework in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

Social Work, B.A.

Course | Title | Hours
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Academic Career
Any Semester
Students apply to the Social Work BA program through a selective process. Acceptance is not guaranteed. 

Students must maintain a GPA of at least 2.00 in all UI courses and a GPA of at least 3.00 in social work courses for the major.

First Year
Fall
SSW:1022 | Social Justice and Social Welfare in the United States | 3
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200 | Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature | 3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion | 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course | 4 - 5
CSI:1600 | Success at Iowa | 2

Hours | 15-17

Spring
BIOL:1140 | Human Biology: Nonmajors | 4
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200 | Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature | 3 - 4
SOC:1010 | Introduction to Sociology | 3 - 4

GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course | 4 - 5
Elective course | 2 - 3

Second Year
Fall
PSY:1001 | Elementary Psychology | 3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues | 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course | 4 - 5
Elective course | 3
Elective course | 3

Hours | 16-20

Spring
POLI:1100 | Introduction to American Politics | 3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab | 3
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning | 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course | 4 - 5
Elective course | 3
Admission Application: Students apply to the BA program through a selective process. Applications are only accepted once a year in the spring semester. See Social Work Interest advisor or department website for more information.

Hours | 16-17

Third Year
Any Semester

The curriculum shown in the third and fourth years on this plan begins upon acceptance into the School of Social Work.

Hours | 0

Fall
SSW:3840 | Human Behavior in the Social Environment | 4
SSW:3847 | Discrimination, Oppression, and Diversity | 3
Major: social work elective course (prefix SSW) | 3
Major: social work elective course | 3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives | 3

Hours | 16

Spring
SSW:3844 | Introduction to Social Work Research | 4
SSW:3845 | Social Work Processes | 4
Major: social work elective course (prefix SSW) | 3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts | 3
Elective course | 1

Hours | 15

Fourth Year
Fall
SSW:3841 | Fundamentals of Social Work Practice | 3
SSW:3842 | Interpersonal Skills Laboratory | 2
SSW:4843 | Social Welfare Policy and Practice | 3
Major: social work elective course | 3
Elective course | 3
Elective course | 1
Field experience planning (attend meeting, interview, match with agency)

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**Spring**

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Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)

**Total Hours**

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**a** The Academic Advising Center and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences advise Social Work Interest students on prerequisite course planning. Students are advised for success, based on academic strength, not necessarily for a four-year plan. Prerequisites may take more than two years to complete.

**b** Students must complete SSW:1022 to be admitted to the major and before enrolling in the remaining social work required major courses. Students may take this course in any semester, but must have completed the course before admission is finalized. It is recommended that it be taken in the first three semesters. Students may alternatively enroll in SSW:2222 Introduction to Social Work, but it does not fulfill a General Education requirement.

**c** Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.

**d** GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.

**e** Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.

**f** Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

**g** Students are expected to apply to the major in their sophomore year. Juniors are permitted to apply and if they do so, it is with the expectation that at least one additional summer session of coursework will be necessary to complete all of the requirements of the major, due, in part, to the sequencing of social work courses.

**h** Students must take two elective courses in social work (6 s.h.).

**i** Students must take an additional two courses (6 s.h.) of electives. They may take the two courses as additional social work electives, or they may take two courses in a related discipline (i.e., psychology, sociology, political science, anthropology, or gender, women's, and sexuality studies).

**j** Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Graduation Services.