SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

The social work program at Millersville University leads to a Bachelor of Arts degree in social work. Millersville’s social work baccalaureate program is professionally accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Based on the general education curriculum, the social work curriculum is designed to prepare students for beginning professional practice in social agencies and other settings where social workers are employed. The program educates the general practitioner; therefore, it is built on basic required courses. However, it also allows students to explore areas of interest through elective courses and field instruction assignments.

Affirming the mission of Millersville University, a public, liberal arts institution situated in South Central Pennsylvania, the baccalaureate social work program educates students to be competent, evidence-informed social work professionals who embrace core social work values; enhance human and community well-being; promote social, economic and environmental justice; and advance human rights through generalist social work practice. The University and the program provide a learning environment that prepares students to work in an increasingly diverse society and to meet contemporary social, cultural, economic, political and global challenges.

Social Work Program Goals

To meet the purpose of the social work profession and the mission of Millersville University and the social work baccalaureate program, faculty seek to prepare students/graduates to:

• Goal 1: Strengthen human connections and relationships
• Goal 2: Practice effectively and ethically
• Goal 3: Engage to promote justice and human rights
• Goal 4: Think globally; act locally

The curriculum is designed to help students integrate knowledge and theories from many academic disciplines with social work concepts, values and practice skills. Courses in the social work program attempt to develop an understanding of the human condition and human diversity. The social work major needs to understand biological, psychological and sociocultural aspects of human development; characteristics of human interaction with the social environment; the role, structure and function of social welfare policies and programs; social work intervention methods; and social work research findings and methods.

In addition to theoretical instruction, students are given ample opportunity for practical experience. The experiential requirements begin in the introductory courses and carry through to formal work in advanced courses. The culmination is 450 hours practicum during spring semester, wherein the student can integrate knowledge and skills in a social agency or other social service setting in the community.

A formal Professional Readiness Assessment process takes place for each student prior to placement in a social service setting for field instruction. Qualifications are based on academic performance, oral and written communication skills, and demonstrated ethical behavior, values and commitment to social work as a career. The social work faculty has the right to dismiss from the program, at any time, students found not qualified for social work practice.

Upon completion of the undergraduate social work degree, graduates will be able to:

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.