**College of Public Service & Urban Affairs**

**Tennessee State University**

**3500 John A. Merritt Boulevard**

**Nashville, Tennessee 37209-1561**

**Social Work Program**

**Department of Sociology, Social Work & Urban Professions**

Dear Prospective Student:

We would like to welcome you to the Tennessee State University Social Work Program and appreciate your interest in completing the Bachelor of Science in Social Work (BSSW) degree program. Attached please find catalog information and a suggested four year plan. I would encourage you to go to the program’s website at [www.tnstate.edu/socialwork](http://www.tnstate.edu/socialwork).

Please contact the office for more information by phone at 615-963-7641.

“Think ∙ Work ∙ Serve”

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER M/F

Department of Sociology, Social Work and Urban Professions

Social Work Program  
310 Jane E. Elliott Hall   
(Women’s Building)  
Telephone No. 615-963-7641 (Social Work)

Faculty: D. Butler, N. Cantey, W. DeBerry, R. Moore, M. Wright

**General Statement**: The Social Work Program offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work.

**Social Work Program Rationale**: Tennessee State University has a service-mix area that includes approximately 1.1 million people, including all ethnicities, races and socioeconomic groups. The Nashville metropolitan area, including a small rural population requires a variety of social service agencies to serve this population. Additionally, Tennessee State University‘s student body and faculty originate from the United States and more than fifty countries. The Social Work Program is needed to provide leadership and to produce a reservoir of Social Work professionals who can serve diverse populations in Nashville, Middle Tennessee, the State of Tennessee, and the nation.

**Mission**: The Social Work Program prepares students for professional social work practice, leadership, and service in an urban setting. The Bachelor of Social Work program promotes social and economic justice, the application of cultural competence, scholarly inquiry, and lifelong learning.

**The Goals of the Social Work Program are to**: 1. Prepare students for professional entry level generalist social work practice to effectively meet the human needs of individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities in Metro Nashville. 2. Provide students with an understanding of the dynamics and consequences of human oppression and discrimination, and with strategies to promote social and economic justice. 3. Prepare students to be committed to lifelong learning and continued personal and professional growth, and to provide leadership in the development of the profession and the service delivery system. 4. Provide students with the content about the social environment of social work practice, the changing nature of this context, and the behavior of organizations, and the change process. 5. Infuse throughout the curriculum the values and ethics that guide professional social workers in their practice. 6. Provide to students of diverse social, economic, racial and cultural backgrounds the opportunity to become professional social workers.

**Program Performance Outcomes**: (1) Create and maintain a culture of collaboration with strategies to promote social and economic justice among faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community stakeholders; (2)Promote efficiency and effectiveness in resource acquisition and utilization; (3)Create and maintain an environment of professional development among faculty and staff with diverse skills, disciplines, and worldviews; (4)Support and model strategies to promote social and economic justice addressing the dynamics and consequences of human oppression and discrimination;(5)Provide opportunity to students of diverse social, economic, racial, and cultural backgrounds to become professional social workers; (6)Provide students with theory-based instructional content about the human behavior in the social environment, social work practice methods of assessment and intervention, and the diverse levels and contexts of practice; (7)Provide students with theory-based instructional content about the behavior, contexts, and change processes in organizations and communities;(8)Infuse throughout the curriculum the values and ethics that guide professional social workers in their practice;(9)Prepare students for professional entry-level generalist social work practice to effectively meet the human needs of individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities in Metro Nashville;(10)Prepare students to be committed to life-long learning and continued personal and professional growth and to provide leadership in the development of the social work profession and the service delivery system.

Student Learning Outcomes:(1)Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly; (2) Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice; (3) Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments; (4)Engage diversity and difference in practice; (5) Advance human rights and social and economic justice; (6) Engage in research informed practice and practice-informed research; (7) Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment; (8) Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services; (9) Respond to contexts that shape practice; (10) Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

The baccalaureate Social Work Program is the only public program in Nashville, Tennessee that prepares students for entry-level professional practice. It also prepares students for acquiring registration, certification, and licensure in social work.

**Career Opportunities**: Career opportunities include employment at the professional entry-level in social work positions in public and private agencies in the following areas: human services, public health, mental health, mental retardation, corrections, social services in hospitals and nursing homes, senior citizen centers, state and county social services agencies, public housing, adult protective services, child protective services, school social work, planned parenthood centers, and as resident managers and probation and parole officers.

**Accreditation**: The Social Work Program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the national accrediting agency to the profession. The Program has been accredited since 1974.

**Admission and Exit Requirements**: Students who wish to gain admission to the Social Work Program must meet the university admission policy, complete the university general education requirements, submit an application to be reviewed by the advisor,

and earn a cumulative grade point average of 2.3 (4.0 scale) on college-level coursework. After the review of the formal application, the faculty advisor conducts an interview. The interview serves as the primary tool for exploration of student‘s knowledge of the profession of social work, motivation for selecting social work as a major, prior work or volunteer experiences, and future career goals. The advisor then meets with the faculty to decide on admission of student. Without formal admission to the program, students are not considered to be Social Work majors. Students who do not meet the quality point average requirement or who have failed courses in the general education area may be asked to reapply for admission at a later date, or may be admitted on a provisional basis. No academic credit is given for life experience or prior work experience. These procedures are all in addition to the procedures for upper-level admission outlined below.

Transfer Students and Transfer Credit: Credits in Social Work earned at other higher education institutions are accepted toward the Social Work degree at Tennessee State University on the same basis as work taken at TSU, provided the courses are of the same content and quality.

**Departmental Requirements 120 Semester Hours**

**For Bachelor of Science**

**Social Work**

A student must complete a minimum of 120 semester hours to receive a degree. A minimum of 60 of the semester hours must be in courses on the 3000 and 4000 level. A minimum of 45 semester hours is required in social work courses, 15 related liberal arts semester courses, 42 semester hours of general education courses, and 18 hours of other lower division required courses.

**General Education Core**

Communications (9 hours)

ENGL 1010, 1020 Freshman English I, II 6

(minimum grade of C in each)

COMM 2200 Public Speaking 3

Humanities and/or Fine Arts (9 hours)

ENGL 2013 Black Arts and Literature 3

ENGL 2023 Black Literature: Short Story and Novel 3

ART or Music 1010 Art Appreciation, or Music Appreciation 3

Social and Behavioral Science (6 hours)

PSYC 2010 General Psychology I 3

SOCI 2010 Introduction to Sociology 3

History (6 hours)

HIST 2010 American History I 3

HIST 2020 American History II 3

Natural Science (8 hours)

BIOL 1010/1011 Introductory Biology I and lab 4

BIOL 1020/1021 Introductory Biology II and lab 4

Mathematics (3 hours)

MATH 1110 College Algebra I 3

Orientation (1 hour)

ASOR 1002 Orientation for Social Science Majors 1

Total General Education Hours 42

Other Course Requirements:

ECON 2010 Principles of Economics I 3

POLI 2010 American National Government 3

PHIL 1030 Introduction to Philosophy:

Contemporary Moral Issues 3

RELS 2010 Introduction to Religious Studies (Hum Elective) 3

Free Electives 6

**Upper-division Admission**

For admission into the upper-division program of the Social Work major, students must complete all of the requirements listed above under General Education Core and Other Course Requirements. In addition, they must have removed all high school deficiencies, satisfactorily completed all required remedial/ developmental courses, and earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.3 on college-level coursework.

**Professional Curriculum**

In the professional phase of the Social Work Program, students must complete a minimum of 45 semester hours of Social Work courses, and 15 hours of related liberal arts perspective courses. Social Work majors must earn at least a C grade in the required social work courses. Students who earn less than a C grade must repeat them until they earn a C grade. Enrollment in Social Work courses 3300, 3350, 3400, 3450, 3500, 4601, 4800, 4850, 4100, 4200 and 4900 is limited to Social Work majors only:

SOWK 2010 Introduction to Social Work 2

SOWK 2100 Social Work Interviewing Skills 3

SOWK 3300 Human Behavior and the Social

Environment I 3

SOWK 3350 Human Behavior and the Social

Environment II 3

SOWK 3400 Social Welfare Policy 3

SOWK 3450 Social Welfare Policy Analysis 3

SOWK 3500 Social Work Practice I 3

SOWK 4601 Social Work Practice II 3

SOWK 4800 Social Work Research I 3

SOWK 4850 Social Work Research II 2

SOWK 4100 Field Education 8

SOWK 4200 Field Education Seminar 3

SOWK 4900 Senior Seminar in Social Work 1

SOWK 3000/4000 Social Work Electives 5

SOCI 3000 Social Statistics 3

SOCI 3600 The Family 3

PSYC 3510 Developmental Psychology 3

POLI 4200 Legislative Process 3

ENGL 3101 Technical Report Writing – SW 3

To fulfill the need for more exposure in social welfare agencies, all students are required to have a participatory observation experience prior to field placement. During the sophomore year, all Social Work majors observe and participate in two social services agencies for a minimum of 30 clock hours. In the junior year, students complete two written agency profiles. Students participating in a regular volunteer program may use that experience in lieu of the observation and participation. Both requirements must be met prior to being admitted to field instruction program.

Students must spend a minimum of 400 clock hours (1 semester) in a field placement in an approved social service agencies and organizations, while registered for SOWK 4100 Field Education. This experience provides students with an opportunity to apply theory to actual practice under supervision and guidance of a qualified practitioner. Students are evaluated on the basis of their growth and development in relation to the program‘s formal educational outcomes. Students must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.3 and must have earned the grade of C or better in SOWK 2010, 2100, 3300, 3350, 3400, 3450, 3500, 4601, and 4800, and SOCI 3000, before being admitted to Field Education. No academic credit is given for life experience or prior work experience. Only Social Work majors are admitted to the field education program

**Bachelor of Science Degree In Social Work**

**Suggested Four-Year Plan**

**FRESHMAN YEAR**

**FALL SEMESTER HR SPRING SEMESTER HR**

ENGL 1010 3 ENGL 1020 3

HIST 2010 3 HIST 2020 3

BIOL 1010, 1011 4 BIOL 1020, 1021 4

MATH 1110 3 ART or MUSC 1010 3

SOCI 2010 3 POLI 2010 3

ASOR 1002 1 16

17

### SOPHOMORE YEAR

**FALL SEMESTER HR SPRING SEMESTER HR**

SOWK 2010 2 SOWK 2100 3

ENGL 2013 3 ENGL 2023 3

ECON 2010 3 PHIL 1030 3

COMM 2200 3 HUM Elective 3

PSYC 2010 3 Free Elective 3

Free Elective 3 15

17

# JUNIOR YEAR

**FALL SEMESTER HR SPRING SEMESTER HR**

SOWK 3300 3 SOWK 3350 3

SOWK 3400 3 SOWK 3450 3

SOCI 3600 3 SOWK 3500 3

PSYC 3510 3 ENGL 3107 3

POLI 4200 3 SOWK Elective 2 or 3

15 (3000/4000 Level) 14/15

**SENIOR YEAR**

**FALL SEMESTER HR SPRING SEMESTER HR**

SOCI 3000 3 SOWK 4100 8

SOWK 4601 3 SOWK 4200 3

SOWK 4800 3 SOWK 4850 2

SOWK Elective, 3 SOWK 4900 1

(3000/4000 Level) 12 14

Course Descriptions

Social Work (SW)

Course marked with an asterisk (\*) are required for Social Work majors. Courses marked with an M are limited to Social Work majors.

\*SOWK 2010 Introduction to Social Work (2). Introduction to the generalist perspective of social work practice and the profession of Social Work. This course will help students develop a more authentic understanding and appreciation of the profession. Students will be exposed to what social workers do and the importance of considering the environmental context that surrounds all decisions.

\*SOWK 2100 Social Work Interviewing Skills (3). Introduction to Social Work generic interviewing skills, essential facilitative qualities, and professional integrity. Emphasis on working with culturally and psychologically diverse, and oppressed client systems. Prerequisite: SOWK 2010.

\*(M) SOWK 3300 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I (3). A bio-psychosocial examination of human beings from conception through old age and death. The focus is on humans as systems and the person – environment fit. Prerequisites: SOWK 2010, 2100, PSYC 2010. Co-requisite: PSYC 3510. Enrollment limited to Social Work majors only.

\*(M) SOWK 3350 Human Behavior and the Social Environment II (3). A description and analytical examination of families, groups, communities and organizations as they affect and are affected by the social environment. Prerequisite: SOWK 3300. Enrollment limited to Social Work majors only.

\*(M) SOWK 3400 Social Welfare Policy (3). Examination of the historical development of the social welfare system and the establishment and evolution of social welfare policies, practices and programs from 1500 to the present. Offered fall semester only. Prerequisites: SOWK 2010, HIST 2010 & 2020, PHIL 1030, and ECON 2010. Enrollment limited to Social Work majors only.

\*(M) SOWK 3450 Social Welfare Policy Analysis (3). A critical analysis of contemporary social policies and programs for social work practitioners. Emphasis is on developing and using a practical method for analyzing and interpreting current programs and policies directed at meeting human needs. Prerequisite: SOWK 3400, ECON 2010. Offered spring semester only. Enrollment limited to Social Work majors only.

\*(M) SOWK 3500 Social Work Practice I (3). Provide a comprehensive study to the general problem-solving method used in generalist social work practice with client systems of various sizes including individuals, families, groups, communities, and organizations. Prerequisites: SOWK 2010, 2I00, 3300, PSYC 3510. Co-requisites: SOWK 3350. Enrollment limited to Social Work majors only.

SOWK 3601 Ethnic and Minority Concerns in Social Work (2). A course designed to emphasize the general method of social work practice with ethnic minorities, with a focus on the diverse community and the issues of multiculturalism. Prerequisite: admission to upper division.

\*(M) SOWK 4601 Social Work Practice II (3). Systematic use of the generalist perspective of social work practice and experiential use in working with groups, communities, and organizations from diverse populations, using the NASW Code of Ethics in social work methods of intervention. This course is a continuation of practice sequence initiated in SOWK 3500. Prerequisite: SOWK 3500 Enrollment limited to Social Work majors only.

\*(M) SOWK 4800 Social Work Research I (3). The rationale, principles, ethics, goals, methods, and techniques of the scientific research process in social work. Offered Fall semester only. Prerequisites: SOWK 3500, MATH 1110, SOCI 3000, and BIOL 1010 & 1020. Enrollment limited to Social Work majors only.

\*(M) SOWK 4850 Social Work Research II (2). The development and implementation of a practice-related research design. Emphasis is on data collection, data analysis, and reporting of data collected in field placement. Prerequisite: SOWK 4800. Co-requisites: SOWK 4100, 4200. Enrollment limited to Social Work majors only.

SOWK 4000 Social Work Intervention in Health (2). A course designed to acquaint the student with the symptoms, etiology, and physical and emotional aspects of acute and chronic diseases, illnesses, and disabilities, with the development of comprehensive medicine involving the whole person in his or her milieu. Emphasis is placed on acquiring knowledge regarding social aspects of illness, as well as use of community resources for the continuation of preventive methods. One hour per week is devoted to participatory observation at a health-related agency. Prerequisite: admission to upper division.

\*(M) SOWK 4100 Field Instruction (8). Field instruction to provide the student with the opportunity to apply and integrate academic content and to develop skills that meet the requirements for entry-level professional social work practice. Supervision in the field is provided by a qualified practitioner committed to undergraduate social work education. Students are required to spend a minimum of 450 clock hours in an educationally oriented field practicum. Seniors are admitted after the completion of a formal admission process, including recommendation by the student’s advisor. Prerequisites: completion of general education core, SOWK 2010, 2100, 3300, 3350, 3400, 3450, 3500, 4601, 4800, SOCI 3000. Co-requisites: SOWK 4850, 4200. Enrollment limited to senior Social Work majors only.

\*(M) SOWK 4200 Field Instruction Seminar (3). A course to give students in field instruction an opportunity to discuss and share agency experiences and to relate social work theory to direct field practice. Discussion in the Seminar moves from the level of personal experiences to abstraction. Co-requisites: SOWK 3850, 4100. Enrollment limited to Social Work majors only.

SOWK 4401 Child Welfare I: Introduction to Programs, Policies and Practice (2). This course is the first in a series of two child welfare courses offered as part of the TN Child Welfare Certification Program. The course introduces students to knowledge of Child maltreatment and the juvenile justice system. It provides an overview of the child welfare system describing the history, policies and programs, both state and federal, pertinent to child maltreatment and juvenile offenders to intervene with families in crisis. It is intended to provide a foundation in the knowledge and values necessary for professional child welfare practice and prepare students for the second course in the series, Child Welfare II: Skills for Solutions and Permanency for Children and Families. Prerequisite: admission to upper division.

SOWK 4461 Child Welfare II: Skills for Solutions and Permanency for Children and Families (3). This course is the second in a series of two child welfare courses offered as part of the TN Child Welfare Certification Program. It is designed to assist students in acquiring the practice skills to become culturally competent child welfare workers. The course will analyze the practices of various human/social services agencies that provide preventive case management, out of home care, treatment, and rehabilitative services aimed at children and youth. The role of social services in the broad context of formal and informal systems that influence the life course of the child will be addressed. Students will be prepared to practice in the child welfare field by teaching them about the various contexts in which child welfare practice takes place and the skills and modalities that are used with children, youth, and families who are the focus of child welfare intervention. Particular emphasis will be placed on the services, and the juvenile justice system; and working with multicultural populations including consumers of different ages, races, cultures, socioeconomic status and sexual orientations. The course will also address critical frameworks for resolving ethical dilemmas, preparing students to resolve ethical issues confronted by social workers. Prerequisites: Child Welfare I.

SOWK 4700 Gerontological Social Work (3). A course designed to examine the aging process and its impact upon the individual, the family, and society. Emphasis is placed on the physical, psychological, and sociological aspects of aging. An interdisciplinary approach is used in dealing with these aspects to enhance and enrich the understanding of the life process. Prerequisite: admission to upper division.

\*(M) SOWK 4900 Senior Seminar in Social Work (1). A course designed to: (1) initiate areas of interest through discussion; (2) emphasize new trends and contributions to the field; and (3) familiarize students with the various examinations and other techniques for gaining employment and admission to graduate school. Co-requisite: SOWK 4100, 4200, 4850. Enrollment limited to Social Work majors only.

(M) SOWK 4950, Social Work Readings and Research (3). Independent study and research under faculty guidance for students who desire to do special projects. Prerequisites: junior or senior standing and permission of instructor. Enrollment limited to Social Work majors only.