

Bachelor of Science in Social Work (BSSW) Program Guide

Below is a summary of the components of a bachelor's degree in Social Work at MSU Denver

MSU Denver General Education Requirements	Recommended General Education Courses for Social Work Majors	Credit Hours	Planned or Completed?
Written Communication (1 of 2)	Completion of Written Communication is a pre-requisite for admission to the Social Work major	3	
Written Communication (2 of 2)		3	
Oral Communication	(see course list)	3	
Quantitative Literacy	MATH 1080 or similar is sufficient for SWK majors	3	
Arts & Humanities (1 of 2)	Recommend choosing a course that also fulfills global diversity, if needed	3	
Arts & Humanities (2 of 2)		3	
Historical		3	
Natural & Physical Science (1 of 2)	BIO 1000, 1030, or 1080+90 is a pre-requisite for SWK majors	3	
Natural & Physical Science (2 of 2)		3	
Social & Behavioral Science (1 of 2)	PSC 1010 is a pre-requisite for SWK majors	3	
Social & Behavioral Science (2 of 2)	PSY 1001 is a pre-requisite for SWK majors	3	
Global Diversity	(if not already taken)	0-3	
Ethnic Studies & Social Justice	ANT 2330 is a pre-requisite for SWK majors	3	
Total Credit Hours in General Education Requirements		36-39	
Social Work Major Pre-requisites		Credit Hours	Planned or Completed?
SWK 1010: Introduction to Social Work		3	
SWK 1600: Community Engagement & Civic Responsibility		3	
Total Credit Hours in Social Work Major Pre-requisites		6	
Social Work Major Pre-requisites		Credit Hours	Planned or Completed?
See flip side of this page for the Social Work major classes.			
Total Credit Hours in BSSW Program (social work major) Requirements		51	
General Elective Hours		Credit Hours	Planned or Completed?
Elective hours are needed to reach 120 total credit hours for your degree, even if all other requirements are completed.			
Total Credit Hours in General Electives		23-26	
Total Credit Hours Required for a Bachelors Degree		120	



Contact Us

Department of Social Work

socialwork@msudenver.edu | 303-615-0555

www.msudenver.edu/social-work/social-work-bs/



Department of Social Work
College of Health and Human Sciences



Department of
Social Work

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK (BSSW) PROGRAM

FALL 2025 CURRICULUM GUIDE

JUNIOR YEAR SOCIAL WORK COURSES - 21 CREDITS

Classes MUST be completed before senior year. Check semester offerings and prerequisites.

FALL ONLY COURSES

SEMESTER
PLANNED

SWK 3050: Theories for Individual and Social Change (3)

Pre-requisite: Admitted to Social Work major

SWK 3090: Critical Reflection: Exploring Social Work Thinking & Knowledge # (3)

Pre-requisites: SWK 1010, SWK 1600, Written Communication GS

SWK 3350: Social Work Experience, Practice, and Comm (3)

Pre-requisite: Admitted to Social Work major;
Requires ~3 hrs/week volunteer service for 45hrs/semester

SWK 3410: Engaging for Change (3)

Pre-requisites: SWK 1010, SWK 1600, PSY 1001, SOC/ANT, Written Comm GS, BIO 1000/1030/1080+90

SPRING ONLY COURSES

SEMESTER
PLANNED

SWK 3120: Unraveling Inequalities in Social Work Practice # (3)

Pre-requisites: Written Comm GS, SWK 1010

SWK 3420: The Power of Groups in Social Work # (3)

Pre-requisites: Admitted to major; SWK 3050, SWK 3410; (may be offered sparingly in the fall)

SWK 3780: Social Policy Practice # (3)

Pre-requisites: SWK 1010, SWK 1600, PSC 1010, Written Comm GS



Need an extra spring class? This is a good spot for a SWK elective or other degree required class!

Courses can be taken over the summer. 

SENIOR YEAR SOCIAL WORK COURSES - 18 CREDITS

Must be taken in the sequence listed. Complete fall to spring.

FALL ONLY COURSES

SEMESTER
PLANNED

SWK 4300: Introduction to Social Work Research Methods (3)

Pre-requisites: All junior year courses, Math GS

SWK 4500: Professional Field Experience I * (3)

Pre-requisites: All junior year courses;
Co-requisite: SWK 4400

SWK 4400: Macro Magic: Co-Creating Change in Communities and Organizations (3)

Pre-requisites: All junior year courses;
Co-requisite: SWK 4500

SPRING ONLY COURSES

SEMESTER
PLANNED

SWK 4310: Research Applications and Data Analysis (3)

Pre-requisites: SWK 4300

SWK 4510: Professional Field Experience II * (3)

Pre-requisites: SWK 4500

SWK 4430: Partnering with Families for Change (3)

Pre-requisites: Admitted to major; SWK 3050, SWK 3410; (may be offered sparingly in the fall)

NOTE: Students who have taken SWK 3080 may be able use it to fulfill SWK 4430. (see advisor)



* Linked courses must enroll in the same section both semesters;
~13-14 hrs/week fieldwork for 200 hrs/semester.

REQUIRED SOCIAL WORK ELECTIVES - 12 CREDITS

4 courses required; can be taken anytime. Offered fall, spring, and summer.

SEMESTER
PLANNED

 **SWK Elective 3000+ (3)** _____

 **SWK Elective 3000+ (3)** _____

SEMESTER
PLANNED

 **SWK Elective 3000+ (3)** _____

 **SWK Elective 3000+ (3)** _____

SOCIAL WORK MAJOR = 51 CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED