Social Work

Director
• Mercedes E. Bern-Klug

Director, Bachelor of Arts Program
• Carolyn Hartley

Director, Master of Social Work Program
• Carol A. Coohey

Director, Doctor of Philosophy Program
• Megan E. Gilster

Undergraduate major: social work (B.A.)
Undergraduate minor: social work
Graduate degrees: M.S.W.; Ph.D. in social work
Faculty: https://socialwork.uiowa.edu/people
Website: https://socialwork.uiowa.edu/

The School of Social Work’s mission is to develop, disseminate, and integrate excellent and compelling research-based knowledge, practice, and policy, particularly that related to children, families, and older adults. The school operates from strengths-based perspectives and systems perspectives. It educates its graduates to be culturally competent scholars and practitioners who are committed to social justice and social work values and ethics, and who are prepared to serve in and have a positive impact on a broad range of family-centered and community-based practice settings throughout the State of Iowa and beyond.

The school provides a program of professional training accredited by the Council on Social Work Education at the baccalaureate and master’s degree levels, aimed at developing effective intervention in multiple systems and using professional social work values and ethics. It also offers a Ph.D. program, which prepares students to conduct research that contributes to the knowledge base of social work, to be leaders in setting policy and practice, and to teach in colleges and universities. In addition, the School of Social Work administers the programs listed below.

Minor and Certificates

Aging and Longevity Studies
The School of Social Work administers the graduate certificate and the undergraduate minor and certificate in the Aging and Longevity Studies Program; see Aging and Longevity Studies in the Catalog.

Critical Cultural Competence
The School of Social Work administers the undergraduate certificate program in critical cultural competence; see the Certificate in Critical Cultural Competence in the Catalog.

Resilience and Trauma-Informed Perspectives
The undergraduate certificate program in resilience and trauma-informed perspectives is administered by the School of Social Work; see the Certificate in Resilience and Trauma-Informed Perspectives in the Catalog.

Projects, Seminars
Students may become involved in special projects such as the National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and the School of Social Work’s programs in gerontology and in end-of-life care.

The school also offers students the opportunity to participate in travel/study seminars.

Continuing Education
Nondegree students may enroll in selected courses. Students who complete continuing education work and later enroll in a degree program may be able to apply a limited amount of their continuing education work toward their degree requirements; applicable credit is determined by the School of Social Work.