

# Social Work

Department of Health Sciences and Social Work, College of Education & Human Services



## Program of Study

The social work program offers the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree. The BSW is a specialized undergraduate degree that prepares graduates as generalist social workers for entry-level professional employment in social service agencies. The BSW program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Social work is committed to the enhancement of human well-being and the alleviation of poverty, oppression, discrimination, and injustice for individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities, and societies. Guiding values of the profession are the dignity and worth of all persons and social justice.

## Admissions

Initially, all students entering the social work program are classified as pre-social work majors. To be accepted as a social work major, students must complete specified courses; have a minimum GPA of 2.0 overall; complete the social work major application materials; have an interview with a faculty member; and be accepted, on the basis of the application process, by the social work faculty (see website for further information). Go to [wiu.edu/hssw](http://wiu.edu/hssw) and click on "Apply to a Program" for additional information.

## Faculty

Social work courses are taught by excellent faculty holding a master's degree in social work (MSW) and/or doctoral degrees. All faculty have social work practical experience enhancing their teaching, research, publication, and community service.

## Scholarships

The department offers the "Lillian and Florence Snyder Award" to the outstanding senior social work major to honor her or his active participation in community service and scholarship and the "Nancy Coney Field Education Grant," which provides emergency assistance for students in their pre-practicum and practicum semesters. The Dean and Ellen Zoerink Scholarship is awarded to a social work or recreation, park and tourism administration major to recognize commitment to a career in human services helping citizens lead independent, productive, and meaningful lives.

Detailed information is available from the social work program advisor, (309) 298-1438; Western's Scholarship office, (309) 298-2001; or online, [wiu.edu/Scholarship](http://wiu.edu/Scholarship).

## Honors in Social Work

To be eligible for the Centennial Honors College, entering freshmen must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 OR have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15 percent of their graduating class OR have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class. A comparable SAT score is acceptable. Transfer and current WIU students who wish to join the Honors College (including the Quad Cities Honors Program) must have a 3.4 grade point average on a 4.0 scale based on 12 or more semester hours. Honors credit is given for honors coursework completed at other accredited institutions. To find out more, visit [wiu.edu/Honors](http://wiu.edu/Honors). General honors seminars in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences provide students with the opportunity to explore key academic issues with distinguished faculty members. In the social work major, students take courses for honors credit and, as seniors, have the option to prepare an honors thesis under the direction of social work faculty members.

## Student Activities

The program offers various ways in which students may get involved in departmental, college, University, and community service. The Social Work Student Association (SWSA) is a student organization that sponsors student activities, speakers, community volunteer opportunities, and campus activities. The Kappa Sigma Chapter of the Phi Alpha National Social Work Honor Society gives outstanding students recognition through membership and is involved in numerous volunteer activities. Each year, two students are elected to represent social work majors at program meetings, where they give input concerning the students' views on academic and administrative issues. A wide variety of student activities and organizations are available to all Western students. An NASW Student Liaison is also elected to help coordinate Social Work students' participation in the annual Advocacy Day event held in Springfield, IL. Learn more at [wiu.edu/osa](http://wiu.edu/osa).



## Special Opportunities

The program offers accessible faculty; personalized professional, academic, and career advising; and opportunities to attend professional meetings and activities with faculty. The practicum course, the final course in the professional curriculum, provides a minimum of 450 hours of social work experience in a social service agency under professional supervision. The practicum course integrates theory and practice and allows for assessment of student competencies while preparing students to enter professional practice and/or go on to higher education. Through the practicum experience, social work majors have provided over 250,000 hours of service to the surrounding communities.

## After College

Our majors graduate with an accredited professional degree, which leads to employment in a variety of social service settings, state licensure after three years of supervised social work practice, and/or to graduate studies in social work or other disciplines. Graduates have found rewarding practice in child welfare, healthcare, mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence, and geriatric settings. They work in schools, local and state governments, correctional settings, family service agencies, and residential facilities. Many of our graduates have gone on to complete their MSW degrees at universities across the nation.

## For More Information

We welcome visitors. Please feel free to call the WIU Department of Health Sciences and Social Work advisor at (309) 298-2484. You may also e-mail us at [social-work@wiu.edu](mailto:social-work@wiu.edu).

## Higher Values in Higher Education

Located in Macomb (population 20,000), with a campus in the Quad Cities (Moline, IL), Western offers a caring and supportive learning environment to more than 10,000 students in west-central Illinois. Western students have all the advantages of a large public university—strong faculty, state-of-the-art technology and facilities, and a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities—in an atmosphere free from distractions. Western offers a broad-based athletics program, sponsoring 19 NCAA Division I intercollegiate varsity sports. Football competes in the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision through the Missouri Valley Football Conference; all other varsity sports compete at the Division I level through The Summit League. Western's presence in the Quad Cities spans more than 40 years, and that campus offers undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 1,400 students. The core values that are at the heart of the University are academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth, and social responsibility.

Western's GradTrac and Cost Guarantee programs ensure students can achieve their degrees within four years while paying a fixed rate for tuition, fees and room, and meal plan.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes discrimination based on an individual's membership in the following classes: sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, genetic information, veteran status, and any other classes protected by state or federal law.

## Campus Visits

The Admissions Reception Center (Sherman Hall 115) is open most weekdays from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. when the University is in session. Group information sessions are available on Mondays and Fridays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., and individual appointments can be made on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Campus tours are conducted at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. Appointments with advisers, faculty, or a financial aid adviser may be arranged separately during the week. The Admissions Reception Center is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. most Saturdays when the University is in session. A group information session is available at 10 a.m., and a campus tour is conducted at 11 a.m. You may schedule your visit or tour online at [wiu.edu/admissions](http://wiu.edu/admissions) by selecting "Visit Campus." You may also schedule a visit, tour, or individual appointment by calling toll free (877) PICKWIU (742-5948) or (309) 298-3157, or by e-mailing [admissions@wiu.edu](mailto:admissions@wiu.edu).

Feel free to drop by the Social Work program at Stipes Hall 402. Call ahead to arrange an appointment with the adviser or BSW program coordinator.

[wiu.edu/hssw](http://wiu.edu/hssw)

## Department of Health Sciences and Social Work

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