



SCHOOL OF HEALTH

SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

PROSPECTUS

The University of Guam offers a four-year professional educational program in social work leading to a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW). The BSW is recognized by the National Association of Social Workers as the entry-level degree for the profession.

The Field

Social work is an academic discipline and profession that concerns itself with individuals, families, groups and communities in an effort to enhance social functioning and overall well-being.

Relevance and Demand

The community of Guam along with other communities in Micronesia is experiencing many social problems, such as addictions to crystal methamphetamine and other drug use, poverty, high incidences of sexual abuse/assault, teen pregnancy, and homelessness, to name a few. A student with a Social Work degree can be in a position to be a change agent/advocate to address some of these issues. However, many of the social problems require changes at the various systems which include micro, mezzo, and macro levels of social work.

Accreditation

The Bachelor of Social Work Program at the University of Guam is the only Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited baccalaureate program in the Western Pacific. The program was founded in 1980, attained candidacy status in 1999, was granted initial accreditation in 2003 and reaffirmation in 2007. It now seeks reaffirmation until 2023.

Why UOG?:

UOG's Social Work Program has many strengths, including diverse faculty experience and connections to various

places in Micronesia (Chuuk, Pohnpei, Palau), international connections in Korea, Japan, and the Philippines as well as connections in the continental U.S.

The program has an average of 27 students accepted into the cohort every year, which means a smaller class size and more one-on-one interaction with the faculty. The students are in cohorts, which not only means that they take classes together, but they also develop support for one another. This cohort system has shown positive results for the successful outcomes of our students. Lastly, the interventions taught are culturally relevant/appropriate to the people in the region.

Career Possibilities

A social worker can work in different professional settings (government, for-profit, and nonprofit) and with various populations (children, adolescents, adults, elderly). Some examples of what a social worker may do are working with clients and their families; collaborating with a larger team to develop treatment plans; completing documentation and other paperwork; running groups; and engaging in research, program development, and/or advocacy initiatives.

Entry-level social workers can be found at various agencies on Guam — both government and nonprofit — which include and are not limited to the following agencies: Guam Behavioral Health & Wellness Center, Department of Public Health & Social Services, Guam Memorial Hospital, Guam Regional Medical Center, the Department of Youth Affairs, Sanctuary Inc., Westcare Inc., GALA, Erica's House, Department of Labor, Guma Mami, the Lighthouse Recovery Center, Oasis Empowerment Center, the Alee Shelter, I Famagoun-ta, Guam Superior Court, New Beginnings Drug and Alcohol Program, and UOG CEDDERS.

Post-Graduate Studies

The BSW program at UOG is unique in that there is an MOU between UOG and the University of Hawaii's Master in Social Work Program. In the event that students would like to pursue their MSW, they would have that opportunity to do so through the University of Hawaii and pay in-state tuition. Those students who are also interested in research, advocacy, and teaching can also further their studies and obtain a doctorate in social work or social welfare.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through the teaching of social work knowledge and practice, the Bachelor of Social Work Program prepares individuals to develop a global perspective of social welfare and social development, to actualize the concept of social caring, to demonstrate belief in the intrinsic value, dignity and worth of all humankind, to serve those in need, and to act with conviction in advancing the principle of social justice and human rights within the communities of Guam, Micronesia, and the neighboring regions of the Pacific and Asia.

The outcomes of the Bachelor of Social Work Program are as follows:

1. Preparation of students to understand, identify with, and incorporate into practice the professional values and ethics of social work;
2. Preparation of students for beginning generalist professional practice with individuals, kinship systems, groups, organizations, and communities;
3. Preparation of students for practice with diverse and at-risk populations;
4. Preparation of students as beginning social work generalists who link indigenous knowledge, social service practice wisdom, and social research;
5. Preparation of students for lifelong learning and critical thinking through an educational process which is grounded in a liberal arts perspective and professional social work foundations;
6. Enable students to integrate knowledge, skills, and values into generalist social work practice;
7. Preparation of students for graduate education in social work.

ADVISEMENT

Academic advisement is provided to assist students throughout their educational careers as they become competent entry-level social workers. The advisor monitors student progress, provides consultation in planning a course of study, and assists in problem solving with regard to both classroom and field course work. The advisor also facilitates communication between students and their classroom and field instructors. The faculty advisor serves as an "anchor person" with whom students may confer regarding any program-related problem or question. In keeping with the goals of the program and the spirit of social work, the advising relationship among students, faculty, and administrators is one of collaboration. It is recommended that all pre-BSW students meet with the division chair for advisement before registering for classes each semester. Once a student is admitted into the Social Work Program, he/she is assigned to an advisor.



ADMISSION

There are two levels of social work majors: Pre-BSW and BSW. A pre-BSW student is any declared social work major who has not yet completed the requirements for advancement to the BSW student status. A BSW student is one who has met these requirements and has been formally admitted to the BSW Program.

To be eligible for the BSW junior level, applicants must:

- Complete at least 45 credits of General Education requirements
- Complete EN-111 Writing for Research
- Complete Mathematics General Education requirements
- Complete SO-101 Introduction to Sociology
- Complete PY-101 General Psychology
- Complete BA-110 Economics
- Complete SW-201 Social Welfare and Development: Global Challenges with a grade of "C" or better
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Submit a completed application form and related materials, including two letters of reference.

Application for advancement to BSW student status are made at the end of the end of April (usually around April 19) of the semester of the student's sophomore year. Upon receipt of all necessary documents, the Social Work faculty reviews the application. The division chair of the program notifies applicants by letter of the faculty's decisions regarding admissions. Students must be advanced to BSW student status in order to take SW-330. Social Work applications can be downloaded from the School of Health webpage on the UOG website. Deadline for submission is April 18.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

In order to remain in good standing in the BSW program, students must maintain a grade of "C" or better in all required Social Work courses and a minimum of 2.5 cumulative GPA. All prerequisites must be met before progression in the program.

Description	Credit Hours
General Education	33
Social Sciences Courses	15
Statistics	3
Social Work Courses	44
Advisor-Approved Electives	6
Total Credit Hours	101

Note: Social sciences and statistics courses that are required by the BSW Program may also count toward General Education and CHamoru Studies requirements. The UOG required minimum number of credit hours for graduation is 124.

General Education (33 credit hours)

The BSW program includes a General Education foundation with a minimum of:

- 15 credit hours in the social sciences and economics
- 3 credit hours in mathematics/statistics

Social Science Courses (15 credit hours)

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term Offered
PY101	GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS
SO101	INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS
BA110	PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS

Two elective upper-division social sciences courses (300-level or above) may be drawn from the fields of anthropology, economics, political science, psychology, sociology, women and gender studies, and CHamoru studies or as approved by Social Work faculty advisor.

Statistics Course (3 credit hours)

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term Offered
MA151	INTRODUCTORY STATISTICS	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS

Note: These courses may count toward General Education requirements and toward the major in CHamoru Studies.

Social Work Courses (44 credit hours)

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term Offered
SW201	SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT: GLOBAL CHALLENGES	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS
SW313	RESEARCH METHODS FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES	3	SPRING ONLY/ ALL YEARS
SW330	GENERALIST SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE METHODS I	3	FALL ONLY/ ALL YEARS
SW331	GENERALIST SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE METHODS II	3	SPRING ONLY/ ALL YEARS
SW332	GENERALIST SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE METHODS III	3	FALL ONLY/ ALL YEARS
SW333	GENERALIST SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE METHODS IV	3	SPRING ONLY/ ALL YEARS
SW345	SOCIAL JUSTICE	3	FALL ONLY/ ALL YEARS
SW350	HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT I	3	FALL ONLY/ ALL YEARS
SW351	HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT II	3	SPRING ONLY/ ALL YEARS
SW406	SOCIAL POLICY	3	FALL ONLY/ ALL YEARS

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term Offered
SW408	ADVOCACY FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE	3	SPRING ONLY/ ALL YEARS
SW410	SOCIAL WELFARE AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN MICRONESIA	3	FALL ONLY/ ALL YEARS
SW485A	FIELD INSTRUCTION	4	FALL ONLY/ ALL YEARS
SW485B	FIELD INSTRUCTION	4	SPRING ONLY/ ALL YEARS

Elective Courses (6 credits)

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term Offered
SW344	AGING: MYTH & REALITIES	3	FALL ONLY/ ALL YEARS
SW355	HUMAN SEXUALITY	3	SPRING ONLY/ ALL YEARS
SW400	FIELDS OF SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS
SW480	FAMILY VIOLENCE	3	SPRING ONLY/ ODD YEARS
CM340	CHAMORU CULTURE	3	FALL ONLY/ ALL YEARS
CM412	TOPICS IN CHAMORU STUDIES	3	SPRING ONLY/ ODD YEARS

Or:

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term Offered
SW490	SPECIAL PROJECT	3	FALL/SPRING/ ALL YEARS

FACULTY

Tressa P. Diaz

Associate Professor of Social Work
School of Health
(671) 735-0335
diazt@triton.uog.edu

Tricia A. Lizama

Associate Professor of Social Work
School of Health
(671) 735-0335
tlizama@triton.uog.edu

Lisalinda S. Natividad

Professor of Social Work
School of Health
(671) 735-2962
natividadl@triton.uog.edu

Gerhard J. Schwab

Professor of Social Work
School of Health
(671) 735-2961
gerhardschwab@triton.uog.edu