

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

Program Description

The Bachelor of Social Work major provides broad-based educational experiences for undergraduate students interested in working in the private and public sector to provide social services for diverse people and communities. Students will learn to critically engage in social problems by understanding the cultural, economic, environmental, and historical conditions individuals and groups face, and they will be prepared to promote individual, family, and community well-being. Students will be engaged in the scholarly study of social issues, and they will have clinical experiences in community-based organizations, foundations, and government offices.

What is Social Work?

The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. A historic and defining feature of social work is the profession's dual focus on individual well-being in a social context and the well-being of society. Fundamental to social work is attention to the environmental forces that create, contribute to, and address problems in living. Social workers promote social justice and social change with and on behalf of clients. Social workers are sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity and strive to end discrimination, oppression, poverty, and other forms of social injustice.

(National Association of Social Workers, 2022)

You Might Like This Program If...

- You have a desire to promote social justice and social change in society
- You enjoy engaging with diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities
- You are enthusiastic about helping others cope effectively during challenging times
- You are passionate about alleviating poverty and improving living conditions
- You are interested in helping people manage acute medical conditions, chronic stress, and illnesses
- You are fascinated about providing mental health and substance use treatment services