



SOCIAL WORK (2021-2022)

Division of Teacher Education & Behavioral Sciences

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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

Student Learning Outcomes – Social Work	
1.	Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior
2.	Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice
3.	Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice
4.	Engage In Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice
5.	Engage in Policy Practice
6.	Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
7.	Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
8.	Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
9.	Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Requirements for the major in Social Work (B.A.):

In order to apply for a major in social work, the student completes L.SCW-130: Introduction to Social Welfare (EI), and SCW 231: Human Behavior in the Social Environment, submits a formal application, letters of recommendation and completes a program interview. Students apply to the program while enrolled in L.SCW-231: Human Behavior in the Social Environment-EI. A minimum 2.3 (C+) grade is required to pass major courses and continue to the next course in sequence.

Req	Course	Cr's
Select one from Req 1		
1	L.PSY-101: Introductory Psychology	3
1	L.PSY-121: Lifespan Development	3
Select one from Req 2		
2	L.SOC-101: Sociology in Action-EI	3
2	L.SOC-115: Introduction to Sociology-EI	3
3	L.SCW-130: Introduction to Social Welfare-EI	3
4	L.SCW-***: Social Work Elective	3
5	L.SCW-231: Human Behavior and Social Environment	3
6	L.SCW-350: Career Options and Professional Practice	3
7	L.SCW-340: Social Work with Groups and Families	3
8	L.SCW-360: Social Work with Individuals	3
9	L.SCW-370: Social Policy: Form and Analysis-VX	3
10	L.SCW-380: Social Work with Communities and Organizations	3
Select one from Req 11a and Req 11b, or both from Req 11c		
11a	L.CRJ-323: Research Methods in Criminal Justice	4
11b	L.SOC-332: Research Methods and Methodology	4

11c	L.PSY-211: Research Methods and Statistics 1	3
11c	L.PSY-212: Research Methods and Statistics 2	3
Select both from Req 12a, or Req 12b		
12a	L.SCW-446: Social Work Field Instruction	4.5
12a	L.SCW-447: Social Work Field Instruction	4.5
12b	L.SCW-448: Field Instruction & Portfolio-PJ, IN	9-12
45 to 50 total required credits		

2021-2022 SOCIAL WORK COURSES:

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 of 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-190: The Working Poor

Through a hands-on simulation, readings, class discussions, guest speakers, and media presentations, students will gain a foundational knowledge of the history of the working poor in the U.S., the theories regarding causation and reduction, and the grassroots efforts for change as they relate to the social class referred to as the working poor. Students will build on this foundation by developing a specific knowledge of the working poor in the Dubuque community. 3 credits. January term.

L.SCW-231: Human Behavior & Social Environment

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-270: Self-Care and the Helping Professions-EI

We will begin by looking at the ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences Study) and the importance of Trauma Informed Care in the helping professions. We will define compassion fatigue, secondary trauma, and burnout in relation to working with vulnerable populations. The emphasis is on the professional and their commitment and knowledge of self-care practices. We will be studying different types of trauma on all levels of the environment and the effects on the brain and behavior of people. Throughout the 15 weeks, we will study traditional self-care (exercising, journaling) as well as more untraditional methods (Energy healing, essential oil therapy, meditation, laughter yoga, crystal healing, and sound healing). . Every other Fall Term. 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-345: Social Work Research

Students are introduced to the basic steps of the traditional scientific research process. A group research project is carried out following the approval of the Institutional Review Board. The initial results are analyzed and presented to the class. Students are also exposed to alternative research methods such as program evaluation and direct practice evaluation. Prerequisite: L.SCW-231. 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-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-VX

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-395: Topics

Social Work topics course. Used to develop courses which have not been approved under another catalog number. See Division Chair for more information.

L.SCW-446: 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: All requirements for the major completed. Restrictions: Social work majors only. 4.5 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.SCW-448: Field Instruction & Portfolio-PJ, IN

Individually planned and supervised experience in a public or voluntary social service agency. The student spends 420-570 clock hours (depending on credit level) per 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: All requirements for the major completed. Restrictions: Social work majors only. 9-12 credits.