

BSW FAQs



1. Why should I declare a major in social work?

A degree in social work prepares students for professional social work practice, a growing and dynamic profession in which you promote the well-being of individuals, groups, and communities. Social workers are employed by hospitals, schools, child welfare agencies, criminal justice settings, advocacy organizations, organizations that serve veterans and active duty military, mental health service providers, and more. The degree also provides an excellent foundation in problem-solving, communication, and inter-professional collaboration, skills which are valued by many professions and graduate degree programs.

2. What are the prerequisites for the BSW Professional Program?

- 54 hours, overall GPA of 2.25
- PY 101 or PY 105, SOC 101, and BSC 108 or BSC 109 or BSC 114/115, or BSC 116/117 or BSC 118 or BSC 120
- Math 100 or placement into college-level math (Math 110 or Math 112 or higher)
- Minimum GPA of 2.50 in social work courses
- Completed professional program application
- SW 100 or 105, SW 200 or 205, and SW 351 or 355

3. Do I have to take two literature classes and two histories? NO!

- You must take HY 101 *or* HY 102 (Western Civilization). A student may take HY 103 or HY 104 instead of HY 101 or HY 102 if they have taken GY 105.
- You must take either two lits and one history *or* two histories and one lit.
- You must take a sequence in either history or literature (e.g. HY 101 & HY 102; any two lits).
- Taking two lits and one history will allow you to more easily complete your humanities and fine arts requirements (e.g., any two lits and HY 101 or any two lits and HY 102).

3. What else do I have to take to complete my core requirements?

- You must take Public Speaking (COM 123). This is a humanities class.
- You must complete two courses from the following list. At least one course must hold the SB designation and the two courses selected must not be from the same department.
 - ANT 100 Introduction to Anthropology **(SB)**
 - ANT 102 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology **(SB)**
 - ANT 103 Introduction to Archaeological Anthropology **(SB) (HU)**
 - ANT 270 Introduction to Physical Anthropology
 - EC 110 Microeconomics **(SB) (SS)**
 - EC 111 Macroeconomics **(SB) (SS)**
 - GY 105 World and Regional Geography **(SB) (SS)**
 - GY 110 Principles of Human Geography **(SB) (SS)**
 - PSC 101 American Politics **(SB)**
 - PSC 103 Public Policy **(SS)**
 - PSC 211 State and Local Government
 - XXX 155 A freshman seminar, with advisor's approval (e.g., SW 155, PY 155, or HD 155)
 - IHP 105 Culture and Human Experience
 - UH 105 Honors Mentoring

4. How do I decide what foreign language to take?

- *Computer programming does not satisfy our foreign language requirement.*
- If you did not have foreign language in high school you should begin with a 101 class.
- If you had less than two years of foreign language in high school you should begin with a 101 class.
- If you had two years of foreign language in high school, please refer to the Undergraduate Catalog for placement information or begin with a 101 class in another language.
- If you place into a 103 class, you are required to take only that class (only one semester).
- Many students choose Spanish because of the growing Spanish speaking population but others choose from the variety of language classes available.

5. How can I complete my science requirements?

- UA requires 8 credit hours of natural science, including a lab with each of the two classes.
- The School of Social Work requires human biology (BSC 108 or 109 or BSC 114/115, or BSC 116/117 or BSC 118 or BSC 120) as one of your natural sciences.

6. What math courses do I need to take and when?

- One core math class (Math 110, Math 112, or a higher-level math class).
- During orientation you may be informed that you need to complete Math 100 (and perhaps Math 005 as well) before taking a core math.
- You must be eligible for a core math before entering the professional program.
- You *should* complete Math 100 or a higher-numbered math course before taking statistics, which you *must* complete before enrolling in SW 420 and beginning your field placement.

7. What electives should I take?

- To complete your required 120 credit hours, you may take 11-15 hours of “free electives.” “Free elective” means any university class of your choice.
- If you are a freshman you may want to consider a freshman seminar for a freshman elective.
- If you are having difficulty with classes, you may want to take some of the study help classes, such as BEP 110, NEW 122, or BCE 101.
- Some students choose to double major. If you choose to do so, your free electives should be taken in the second major subject area—discuss this with your advisor in the division of your other major.
- You may wish to declare a minor. If so, you should take the classes required for that minor. You need to check with an advisor in the department of study to determine requirements for a minor.
- In **addition** to your free electives, you must complete 6 hours of social work electives.
- Refer to the class schedule in *myBama* or the BSW Bulletin Board for social work electives offered in a given semester.

8. What courses are considered social work electives?

- 100-400 level courses that are not required are considered social work electives, with the exception of SW 101, SW 310 and SW 444. SW 101 is a one-hour orientation course that counts as elective credit, but not social work elective credit. SW 310 is a professional writing course that counts as an elective credit, but not as an SW elective credit. SW 444 is a one-hour field preparation course that counts as an elective credit, but not as a SW elective credit. Below is a list of three-hour social work electives that have been offered in the past:
 - SW 155 Freshman Seminar (topics vary from semester to semester)
 - SW 206 Growing Old in America
 - SW 208 Juvenile Delinquency: Causes, Control, and Services
 - SW 210 Family and Child Welfare
 - SW 212 Death, Dying, and Bereavement
 - SW 300 Special Topics (topics vary from semester to semester)
 - SW 320 Volunteerism in Human Services
 - SW 345 Traumatic Stress in Social Work: Education, Practice, Policy and

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| | Research |
| ○ SW 414 | Chemical Dependency |
| ○ SW 419 | International Social Development |
| ○ SW 437 | Forensic Social Work |
| ○ SW 498 | Independent Study |

***Additional electives may be offered in future semesters.**

9. What grades do I need?

- You must meet the University’s Scholastic Progress Standard. This standard specifies a minimum GPA—it varies with the number of credit hours you have achieved. Refer to the *Undergraduate Catalog* or the *BSW Handbook*.
- To be accepted into the professional program, you must have achieved an overall GPA of at least 2.25 and a Social Work GPA of at least 2.5.
- Once you are in the professional program, you must maintain an overall GPA of at least 2.25 and a Social Work GPA of at least 2.5.
- You must earn at least a C- in each course required by the School of Social Work,

10. When is the deadline for application into the professional program?

- The deadline for application is February 15 for admission in the following fall semester.
- Missing the deadline may delay your admission into the program for 1 year.
- The deadline for application is September 15 for admission in the spring semester.
- Missing the deadline may delay your admission into the program for 1 year.

11. Why is the professional program application deadline so early?

- Faculty need time to review all the applications and to make decisions. (Few faculty are available for such tasks during the summer.)
- Having a decision during the spring semester allows you to plan for fall.

12. What if I think I am ready for the professional program, but I have not met all the prerequisites?

- SEE YOUR ADVISOR
- You may be eligible for conditional admission.

13. Where can I find more information?

School of Social Work Website: <http://sw.ua.edu/>