

Social Work (BSW)

COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

This degree map is based on the current Academic Catalog and is subject to change. Please note that the degree map is designed to give you a sense of roughly how courses might be distributed over a 4-year degree. Your exact schedule will differ depending on a range of factors though we recommend taking a minimum of 15 credits each fall and spring semester. Regular consultation with your academic advisor is the best way to make sure that you are taking the courses you need in the right order to ensure efficient progress through your degree program.

Sample 4-Year Plan

First Year			
Fall Courses	Credits	Spring Courses	Credits
SOWK100 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK (CITIZENSHIP GEN ED)	3	SOWK200 DIVERSITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE (DIVERSITY/INTERCONNECTIONS GE)	3
HUMAN BIOLOGY (BIO101) or BASIC BIOLOGY (BIO105) (NATURAL WORLD GE)	3	SOWK210 PRE-PRACTICE SWK EXPER.	3
WRITING 103 (FOUNDATIONS THEME GEN ED)	3	GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES COURSE (INTERCONN. GE)	3
FREE ELECTIVE	3	LITERATURE COURSE (CREATIVITY & EXPRESSION GE)	3
FIRST YEAR SEMINAR (FYS)	3	QUANTITATIVE REASONING COURSE (FOUNDATIONS GE)	3
Semester Total	15	Semester Total	15

Second Year			
Fall Courses	Credits	Spring Courses	Credits
SOWK310 HUMAN BEHAV. IN SOCIAL ENV. I	3	SOWK320 HUMAN BEHAV. IN SOC ENV II	3
SOCIAL WORK ELECTIVE (REQUIRED)	3	SOWK350 SWK PRACT. WITH IND & FAMILIES	3
HISTORICAL THEMES COURSE (FOUNDATIONS GE)	3	NATURAL WORLD OR TECH COURSE (NAT WRLD/TEC GE)	3
ORAL COMMUNICATIONS COURSE (FOUND. GE)	3	SOWK REQUIRED ELECTIVE	3
FREE ELECTIVE	3	FREE ELECTIVE	3
Semester Total	15	Semester Total	15

Third Year			
Fall Courses	Credits	Spring Courses	Credits
SOWK300 SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH METHODS	3	SOWK400 SWK PRAC WITH ORG & COMM	3
SOWK360 SWK PRACT. WITH GROUPS	3	SOCIAL WORK ELECTIVE (REQUIRED)	3
CRITICAL OR ETHICAL REASONING COURSE (CITIZ. GE)	3	ARTS OR CREATIVITY COURSE (CREATIV & EXPRESS GE)	3
DIVERSITY/GLBL LANGUAGE COURSE (INTERCON. GE)	3	NATURAL WORLD OR TECH COURSE (NAT WRLD/TEC GE)	3
FREE ELECTIVE	3	FREE ELECTIVE	3
Semester Total	15	Semester Total	15

Fourth Year			
Fall Courses	Credits	Spring Courses	Credits
SOWK410 SWK POLICY AND PRACTICE	3	SOWK490 FIELD SEMINAR	3
FREE ELECTIVE	3	SOWK497 SW FIELD EDUCATION (400-480 hours)	10-12
FREE ELECTIVE	3		
FREE ELECTIVE	3		
FREE ELECTIVE	3		
Semester Total	15	Semester Total	13-15

Winter/Summer College - Optional

While not required, Winter and Summer sessions are offered each year and may help you stay on track or get ahead. You may take up to seven (7) credits during Winter College and up to 14 credits during Summer College.

Curriculum Checklist

Orientation – 9 CR

- ___ SOWK 100 Intro to Social Work (3)
- ___ SOWK 200 Diversity & Soc. Justice (3)
- ___ SOWK 210 Pre-Practice Experience (3)

Professional Foundation – 12 CR

- ___ SOWK 310 HBSE I (3)*
- ___ SOWK 320 HBSE II (3)*
- ___ SOWK Elective (3)
- ___ SOWK Elective (3)

SOWK Elective Options:

- ___ SOWK 321 Child Welfare*
- ___ SOWK 322 Mental/Behav. Health*
- ___ SOWK 323 Expl. LGBTQ+ Exper.*
- ___ SOWK 324 SW & Issues of Aging*
- ___ SOWK 325 Case Management*
- ___ SOWK 326 Addictions*
- ___ SOWK 327 SW & Healthcare*

Research and Practice– 28-30 CR

- ___ SOWK 300 SW Research Methods (3)*
- ___ SOWK 350 Practice w/ Ind & Fam (3)*
- ___ SOWK 360 Practice w/ Groups (3)*
- ___ SOWK 400 Practice w/ Comm & Orgs (3)*
- ___ SOWK 410 Social Work Policy Practice (3)*
- ___ SOWK 490 Field Seminar (3)*
- ___ SOWK 497 Field Education (10-12)*

Total Credits Required for the Major (49-51)

*Denotes advanced coursework

Students must take a minimum of 42 credits of advanced coursework. Advanced coursework can be met in major courses, minor courses, free elective courses, and general education courses. Courses that meet this requirement are designated in Banner.

General Education Requirements

(45 credits)

Note: Some requirements may be fulfilled by coursework in your major program including directed Gen Ed courses noted below

- Foundations (15 credits)
 - ___ First Year Seminar (3)
 - ___ Writing (3)
 - ___ Oral Communication (3)
 - ___ History (3)
 - ___ Quantitative (3)
- Interconnections (9 credits)
 - ___ SOWK 200 (Diversity) (3)
 - ___ Global Perspectives (3)
 - ___ Foreign Language or Div/Glob Persp. (3)
- Citizenship & Responsibility (6 credits from at least two goals)
 - ___ SOWK 100 (Citizenship) (3)
 - ___ Ethical or Critical Reasoning (3)
- Natural World & Technologies (9 credits)
 - ___ BIO 101 or 105 (Natural World) (3)
 - ___ Natural World (3)
 - ___ Technologies (3)
- Creativity & Expression (6 credits)
 - ___ Literature (3)
 - ___ Arts (3)
 - ___ Creativity (3)

Degree Requirements

All students must obtain a minimum of 120 credits, complete all General Education requirements, and all requirements for the selected major (C or higher required for SOWK courses). Meet with your advisor and consult Degree Works to monitor your progress and for all graduation requirements.

1. 2.0 overall GPA requirement for Social Work candidacy
2. 2.2 overall GPA requirement for continued matriculation post candidacy
3. 2.2 overall GPA for matriculation to the field practicum

Candidacy Process: Once a student is registered as a social work major, they are considered **pre-candidacy status** until they complete at least 6 credits of introductory social work courses with an achieved grade of C or higher and the BSW Candidacy Application.

*While a student is in pre-candidacy status, they are not officially admitted into the social work program and will not be able to take the advanced social work practice classes

*The Candidacy Application Process can be found in the Social Work Program Bright Space Candidacy Application Module and is as follows:

- Demonstrated academic aptitude of at least a grade of C or above in 6 credits of social work introductory courses
- Good standing with the university with an overall 2.0 GPA
- Completed admissions application packet including professional essay (detailed below), resume, and unofficial transcript.
- Evidence of volunteer work in resume and outlined in essay
- Required letter of recommendation for candidacy by someone (non-family member) who the student worked for or volunteered for, who supervised the student, or who is in a position to comment on the student's qualities that indicate success as a social worker.
- Approval from CU-BSW Admissions Candidacy Board