

SOCIAL WORK, B.S.W.

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Greater Allegheny

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Social Work degree in Social Work, a minimum of 122 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	7
Requirements for the Major	92

22 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 9 credits of GWS courses; 4 credits of GQ courses; 3 credits of GHW courses; 6 credits of GS courses.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
BBH 143	Drugs, Behavior, and Health	3
HDFS 301	Values and Ethics in Health and Human Development Professions	3
PSU 8	First-Year Seminar University College	1
PSYCH 100	Introductory Psychology	3
PSYCH 270	Introduction to Abnormal Psychology	3
SOC/HDFS/CMAS 258N	Introduction to Child Maltreatment and Advocacy Studies	3
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
CAS 100	Effective Speech	3
ENGL 15	Rhetoric and Composition	3
ENGL 202A	Effective Writing: Writing in the Social Sciences	3
PUBPL 304W	Public Policy Analysis	3
SOCW 195	Introduction to Social Work with Field Hours	3
SOCW 205	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice	3
SOCW 215	Introduction to Social Welfare History, Policy, Programs, and Services	3
SOCW 290	Human Behavior and the Social Environment	3
SOCW 300	Social Work Methods - Individuals	3
SOCW 301	Social Work Methods - Groups	3
SOCW 302	Social Work Methods - Families	3
SOCW 303	Methods - Communities & Organizations	3
SOCW 315	Assessment, Documentation, and Effective Interviewing Skills in Social Work	3
SOCW 407	Research Methods in Social Work	3

SOCW 495A	Social Work - Internship	3
SOCW 495B	Social Work - Internship	9
STAT 200	Elementary Statistics	4

Additional Courses

ECON 102	Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy	3
or ECON 104	Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy	
RHS 433	Trauma-informed care for school & human service professionals	3
or PSYCH 442	Trauma and Resiliency	

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Select 3 credit Sociology Courses (SOC)	3
Select a 3 credit Political Science Course (PLSC)	3
<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>	
Select 6 credits of Social Work 400-level courses	6

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3

credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.