

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

The Social Work Program offers opportunities that enable students to achieve the requisite knowledge, values, and skills for beginning professional social work practice upon graduation. To obtain the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work, all students are required to complete a total of 120 credit hours which include: the University's general education and institutional requirements; required liberal arts prerequisites cognate courses; required social work core, and elective courses.

The students and the faculty of the Social Work Program present an orientation for students each semester. Questions that pertain to the Social Work Program and employment potential can be answered at these sessions. The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff allows the declaration of a major as soon as students enter the University; therefore, students may provisionally declare a social work major during their freshman year. Students will be considered as pre-majors in social work until they transition to the Program after completion of 30 hours. The formal admission process into the social work program takes place after the completion of prerequisite courses. Students are admitted into the social work program before taking junior and senior-level social work courses. They must also complete the admissions requirements presented below:

To ensure that all students interested in pursuing a baccalaureate degree in social work are made aware of the admission requirements, an orientation and group meeting occurs during the fall and spring semesters. A reception is also sponsored by the Program both semesters to include all social work majors, community agency administrators and staff, social work advisory board members, field instructors, colleagues, and the administration. All new social work majors and current majors are apprised of the curriculum content requirements included in the curriculum policy statement set forth by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Pertinent facts about the Social Work Program such as the field experience and field lab seminar and the sequencing of courses are also explained. Students, field instructors, social work advisory board members, and administrators are informed regarding the completion of necessary applications and forms, such as the Program's application form, contract agreement for field experience, and advisement forms.

The Social Work Program endeavors to provide students with the necessary skills and knowledge that will prepare them for entry-level social work practice. The Program seeks students for admission who are committed to upholding professional standards, ethics, and value human diversity.

Declaration of social work as a major does not guarantee admission to the Social Work Program. All social work majors must formally apply to the Program at the end of their sophomore year. Application materials must be completed and submitted to the Social Work Program by March 15 for the fall semester of the year the student plans to seek admission. To be considered for admissions, students applying to the Program must meet the following requirements:

1. Complete application for admissions to the Program by March 15.
2. Review the Program's Student Handbook and understand the following: the Program's mission, goals, and competencies; criteria for termination of student enrollment for academic and professional performance; and students' rights and responsibilities.
3. Complete all freshman and sophomore requirements in the baccalaureate Social Work (B.S.W.) curriculum. Failure to take all prerequisite courses will result in denial of admission and/or progression.
4. Document a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher. When the cumulative semester grade point falls below 2.0, the student is placed on probation. To remain in the Program, the student must raise her/his cumulative grade point to 2.0 by the end of the next semester enrollment.
5. Earn a minimum grade point of "C" (2.0) in all social work prerequisite and liberal arts courses and not have repeated the following courses more than once: SWRK 2305, 2307, BIOL 1450, PSYC 2300, 3303, ENGL 1311, ENGL 1321, SPCH 2390, MDFL 2311 CPSC 2363, and MATH 1330.
6. Provide transcripts from all colleges/universities attended to date.
7. Submit two letters of recommendation.
8. Complete an interview with the Social Work faculty to assess the student's: communication skills (oral and organization ideas); personal values that align with professional values; aptitude for a career in social work; appreciation for human, social, and economic diversity; recognition, support, and understanding of vulnerable, oppressed, and disenfranchised populations; understanding of social work fields of practice in rural and urban regions; commitment to service; and research interests.

Completed applications are reviewed by the Social Work Program faculty. Accepted applicants are notified and are eligible for enrollment in specified third - and fourth-year professional social work courses. Applicants who are not accepted are advised to pursue opportunities in other curriculum areas.

Students entering the Social Work Program must be graduates of an accredited high school or must have met the requirements for the General Education Certificate (G.E.D.). Students may enter the Program with a 2.5 grade point average. Prospective students must complete an application supplied by the Program Director. The student completes the application form, and the Program Director explains the Program's requirements for obtaining a baccalaureate degree in social work. An advisor is assigned for future advisement. Students must meet their advisor to gain clearance to register.