

Why Study Social Work at Grand Valley?

The social work profession deals with a variety of conditions that limit people's ability to function. Professional social workers try to help individuals and groups overcome these limitations and become well-adjusted, contributing members of society. The social work program provides a foundation curriculum in a high-quality learning environment that prepares students for success in the community social work concentration. Graduates:

- Exhibit a commitment to enhancing social justice, promoting human rights, ensuring the dignity and worth of all individuals, practicing with integrity, upholding ethics, incorporating diversity into their practice, and advancing the profession's reputation and knowledge base.
- Possess the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to create and/or identify and acquire new information about professional social work practice as such information becomes available throughout their careers.
- Are competent users of technologies and proficient consumers of training opportunities that support their lifelong professional development.

The School of Social Work at Grand Valley State University is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

Step One: Declaring Your Major Select Social Work—BSW

The Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree is the only available option with this major. Although you are declaring your major today, this program is considered a secondary admission program. You must meet certain criteria before you are eligible for full admission (or candidacy) into the Social Work program. This formal application process to be admitted into the program is normally completed in the Spring/Summer before the junior year. Program admission only occurs in the fall semester.

Step Two: Choosing Your Classes

Focus on the Social Work Admission Requirements, including:

1. A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 (4.0 scale).
2. Completion of the following components of the general education curriculum prior to program admission:
 - a. All Foundation Categories; except Mathematical Sciences
 - b. Cultures Category: US Diversity
3. School of Social Work Candidacy Course Requirements (See chart below)
4. Earned a minimum grade of C and not have repeated more than once those courses highlighted dark gray in the chart below. NOTE: Students with transfer credit earned at another institution in these courses must meet the grade and repeat criteria indicated.

Candidacy Course Requirements		
Course Requirement	Course Title	CR
BIO 104	Biology for the 21 st Century <i>also satisfies GenEd: Life Science w/ lab</i>	4
PLS 102	American Government and Politics <i>also satisfies GenEd: Social and Behavioral Sciences</i>	3
PSY 101	Introductory Psychology <i>also satisfies GenEd: Social and Behavioral Sciences</i>	3
PSY 303 OR PSY 324	Psychopathology OR Developmental Psychopathology	3
SOC 101	Introduction to Sociology <i>also satisfies GenEd: Social and Behavioral Sciences</i>	3
SW 150	Human Needs in Complex Society <i>also satisfies GenEd: Social and Behavioral Sciences</i>	3
SW 300	Pluralism in American Society	3
Social Problems/ Social Inequality (Pick one)	BMS 222: Introduction to Public Health <i>offered fall semester</i>	3
	CJ 101: Justice and Society <i>also satisfies GenEd: Social and Behavioral Sciences</i>	
	ECO 210: Introduction to Macroeconomics <i>also satisfies GenEd: Social and Behavioral Sciences</i>	
	ECO 211: Introduction to Microeconomics <i>also satisfies GenEd: Social and Behavioral Sciences</i>	
	SOC 105: Social Problems <i>also satisfies GenEd: U.S. Diversity</i>	
	SOC 252: Sociology of Drug Use and Abuse	
	SOC 286: Sociology of Health Care	
	SOC 315: Social Class Inequality*	
	SOC 381: Class, Race, Gender, & Sexuality <i>also satisfies GenEd: U.S. Diversity</i>	
	CJ 320/WGS 320: Crimes Against Women* <i>offered fall semester</i>	
MTH 110	Proficiency Required+	

MTH 108 Math Placement*

MTH 108	3	MTH 109	3
WRT120/WRT 150 (if selected) or PLS102	3-4	WRT130 or WRT 150 (if not taken in the fall) or PLS 102 (if not in fall)	3-4
BIO104 (Satisfies F-LY)	4	Natural Science without a lab	3
SW150 (Satisfies F-SW)	3	SOC 101 (Satisfies F-SO)	3
General Education Category (Art, P&L, or HST) (if space in schedule)	3	General Education Category (Art, P&L, or HST) (if space available)	3

MTH110 Math Placement*

SW150 (Satisfies F-SBS)	3	PSY101 (Satisfies F-SBS)	3
WRT 120/WRT 150 (if selected) or PLS 102	3	WRT 130 (if WRT 120 in fall) or WRT150 or PLS102 (if not in fall)	3-4
Physical Science without a lab	3	BIO104 (Satisfies F-LY)	4
General Education Category (Art, P&L, or HST)	3	MTH 110	4
General Education Category (Art, P&L, or HST)	3		

MTH110 Waived/Advanced Waiver Math Placement

WRT 120(if selected) or PLS102	3-4	WRT 130 (if WRT 120 in Fall) or WRT150 or PLS 102 (if not in fall)	3-4
SW150 (Satisfies F-SBS)	3	SOC101 (Satisfies F-SBS)	3
PSY101 (Satisfies F-SBS)	3	BIO104 (Satisfies F-LY)	4
Physical Science without a lab	3	General Education Foundation (Art, P&L, or HST)	3
General Education Category (Art, P&L, or HST)	3	General Education Category (Art, P&L, or HST) (if space in schedule)	3

Honors Program Participants

You will complete your 6 credit honors sequence each semester in place of the suggested general education and writing requirements. Any other spaces you have left open should be filled with other social work program admission courses (see chart on other side) or electives toward a minor.

AP/Dual Enrollment

The priority in your first two years should be the admission criteria for the School of Social Work. Any open spaces can be filled with other general education requirements (STA215 or Global Perspectives Perspectives) or electives toward a minor.

Upper level SW core courses will not be taken until formal admission to the program occurs in the junior year.

*A Note about Math Placement

MTH110 does not need to be completed in the first year. If there is no space available, it can be completed in the second year. Focus instead on another general education course or program admission course. You should take MTH 108 in the first year if required by placement.

Social Work