

Kansas State Polytechnic: College of Technology and Aviation

Social Work

Overview

Social workers assist people of all races, socioeconomic statuses and varying abilities on a wide range of issues in a large number of settings. They use a basis of knowledge, professional values and ethics, and skills to build partnerships with people – helping them face challenges, build resources and build social justices in their environments and society.

Professional options

Careers

Social work is a challenging profession that offers a wide range of career options to match an individual's interests and passions. The specific job description can vary from case management and searching out resources, to behavior management, to counseling, but social workers use the same education base to serve people, providing the ability to move between work settings to serve different populations.

Employers

Social workers are employed in a variety of settings, including hospitals, schools, mental health centers, foster care and adoption agencies, child protective services, nursing homes and adult protective services.

Job experience

Four classes provide opportunities for students to not only learn about these skills, but practice them under supervision. This practice, combined with field practicum, means that graduates are well prepared to step into a job immediately.

Field practicum occurs in the final semester of the social work major. It involves working almost full time (480 hours throughout the semester) in a social work agency under close instruction of a licensed social worker. The practicum provides hands-on experience with clients and full participation with the team of professionals

Points of pride

Kansas State University's undergraduate social work program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

in the agency.

Oversight/liaison supervision is provided by the school practicum coordinator and agency field practicum instructor. Collaborating agencies range in size, client population, focus and location. Students are matched with an agency based on learning needs, compatibility with the field instructor, student desires and availability. The full range of types of agencies is usually available for practicum placements.

While in practicum, students are concurrently enrolled in a Social Work Professional Seminar, which facilitates the integration of classroom knowledge and field experience. Hearing about experiences of peers placed in other settings broadens students' perspectives..

Academics

The classes in the social work major provide the knowledge, values and ethics, and skills that are needed for working in the profession. An emphasis is placed on practicing and developing competence in the skills used to work with people.

Graduates are recognized as holding a generalist or beginning level degree and are eligible to apply for a social work license in Kansas and other states that license bachelor's-level social workers. Graduate school builds on the foundation of the undergraduate degree, allowing the social worker to be in more specialized positions.

Accreditation

K-State's undergraduate social work program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

Admissions

Incoming students apply to the university using the general admission and scholarship application.

Students wishing to declare a major in social work may enroll directly in the curriculum titled SOCWK. A formal admissions process takes place after the student completes the pre-practice sequence, SOCWK 100, SOCWK 200, SOCWK 315, SOCWK 510

Formal evaluation occurs prior to admission to SOCWK 560 Social Work Practice I, taken during the junior year. At that time each student completes a personal statement and undergoes a formal review of academic and classroom performance by the program admissions committee. Students must have a 2.5 overall GPA and a 3.0 GPA in the core courses. Students successfully passing this review may enter the first course in the practice sequence, SOCWK 560.

Required coursework

Social Work, bachelor's degree

(120 credit hours)

In addition to 47 hours of major courses and 19 hours of tool and related courses, students earning a B.S. degree in social work must meet the requirements of K-State 8 (general education) and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Communications (8-9 credit hours)

2	COMM 105	Public Speaking IA
	or	
3	COMM 106	Public Speaking I
3	ENGL 100	Expository Writing I
3	ENGL 200	Expository Writing II

Humanities electives (12 credit hours)

Philosophy (3 credit hours)

3	PHILO 390	Business Ethics
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Western Heritage (3 credit hours)

3	HIST 320	History of Technology
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Literary or Rhetorical Arts (3 credit hours)

3	ENGL 251	Introduction to Literature
3	ENGL 325	Literature and Technology

Fine arts (3 credit hours)

3	COT 150	The Humanities Through the Arts
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Natural science (14 credit hours)

Life science (4 credit hours)

4 BIOL 198 Principles of Biology

Physical science (4 credit hours)

3 CHM 110 General Chemistry
1 CHM 111 General Chemistry Laboratory
3 GEOL 100 Earth in Action
1 GEOL 103 Geology Laboratory
4 PHYS 113 General Physics I

Additional Life or Physical Science

(3 credit hours)

Either life or physical science

(3 credit hours)

One course with a prerequisite in the same department

3 BIOL 397 Topics in Biology: Ecology

Quantitative and abstract formal reasoning (3 credit hours)

3 MATH 100 College Algebra

Social science (15 credit hours)

3 ANTH 200 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
3 ECON 110 Principles of Macroeconomics
or
3 ECON 120 Principles of Microeconomics
3 POLSC 110 Introduction to Political Science
or
3 POLSC 115 US Politics
3 PSYCH 110 General Psychology
3 SOCIO 211 Introduction to Sociology

Professional studies (47 credit hours)

3 SOCWK 100 Social Work: The Helping Profession
3 SOCWK 200 Basic Skills for Working with People
3 SOCWK 315 Human Behavior in the Social Environment I
3 SOCWK 330 Social Work Research Methods and Analysis I
3 SOCWK 510 Social Welfare as a Social Institution
3 SOCWK 530 Social Work Research Methods and Analysis II
2 SOCWK 550 Field Practicum Preparation
3 SOCWK 560 Social Work Practice I
3 SOCWK 561 Social Work Practice II
10 SOCWK 562 Field Experience
2 SOCWK 564 Social Work Professional Seminar
3 SOCWK 565 Social Policy
3 SOCWK 568 Macro Practice and Theory
3 SOCWK 570 Social Work with Groups

Unrestricted electives (20-21 credit hours)

For more information about the social work program, contact:

Kansas State Polytechnic
Office of Admissions
2310 Centennial Road
Salina, KS 67401-8196
785-826-2640
polytechnic@k-state.edu

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KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

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Post-Graduation Statistics
k-state.edu/postgrad-stats
ksdegrestats.org

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