

Social Work

Social workers help individuals, families and communities manage and overcome social, personal and other problems. They work in many different settings and at multiple levels and can be found: connecting clients with needed services and resources, advocating for social change, managing public and private social service systems, providing crisis intervention, and offering life skills training.

The Bachelor's in Social Work Program at NMU offers a generalist social work education and prepares students to work in many different capacities. Graduates have found successful careers in several areas, including: child protection, public welfare, health (as hospital social workers), education (as school social workers), mental health, and criminal justice agencies (as probation officers and social workers within correctional facilities).

NMU is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) so that graduates can earn a Bachelor's in Social Work (B.S.W.) which allows them to take a licensing exam and become a licensed social worker. (License requirements vary by state. Michigan is a licensed state and many employers in the state require that their employees have a license.)

Visit LARA-Michigan Board of Social Work (michigan.gov/lara)

Skills and Competencies

As in other degree programs, you will be exposed to a variety of academic coursework as a Social Work major. You will acquire a great number of new skills in the process. Your interpersonal communication, ability to assess situations, knowledge of community resources, ability to make decisions and ability to maintain composure will be enhanced. Also, objectivity, open-mindedness, and systematic work habits are important in all types of social work occupations.

Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with general education and graduation requirements.

Core

SW100	Exploring Social Work (4 cr.)
SW230	Human Behavior in the Social Env. I (4 cr.)
SW308	Methods of Social Research II (4 cr.)
SW331	Human Behavior in the Social Env. II (4 cr.)
SW341	Social Welfare Policy (4 cr.)
SW370	Generalist Practice Methods I (4 cr.)
SW372	Generalist Practice Methods II (4 cr.)
SW440	Social Work Policy Analysis (4 cr.)
SW472	SW Practice w/ Diverse Populations (4 cr.)
SW473	Integrative Seminar I (2 cr.)
SW474	Integrative Seminar II (2 cr.)
SW480	Senior Field Placement I (4 cr.)
SW481	Senior Field Placement II (4 cr.)

Human Behavior Minor (Required)

AN 100	Intro to Socio-Cultural Anthropology (4 cr.) or NAS204 Native American Experience (4 cr.) or HS233 Native American History (4 cr.) or HS273 Gay and Lesbian History (4 cr.) or HS283 American Women's History (4 cr.)
BI100	Biological Science (4 cr.) or BI104 Human Anatomy & Physiology (4 cr.) or BI201 Human Anatomy (3 cr.) or BI202 Human Physiology (5 cr.)
EC101	Introduction to Economics (4 cr.) or EC201 Microeconomic Principles (4 cr.) or EC202 Macroeconomic Principles (4 cr.) or EC337 American Economic History (4 cr.)
PSY100	Psychology as a Social/Natural Science (4 cr.)
SO101	Introductory Sociology (4 cr.)
SO208	Methods of Social Research (4 cr.) or MA171 Intro to Probability & Statistics(4 cr.) or PY305 Psychological Statistics (4 cr.)
SO372	Minority Groups (4 cr.) or SO322 Social Class, Power and Mobility (4 cr.) or SO362 Gender and Society (4 cr.)

Detailed course descriptions can be found at www.nmu.edu/bulletin.

Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship is a way to develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

Additional Considerations

Careers in these fields offer steady, stable employment. Positions are usually permanent after an initial probationary period. For occupational advancement, some additional education (beyond the baccalaureate level) may be required.

Working as a social worker can be both challenging and rewarding. Social workers are likely to encounter clients with serious social and personal problems. However, opportunities to create positive changes are great.

Job Outlook

The national employment rate for social workers is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations over the next several years. Job prospects are expected to be particularly favorable for: social workers who work with older adults, children (including school social workers) or families; mental health and substance abuse workers; medical and public health social workers (including hospital social workers); and social workers in rural areas.

Potential Careers

NMU's Social Work Program prepares students for a variety of career opportunities including those with:

- Adult Protective Services
- Alcohol & Drug Treatment Services
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Children's Bureau
- Community Mental Health
- Courts
- Department of Health and Human Services
 - Adult Protective Services
 - Child Protective Services
 - Foster Care
- Disabilities
- Domestic Violence Treatment
- Head Start
- Homelessness
- Hospice
- Job Corps
- Long-Term Care Unit
- Mental Health Institution
- Nursing Homes
- Prisons
- Private Child & Family Agencies
- Senior Centers
- Substance Abuse Treatment Centers
- United Way

Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
www.nmu.edu/acac

Department of Social Work
2400 Jamrich
906-227-2706
www.nmu.edu/sociology

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
Career Services
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:
Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

Student Social Work/Sociology Organization
http://www.nmu.edu/soc_work/sswso.htm

Internet Resource Links:
www.careers.org
www.bls.gov

For Career Information with National Organizations:
www.naswdc.org -National Association of Social Workers
www.cswe.org -Council on Social Work Education
www.sc.edu/swan -Social Work Access Network



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY**

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

The Academic & Career Advisement Center
2021



What to do with
a major in...

Social Work

