Student Learning Outcomes – Social Work

1. Identify as a Professional Social Worker and conduct oneself accordingly.
2. Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice.
3. Apply critical thinking to inform & communicate professional judgments.
4. Engage diversity and difference in practice.
5. Advance human rights and social and economic justice.
7. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment.
8. Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services.
9. Respond to contexts that shape practice.
10. Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

Social Work Courses

SOCIAL WORK

L.PSY-101: Introductory Psychology
An introduction to the science and practice of psychology as a discipline within the liberal arts. All sections will include an overview and brief history of psychology, basic research methods and statistics, physiological psychology, and human development. Each section will also include three or more of the following topics: learning and/or cognition, social psychology and/or motivation-emotion, abnormal psychology and/or clinical-counseling psychology. 3 credits.

L.PSY-121: Lifespan Development
A study of human development across the lifespan, with emphasis on the factors influencing physical, cognitive, and emotional development. 3 credits.

L.SOC-101: Sociology in Action-EI
Through hands-on activities inside the classroom and community based learning in the “real world,” students will be introduced to the ways in which sociologists approach the world. The relationship between individuals and society, ideas about how the world operates, and the dynamic process of social change will be emphasized as students learn to think sociologically. Approved for Community Based Learning. Restriction: Not open to students who have taken L.SOC-115. 3 credits. January term.

L.SOC-115: Introduction to Sociology-EI
An overview of the discipline of sociology. The course examines the theories and research methods of sociology as well as substantive areas including culture, social stratification, small group dynamics, social institutions, and the dynamics of social and cultural change. Restriction: Not open to students who have taken L.SOC-101. 3 credits.

L.SCW-130: Introduction to Social Welfare-EI
The role of social welfare in contemporary society; its historical development with emphasis on political, economic and social influences. Special emphasis upon the role of values in the development of welfare. Overview of the social work profession in a wide range of human service delivery systems. An examination of society’s current response to human need. 3 credits.
L.SCW-231: Human Behavior & Social Environment-EI
A critical evaluation of the theories of human behavior within the context of those biological, psychological, social, cultural, and spiritual processes which determine development and behavior throughout the life cycle. Special attention is given to alternative theories that complement the purpose and values of social work practice. Approved for Community Based Learning. Prerequisites: L.SCW-130. 3 credits.

L.SCW-350: Career Options and Professional Practice
An educationally focused community service experience and seminar that emphasizes socialization into the profession of social work. The course combines a two times weekly seminar with agency-based volunteer work in a helping role. A minimum of 100 hours of volunteer work must be completed to receive credit for the course. The seminar assists students in exploring their “goodness of fit” with a social work career and in developing an understanding of their own capacities in relation to professional social work competencies. Prerequisite: L.SCW-231. 3 credits.

L.SCW-340: Social Work with Groups and Families
This is the first course in a sequence of three generalist practice courses. This course addresses practice with families and small groups and focuses on introductory skills needed to facilitate groups. The focus is on group work which entails the deliberate use of intervention strategies and group processes to accomplish individual, group and community goals, using the value base and ethical practice principles of the social work profession. Prerequisite: L.SCW-231. 3 credits.

L.SCW-360: Social Work with Individuals
This is the second course in the professional practice of social work with an emphasis upon the values, knowledge and skills of generalist practice. A proactive process of working with individuals and families is offered, including strength-based assessments, cross-cultural competencies and empowerment strategies. Development of written and oral communication skills through the use of interviewing, role plays, videotaping and case studies. Prerequisite: L.SCW-231, SCW 340. 3 credits.

L.SCW-370: Social Policy: Formulation & Analysis
The focus of this course is on the role of the social worker as a policy advocate who addresses social problems in the public and agency/organizational sectors. This course focuses on policy advocacy as an intervention that requires a skill to be learned much like any other intervention skill in direct practice. Topics covered are the historical context of social policy in the United States, how to analyze social policy and understand the government policy-making process and understanding how values, conflicting viewpoints, and competing interests influence social policy. The focus will be on major policy areas and social action. Prerequisite: L.SCW-346. 3 credits.

L.SCW-380: Social Work with Organizations and Communities
This course explores the aspect of generalist practice involving proactive responding to large groups, communities and organizations. Macro skills of working within an agency or organizational leadership, supervision issues, grant writing, fundraising and community organizing are emphasized. Other skills to facilitate meetings, networking, time management, and handling conflict are addressed. Prerequisite: L.SCW-360. 3 credits.

L.SCW-447: Field Instruction & Portfolio-PJ
Individually planned and supervised experience in a public or voluntary social service agency. The student spends approximately 15 hours per week or 210 clock hours during one semester in placement. Some placements will require students to drive their own car. A weekly two-hour seminar is required of all students in field instruction. Application for field instruction must be made in the semester preceding the semester in which the course is to be taken. Prerequisite: L.SCW-446. Restrictions: Social work majors only. 4.5 credits.
L.CRJ-323: Research Methods in Criminal Justice
Course that will develop basic knowledge and skills of social research. Focus is on the research methods criminologists, sociologists, social workers, and other practitioners in the social sciences field employ to study social phenomena. Critical evaluation of all phases of the social research process. Requires that students memorize, comprehend, and apply social scientific terms to the analysis and evaluation of information. Juniors and Seniors only. Prerequisites: QR course. 4 credits. Spring semester.

L.PSY-211: Research Methods & Statistics I
An introduction to the use of research strategies and tools of measurement in psychology. The SPSS computer program will be used to introduce basic data handling, descriptive and correlational statistics. Students will be expected to participate in elementary research studies, produce APA-style research papers, and evaluate research literature. Prerequisite: Grade of C- or better in the foundational QR mathematics requirement, L.PSY-101 or equivalent. 3 credits.

L.PSY-212: Research Methods & Statistics II
This course continues instruction in psychological research by reviewing the basics of the scientific method, ethics, and APA style. Experimental research will then be introduced, along with more advanced inferential statistics. More complex designs, such as meta-analysis and factor analysis will be discussed. Students will again be expected to participate in elementary research studies, produce APA-style research papers, and evaluate research literature. Prerequisites: L.PSY-101 or equivalent and L.PSY-211 (with C- or better). 3 credits.

Continue to next page for major requirements
Loras College Finance Degree Requirements:

The Loras social work program provides a supportive learning community that graduates competent, ethical, value-based, generalist social work practitioners who critically use their liberal arts background in service to others. Working with and in partnering agencies, students, grounded in empowerment, actively learn knowledge values and skills, reflect upon those through opportunities in and outside the classroom, adopt and adhere to ethical approaches with diverse populations, and contribute responsibly to an ever-growing and changing world.

Social Work Program Rationale:

The undergraduate social work major instills the values, ethics, practice strategies, communication, diversity and knowledge required for students to become effective generalist social workers. The Loras College social work program connects the theoretical and conceptual contribution of the classroom with the practice setting in several ways throughout the four-year curriculum.

The program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Course requirements for the major usually require six semesters for completion. The social work program handbook, which further specifies program requirements, is given to students applying for formal acceptance into the program.

The social work program provides students with a liberal arts background and a strong knowledge base in generalist social work practice. Students may select opportunities to study and practice in child and family welfare, mental health, medical social work, substance abuse, legislation and policy, probation and parole, and many other fields. Additionally, graduates qualify for advanced standing in many Masters of Social Work (MSW) programs.

Senior Performance Requirement (Field Instruction)

As the capstone of their education, senior social work students complete 420 hours of actual social work practice in a social service agency. Students have a choice in completing their field instruction hours. A student can complete field part time over two semesters registering the first semester for L.SCW-446 (4.5 hours) and the second L.SCW-447 (4.5 hours), although most students complete a block placement of 9 credit hours during one semester under L.SCW-448 during the last semester of their senior year. The following are some of the agencies providing field instruction experience for social work students:

- Department of Human Services
- Juvenile Court Services
- American Red Cross
- Unity Point Hospital
- Hills and Dales
- Lutheran Services of Iowa
- Stonehill Care Center
- Families First Counseling
- Hillcrest Family Services
- Project Concern
- Headstart
- Multicultural Family Center
- Waypoint Services
- Riverview Sexual Assault Program
### Requirements for the major in Social Work (B.A.):

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<td>L.PSY-101: Introductory Psychology</td>
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<td>L.PSY-121: Lifespan Development</td>
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<td>L.SOC-332: Research Methods and Methodology</td>
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<td>L.PSY-211: Research Methods and Statistics 1</td>
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<td>L.SCW-447: Social Work Field Instruction</td>
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<td>12b</td>
<td>L.SCW-448: Field Instruction &amp; Portfolio-PJ</td>
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**45 to 50 total required credits**