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School of Social Work

Social Work B.S.W.

**B.S.W. Program Chair:** Joshua Diem  
**B.S.W. Program Faculty: Associate Professors** Becker, Capece, Diem; **Assistant Professors** Archibald, Donaldson.

The B.S.W. program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

Students **must**consult with their assigned academic advisor before they will be able to register for courses.

The social work major prepares students for bachelors-level social work practice. Students will graduate having completed two semesters of internship in an agency recruited and approved by the faculty and staff and having learned the knowledge, values, and skills necessary for employment or graduate school. Students will focus on direct services and advocacy with a variety of populations including the elderly, children and families, people with developmental disabilities, people with mental illness and/or substance use challenges, survivors of trauma, people who are experiencing poverty or homelessness, and people in marginalized groups in our society based on their race, class, gender identity, nationality, religion, and sexual orientation.  
  
This is the largest social work program in the state, large enough to ensure that the resources are there to support your success and small enough to ensure that you will know each of the faculty and each of the students in your graduating class.  
  
College is not without its stress and pressure, and so we make an effort to create supports that encourage our students to describe the program as feeling “like a family.” We have high expectations and we are prepared to provide the support necessary to help you meet them.

**Admission Requirements for the B.S.W. Program**

1. Enrollment in SWRK 326.

2. Evidence of a combination of personal qualities considered essential to professional social work practice. Students must be capable of working with clients and communities with populations different from themselves, with people of different faiths, sexual orientations, and cultural norms. We seek students who can demonstrate responsiveness and sensitivity in relationships, commitment to improving social conditions, and the ability to function both independently and collectively with others.

3. A completed application during junior year, while enrolled in SWRK 327.

4. A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale in undergraduate course work, and a minimum GPA of 2.67 in 300-level social work courses.

Students will apply with support from their instructor while enrolled in SWRK 327. Applications and support materials will be distributed during the meetings for this course. All students planning to proceed in the social work major and planning to enter the internship during the fall semester of their senior year must complete an application. The application is a noncompetitive process. Students are not competing against other students for a limited number of seats. Rather, students are asked to demonstrate that they meet the selection criteria listed above. Additional information and materials are available from the chair of the department.

**Admission Requirements for the Accelerated B.S.W./M.S.W. Admission**

Undergraduate students matriculated at Rhode Island College can apply for conditional admission to the Master’s in Social Work program after completing at least 65 credits, and admitted to the B.S.W. program. If conditionally admitted to the M.S.W. program, students will be required to take two 400 level practice courses in their senior year. In addition, conditionally admitted students are required to earn at least a C in each social work course and maintain an overall G.P.A. of 3.0. Students applying for the Accelerated program must also submit an additional reference from a B.S.W. faculty member.

**Retention Requirements**

1. A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale in undergraduate course work, and a minimum GPA of 2.67 in all 300-level social work courses. No student will be allowed to enter a subsequent semester if their GPA falls below these standards.

2. Students who receive a grade of C- or below in any required social work course must retake that course and receive at least a grade of C in order to proceed in the major. Students who receive a C- or below twice in the same course will be dismissed from the major. For additional information, see the School of Social Work *B.S.W. Academic Manual* available at the B.S.W. Office or on the School of Social Work Web site: https://www.ric.edu/documents/bsw-academic-manualpdf.

3. Students who receive an F in any required social work course or an initial grade of C- or below in any two required social work courses will be dismissed from the major.

4. Student performance and behavior must be in conformity with the school’s policy on professional behavior and the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics. The policy is available in the *B.S.W. Academic Manual*  and the *B.S.W. Field Manual* (https://www.ric.edu/documents/bsw-field-education-manualpdf). The Code of Ethics is also discussed in courses. A copy of the B.S.W. Academic Standing Policy, including appeal procedures, is made available to students in the *B.S.W. Academic Manual* and the *B.S.W. Field Manual.*

**Fieldwork**

Social work majors complete 480-hours of internship in their senior year.

**Honors**

A Departmental Honors program is offered in social work. See Honors and Awards.

Course Requirements

First through Third Semesters

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| POL 102 | American Government | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| PSYC 215 | Social Psychology | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| PSYC 230 | Human Development | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| SWRK 200 | Introducing Social Work and Social Justice | 4 | F, Sp |
| SWRK 306 | Biopsychosocial Perspectives for Social Workers | 2 | F, Sp, Su |
|  | ONE COURSE in sociology at the 200-level | 4 |  |

Third through Fifth Semesters

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 324 | Diversity and Oppression I | 4 | F, Sp |
| SWRK 325 | Diversity and Oppression II | 4 | F, Sp |

Fourth through Sixth Semester

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 301 | Policy Analysis and Practice | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| SWRK 302W | Social Work Research Methods I | 4 | F, Sp, Su |

Fifth Semester

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 326W | Generalist Social Work Practice | 4 | F, Sp |

Sixth Semester

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 303 | Social Work Research Methods II | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| SWRK 327 | Group and Community Practice | 4 | Sp |

Note: SWRK 327 can also be taken during the summer.

Seventh Semester

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 426 | Clinical Social Work: Theories/Models | 4 | F |
| SWRK 463 | Seminar and Practicum I | 4.5 | F |

Eighth Semester

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 464 | Seminar and Practicum II | 4.5 | Sp |

Note: SWRK 303: Fulfills the Advanced Quantitative Scientific Reasoning category of General Education and other required courses will satisfy the Social and Behavioral Sciences distribution.

Subtotal: 64

Accelerated BSW to MSW Program Students

Students in the Accelerated B.S.W.\M.S.W. program follow the course sequence below during their seventh and eighth semesters.

Seventh Semester

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 432/SWRK 532 | Generalist Foundation and Skills: Direct Practice I | 3 | F |
| SWRK 463 | Seminar and Practicum I | 4.5 | F |

Eighth Semester

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 433/SWRK 533 | Generalist Foundation and Skills: Direct Practice II | 3 | Sp |
| SWRK 464 | Seminar and Practicum II | 4.5 | Sp |

Subtotal: 66

Social Work M.S.W.

**M.S.W. Program Chair:** Jennifer Meade  
**M.S.W. Program Faculty:** **Professors** Battle, Martell, Meade, Mumm, Nimmagadda; **Associate Professor**Bousseau; **Assistant Professors** Garzon, Mandayam, Moronta, Okai, Petrin-Lambert, Smith, Tejeda

The M.S.W. program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

**Admission Requirements**

Admission to the School of Social Work is on a selective basis and is determined by the quality of the total application. The program expects applicants to meet the following requirements for admission. (Certain requirements may be waived under special circumstances; applicants must demonstrate sufficient cause in writing.):

1. Evidence of a combination of personal qualities considered essential to professional social work practice. Students must be capable of working with clients and communities with populations different from themselves, with people of different faiths, sexual orientations, and cultural norms. We seek students who can demonstrate responsiveness and sensitivity in relationships, commitment to improving social conditions, and the ability to function both independently and collectively with others.

2. Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning. Students who have completed all but their last semester of baccalaureate work may also apply; however their degree must be granted by August 15. Students who received their baccalaureate degree outside the United States may need to take and score above an 80 on the computerized TOEFL. See RIC Graduate Manual.

3. Evidence of the intellectual capacity to participate successfully in academic work at the graduate level. A diverse academic background with a liberal arts perspective that includes course work in the human biological sciences, humanities, mathematics, and social sciences. Specifically, an applicant is required to have:

a. A minimum grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale in undergraduate work;

b. At least 15 credit hours drawn from course work in anthropology, economics, political science, psychology, and sociology;

c. Course work in human anatomy, human biology, or human physiology (course work is necessary; the CLEP Examination is not sufficient); and

d. Course content in the humanities (English, language, philosophy, visual and performing arts, and Western and non-Western history).

4. A commitment to social work as a profession, which may be demonstrated by experience in the field. This experience may have been attained in a variety of ways, such as through volunteer work, fieldwork experience in conjunction with course work, life experiences, etc.

**Admission Procedures**

Applications to the social work program are completed using an online process. Follow this link to the CollegeNet application system www.applyweb.com/ricg/. Begin by creating an account, then follow directions to complete the application process. All parts of the application must be completed online. Applicants should have access to a document scanner, with the ability to save and upload material as PDF documents. The deadline for submission of admissions materials is **February 1.**

1. A nonrefundable $50 application fee must be submitted or the applicant must present evidence of a fee waiver.

2. Transcripts. Applicants should scan and upload copies of transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate programs previously attended, including community colleges. Official transcripts can be submitted after notification of acceptance is made. The School of Social Work will obtain official transcripts for all work completed at Rhode Island College. Please note that the applicant must submit transcripts from every institution he or she attended.

3. Recommendation letters and forms. Applicants should provide names and email addresses within the online application for three letters of recommendation. Applicants seeking advanced standing should provide names and contact information for the director/chair, or advisor of their BSW program.

4. A personal statement. Typically six to eight double-spaced typewritten pages, the personal statement aids the Admission Committee in assessing the applicant’s qualifications for professional social work practice. Among these qualifications are: the ability to think analytically and conceptually; clarity in self-expression; responsiveness and sensitivity in minority and culturally diverse relationships; the ability to develop professional self-awareness and self-evaluation; commitment to improving social conditions; and the ability to function creatively, responsibly, and independently. Specifically, candidates should address the following questions in their personal statement:

A. Tell us how your life experience have influenced your decision to pursue social work as a career.

B. Social justice is a key component of social work's mission. What social justice issues are important to you? Why?

C. What experience have you had with oppressed populations (persons with racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, disabilities and other differences or similarities to you)? How has that experience influenced you and your decision to pursue social work?

D. What do you see as your personal strengths and challenges as a professional social worker?

E. Graduate social work education requires sophisticated writing and critical thinking skills. Discuss the reasons why you believe you will be able to meet the academic requirements of a rigorous graduate program? Include evidence that indicates you are able to do graduate level academic work successfully.

F. If your grade point average is below 3.0 please discuss.

G. If there are any gaps in your work history or short-term positions, please explain.

After preparing the personal statement, the applicant should scan and upload the document.

**Admission Decision**

Notice of acceptance will occur by **April 15** for study beginning the following September. There are no midyear admissions. Within two weeks of receiving notification, accepted applicants must confirm in writing their intention to enroll in the program. Confirmation of acceptance should be addressed to the M.S.W. Department, School of Social Work. Upon accepting a place in the full-time, part-time, or advanced standing program (full or part time), the student is required to provide a nonrefundable one hundred dollar deposit, which will be applied against tuition charges for the first semester. Admitted applicants should also inform the program of any change of name or address.

**Health Requirements**

After being accepted, candidates are provided with an Admission Physical Examination Form, which must be completed and signed by a physician and returned directly to College Health Services before the candidate enrolls. As required by Rhode Island state law, all new entering students must present to College Health Services a certificate signed by a physician, attesting to their immunity to measles and rubella (German measles).

**Advanced Standing Program**

Preference in admission to advanced standing is given to students who have completed a B.S.W. during the last five years from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. All students accepted into this program are expected to enroll in and successfully complete an online summer preparatory course. Advanced standing students should expect to pay $375 to participate in this class. Applicants who obtained a B.S.W. degree more than five years prior to their application year can *still apply* to the Advanced Standing Program.

Students who are granted admission to advanced standing are exempt from the foundation year, pending completion of comparable course work. Students in the program must complete 33 credit hours and may do so in one or two years.

**Student Advisement**

Shortly after initial registration, a member of the faculty is appointed as the student’s advisor. Thereafter, students plan their program in consultation with the advisor. Advisors assist students in developing their learning goals and objectives and in assessing their progress toward those objectives. Students are encouraged to confer with their advisors. Early in the first semester, prior to going into the concentration year(s), students in the full-time program will meet with their advisor and develop a plan of study, listing the required courses in the concentration and electives. The chair of the M.S.W. program provides advisement to students in the part-time program. Students must have an approved plan of study in order to proceed into the concentration year. Additional academic aids are available through college resources and/or special programs.

**Grade Requirements**

All students must have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 at the end of the first year and an evaluation of Satisfactory or better in field education. Students who do not have the minimum 3.00 GPA may not continue in the program. No course in which the student earns a grade below a B- may be accepted for M.S.W. credit.

**Full-Time Program**

To achieve full-time status in either year, a student must register for field instruction and at least three courses each semester. Students who are admitted full time are expected to complete the program in two years. This would require that students register for 15 credits in their first semester, 14 credits in their second, 17.5 credits in their third, and 15.5 credits in their fourth. Students are encouraged to take at least one summer or early spring course to ease the third semester workload.

**Part-Time Program**

Applicants who intend to retain full-time employment while attending the M.S.W. program or who have significant responsibilities in other areas should apply to the part-time program. Admission requirements and procedures are the same as those for full-time study. Part-time students are normally expected to take a minimum of two courses during the academic year. A field placement will occur in a public or private nonprofit agency after the completion of 11 credit hours of course work. Degree requirements must be met within six years. At the discretion of the M.S.W. chair, students may switch from part-time to full-time study after completing the foundation year on a part-time basis.

**Fieldwork**

All students, except those in the advanced standing program, are required to complete SWRK 500 (240 hours), SWRK 501 (240 hours), SWRK 600 (300 hours), and SWRK 601 (300 hours) for a total of 1,080 hours. For full-time and part-time students, this is accomplished over two academic years. Students in the advanced standing program complete SWRK 600 (300 hours) and SWRK 601 (300 hours) for a total of 600 hours. All students are expected to be available during daytime hours (8 A.M.-5 P.M.) for at least one day during the week (Monday-Friday) for field experience.

All students must take the first-year placement concurrently with SWRK 532 and SWRK 533. All students in the Clinical concentration must take SWRK 602 and SWRK 603 concurrently with second-year field placement. Macro concentration students must take SWRK 628 and SWRK 629 concurrently with their second-year field placement. It is possible to do one year of fieldwork in the student’s place of employment, provided that the placement meets all the criteria for supervision and placement settings. Plans to do a placement in a student’s place of employment need to be discussed with and approved by the director of field education. For all continuing students, this approval must be obtained no later than April 1 for field placements to begin in September. For all incoming full-time students, this approval must be obtained no later than July 1 for placements to begin in September.

Course Requirements - Full-Time Program

First Semester (All Full-Time Students)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 500 | Field Education and Seminar I | 3 | F |
| SWRK 523 | Social Work and Human Behavior | 3 | F |
| SWRK 530 | Generalist Foundation and Skills: Policy and Organizing I | 3 | F, Su |
| SWRK 532/SWRK 432 | Generalist Foundation and Skills: Direct Practice I | 3 | F |
| SWRK 541 | Social Work Research and Evaluation I | 3 | F, Su |

Second Semester (All Full-Time Students)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 501 | Field Education and Seminar II | 3 | Sp |
| SWRK 524 | Intersection of Oppression and Social Justice | 3 | Sp |
| SWRK 531 | Generalist Foundation and Skills: Policy and Organizing II | 3 | Sp Su |
| SWRK 533/SWRK 433 | Generalist Foundation and Skills: Direct Practice II | 3 | Sp |
| SWRK 542 | Social Work Research and Evaluation II | 2 | Sp Su |

Third Semester (Clinical Concentration Full-Time Students)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 600 | Field Education and Seminar III | 4 | F |
| SWRK 602 | Clinical Social Work Practice I | 3 | F |
| SWRK 609 | Advanced Professional Development | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| SWRK 636 | Differential Diagnosis in Clinical Social Work | 3 | F, Su |
| SWRK 644 | Clinical Evaluation and Case Consultation I | 1.5 | F |
| SWRK 559 | American Racism and Social Work | 3 | F, Sp |

Third Semester (Macro Concentration Full-Time Students)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 600 | Field Education and Seminar III | 4 | F |
| SWRK 609 | Advanced Professional Development | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| SWRK 621 | Social Work and the Political Economy | 3 | Annually |
| SWRK 628 | Macro Practice I: Leadership and Change | 3 | F |
| SWRK 645 | Needs Assessment and Program Evaluation I | 1.5 | F |
| SWRK 559 | American Racism and Social Work | 3 | F, Sp |

Fourth Semester (Clinical Concentration Full-Time Students)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 601 | Field Education and Seminar IV | 4 | Sp |
| SWRK 603 | Clinical Social Work Practice II | 3 | Sp |
| SWRK 646 | Clinical Evaluation and Case Consultation II | 1.5 | Sp |
| ELECTIVE | Elective | 3 |  |

Fourth Semester (Macro Concentration Full-Time Students)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 601 | Field Education and Seminar IV | 4 | Sp |
| SWRK 629 | Macro Practice II: Managing People and Programs | 3 | Sp |
| SWRK 647 | Needs Assessment and Program Evaluation II | 1.5 | Sp |
| ELECTIVE | Elective | 3 |  |

Subtotal: 62

Course Requirements - Advanced Standing Program

First Semester (Clinical Concentration Full-Time Students)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 600 | Field Education and Seminar III | 4 | F |
| SWRK 602 | Clinical Social Work Practice I | 3 | F |
| SWRK 609 | Advanced Professional Development | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| SWRK 636 | Differential Diagnosis in Clinical Social Work | 3 | F, Su |
| SWRK 644 | Clinical Evaluation and Case Consultation I | 1.5 | F |
| SWRK 559 | American Racism and Social Work | 3 | F, Sp |

First Semester (Macro Concentration Full-Time Students)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 600 | Field Education and Seminar III | 4 | F |
| SWRK 609 | Advanced Professional Development | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| SWRK 621 | Social Work and the Political Economy | 3 | Annually |
| SWRK 628 | Macro Practice I: Leadership and Change | 3 | F |
| SWRK 645 | Needs Assessment and Program Evaluation I | 1.5 | F |
| SWRK 559 | American Racism and Social Work | 3 | F, Sp |

Second Semester (Clinical Concentration Full-Time Students)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 601 | Field Education and Seminar IV | 4 | Sp |
| SWRK 603 | Clinical Social Work Practice II | 3 | Sp |
| SWRK 646 | Clinical Evaluation and Case Consultation II | 1.5 | Sp |
| ELECTIVE | Elective | 6 |  |

Second Semester (Macro Concentration Full-Time Students)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 601 | Field Education and Seminar IV | 4 | Sp |
| SWRK 629 | Macro Practice II: Managing People and Programs | 3 | Sp |
| SWRK 647 | Needs Assessment and Program Evaluation II | 1.5 | Sp |
| ELECTIVE | Elective | 6 |  |

Subtotal: 33

Course Requirements - Part-Time Program

First Semester (All Part-Time Students)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 523 | Social Work and Human Behavior | 3 | F |
| SWRK 541 | Social Work Research and Evaluation I | 3 | F, Su |

Second Semester (All Part-Time Students)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 524 | Intersection of Oppression and Social Justice | 3 | Sp |
| SWRK 542 | Social Work Research and Evaluation II | 2 | Sp Su |

Third Semester (All Part-Time Students)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 500 | Field Education and Seminar I | 3 | F |
| SWRK 530 | Generalist Foundation and Skills: Policy and Organizing I | 3 | F, Su |
| SWRK 532/SWRK 432 | Generalist Foundation and Skills: Direct Practice I | 3 | F |

Fourth Semester (All Part-Time Students)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 501 | Field Education and Seminar II | 3 | Sp |
| SWRK 531 | Generalist Foundation and Skills: Policy and Organizing II | 3 | Sp Su |
| SWRK 533/SWRK 433 | Generalist Foundation and Skills: Direct Practice II | 3 | Sp |

Fifth Semester (Clinical Concentration Part-Time Students)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 600 | Field Education and Seminar III | 4 | F |
| SWRK 602 | Clinical Social Work Practice I | 3 | F |
| SWRK 636 | Differential Diagnosis in Clinical Social Work | 3 | F, Su |
| SWRK 644 | Clinical Evaluation and Case Consultation I | 1.5 | F |

Fifth Semester (Macro Concentration Part-Time Students)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 600 | Field Education and Seminar III | 4 | F |
| SWRK 621 | Social Work and the Political Economy | 3 | Annually |
| SWRK 628 | Macro Practice I: Leadership and Change | 3 | F |
| SWRK 645 | Needs Assessment and Program Evaluation I | 1.5 | F |

Sixth Semester (Clinical Concentration Part-Time Students)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 601 | Field Education and Seminar IV | 4 | Sp |
| SWRK 603 | Clinical Social Work Practice II | 3 | Sp |
| SWRK 646 | Clinical Evaluation and Case Consultation II | 1.5 | Sp |

Sixth Semester (Macro Concentration Part-Time Students)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 601 | Field Education and Seminar IV | 4 | Sp |
| SWRK 629 | Macro Practice II: Managing People and Programs | 3 | Sp |
| SWRK 647 | Needs Assessment and Program Evaluation II | 1.5 | Sp |

Seventh Semester (Clinical Concentration Part-Time Students)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 609 | Advanced Professional Development | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| SWRK 559 | American Racism and Social Work | 3 | F, Sp |

Seventh Semester (Macro Concentration Part-Time Students)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWRK 609 | Advanced Professional Development | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| SWRK 559 | American Racism and Social Work | 3 | F, Sp |

Eighth Semester (Clinical Concentration Part-Time Students)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ELECTIVE | Elective | 6 |  |

Eighth Semester (Macro Concentration Part-Time Students)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ELECTIVE | Elective | 6 |  |

Subtotal: 62

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