

Welcome to UHCL and the BSW Program!

On behalf of the faculty, students and program advisory board, welcome to the UHCL BSW Program. We are excited that you are considering UHCL for your undergraduate social work education, and look forward to working with you as you embark on your new educational experience.

As part of an undergraduate and graduate university, the mission of the University of Houston - Clear Lake Social Work Program reflects UHCL's mission regarding academic excellence, appreciation of diversity and the provision of meaningful human services.

The mission of our accredited BSW program is to prepare entry-level social work professionals for competent agency based generalist social work.

Generalist practice is the application of a wide variety of theoretical perspectives reflecting an integrated bio-psycho-social approach, professional values and ethics and skills with diverse persons, families, groups, organizations and communities utilizing the planned change process.

Social work foundation content is found in nine interrelated areas: human behavior and the social environment (HBSE); social welfare policy; social work research; social work values and ethics; diversity; promoting social and economic justice; working with populations-at-risk; social work practice; and field placement.

The UHCL BSW Program emphasizes a respect for diversity throughout all components of its learning environment. Respect for diversity is manifested for all persons with special attention given to those persons oppressed or discriminated against on the basis of race, color, religion, gender identity/expression, age, sexual orientation, mental, or physical ability, veteran status or national origin.

The UHCL BSW Program was granted reaccreditation status by the Council on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education in October of 2016.

For answers to any of your questions, please contact:

**Dr. Heather Kanenberg, LMSW: BSW Program Director at 281-283-3458 or
KanenbergH@uhcl.edu**

**Dr. Roberta Leal, MSW: BSW Program Internship Director at 281-283-3495 or
LealR@uhcl.edu**

**Dr. Maria Wilson, LMSW, LVN, Assistant Professor of Social Work at 281-283-3379 or
WilsonM@uhcl.edu**

**Professor Laura Willa Kanter, LMSW, Lecturer of Social Work at 281-283-3343 or
Kanter@uhcl.edu**

BSW Admissions Criteria and Policies

Academic Criteria:

1. Completion of The Texas Core Requirements.
2. Completion of Introduction to Psychology. Students must earn a grade of "C" or higher.
3. Completion of Introduction to Sociology. Students must earn a grade of "C" or higher.
4. Completion of one of the following natural science courses: Human or General Biology; Anatomy & Physiology; Human or General Biology for non-science majors; or The Human Body.
5. Completion of SWRK 2361- Introduction to Social Work with a grade of "C" or higher.
6. Completion of SWRK 3304-Professional Issues and Ethics in Social Work with a grade of "C": or higher.
7. Cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher.

Professional Criteria:

The BSW faculty are interested in applicants who demonstrate both academic competency and the personal characteristics that will serve as a sound basis for professional development. There are several characteristics deemed important in students who wish to have a social work career. Among these are:

- Emotional maturity
- Interpersonal skills
- Good judgment
- Openness to new ideas
- The capacity to develop self-awareness
- The willingness to alter one's behavior when presented with new information and the acceptance of differences in people
- A dedication to the values within the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics including: a commitment to social work's role in institutional change and a broad-based respect for diversity.

These Professional Criteria are evaluated via: a) Application Personal Statement; b) Application Letters of Recommendation; and c) Observation of student during pre-requisite courses.

Application Process:

1. Contact Dr. Heather Kanenberg (Kanenberg@uhcl.edu) or Dr. Roberta Leal (Lealr@uhcl.edu) for BSW advising as soon as possible after admission to UHCL and the start of coursework.
2. Students obtain an application packet from Dr. Kanenberg, Dr. Leal, the HSH advising office, or online at: [BSW Program Application](#)
3. The submitted application packet must include the following documents and information:
 - a. Application for Admission and corresponding Checklist

- b. An unofficial copy of all college transcripts
- c. 3 letters of recommendation from previous instructors or work/employment supervisors.
- d. A 4-6 page autobiographical statement. Applicants should be certain that their autobiographical statement is a strong sample of their ability to express themselves in writing. The statement should include:
 - a. A description of the student's educational, work, and/or life goals;
 - b. Their personal and professional objectives;
 - c. Social work or human service experience, including contact, exposure to, or experience with diverse groups; and
 - d. Any other information the student believes may be important when considering their application for admission to the program.

Application Deadlines:

Applications are accepted at any time. However, students requesting secondary admission for a particular semester should note the following requirements: All materials must be submitted by July 15th for Fall admission and December 15th for Spring admission.

Admission Procedures and Decisions

1. Complete admission packets are reviewed by all full-time and/or part-time faculty.
2. Students receive admission decisions within 30 days emailed to their UHCL email address.
3. Students with a GPA lower than 2.5 may still be admitted to the BSW program, if faculty determines other admission criteria are suitably strong.
4. Applicants should also note that a personal interview may be required as part of the admissions process.

NOTE: Students may declare Social Work as their major at any point in time. However, students must apply for secondary admission and be accepted into the BSW Program in order to complete the curriculum and earn a Bachelor of Social Work. Students may request a Candidate Plan of Studies (CPS) at any time after beginning their coursework at UHCL.

Admission Decisions

Admission Decision	Explanation
<u>Full Admission</u>	Students have fully met the admission requirements and are accepted into the program.
<u>Probationary Status</u>	<p>Students are admitted on probationary status when there is a consensus among the Admission Review Team that students must <u>show improvement</u> in one or both of the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overall academic performance; and/or 2. Ongoing demonstration of professional behavior and adherence to the NASW Code of Ethics. <p>***Students admitted on a probationary status must attend an interview with the Program Director and Director of Field Education to identify specific criteria for attaining Full admission status. The student should contact the Program Director to schedule this meeting within two weeks of formal notification of their probationary status. Unless otherwise indicated, students will be removed from probationary status and be fully admitted to the program or removed from the program after one full semester.</p>
<u>Non-admission</u>	The Admission Review Team reviewed the complete packet and found the student to not be appropriate for admission. Students can re-apply to the program the following academic year.

Appeal Procedures

If students would like to appeal their admissions status, they must submit, in writing, the reason for their appeal. Copies of the appeal must be sent to the BSW Program Director and the Associate Dean of the College of Human Sciences and Humanities within fifteen business days of receipt of their admission decision. The Associate Dean of the College of Human Sciences and Humanities will render the appeal decision. This decision may be appealed, if needed, to the Dean of the College of Human Sciences and Humanities within fifteen business days from receipt of the Associate Deans admission decision. The decision by the Dean is considered final.

Credit For Prior Work

Social Work Prerequisites:

Academic credit for life or previous work experience is not given in lieu of any courses, including field internship, offered as part of the BSW Program. Students may be granted academic credit for social work pre-requisite courses (Introduction to Social Work Practice and Issues and Ethics in Social Work Practice) completed elsewhere with the approval of the Program Director and Director of Field Education. Students must provide evidence that there is sufficient comparability between the course (s) they have taken elsewhere and the identified pre-requisite offered by the UHCL BSW Program. This may be accomplished by:

- The student's transcript indicates the student made a grade of "**C**" or higher in the class; and/or
- The student providing a course syllabus for the semester during which the course was taken; and
- Upon request, students providing the text used in the course for review of content comparability by the BSW Program Director and Director of Field Education.

Final decisions rest with the Program Director and Director of Field Education. Students **may** be granted academic credit for core social work courses completed at another CSWE accredited program; one that is in candidacy status with CSWE or a BSW Program outside the USA that is accredited by a comparable governing body. Eligible courses include: Diversity and Human Behavior in the Social Environment; Oppression, Diversity, & Social Justice; Experimental Research Methods; Non-Experimental Research Methods; Social Welfare Policy & Services; Social Welfare Policy Analysis and the three Practice courses. Students must provide evidence that there is equivalence between the course(s) they have taken elsewhere and the identified core social work course offered by the UHCL BSW Program. Final approval is required from the program faculty. Demonstration of equivalence of completed coursework may be accomplished by:

- The student's transcript indicates the student earned a grade of "**C**" or higher in the class;
- The student providing course syllabi for the semester during which the course(s) was taken; and
- Upon request, students providing the text used in the course for review of content equivalence by the BSW program faculty.

Students are responsible for ensuring all required information is received in a timely manner.

Final decisions rest with the program faculty.

Core Social Work Courses:

Students **may** be granted academic credit for core social work courses completed at another CSWE accredited program; one that is in candidacy status with CSWE or a BSW Program outside the USA that is accredited by a comparable governing body.

Eligible courses for consideration of transfer credit include Diversity and Human Behavior in the Social Environment; Oppression, Diversity, & Social Justice; Experimental Methods and Statistics and Non-Experimental Methods and Statistics; Social Welfare Policy & Services;

Social Welfare Policy Analysis and the three Practice courses. Students must provide evidence that there is equivalence between the course(s) they have taken elsewhere, and the identified core social work course offered by the UHCL BSW Program. An assessment of comparability requires:

- The student's transcript indicates the student made a grade of "C" or higher in the class; and
- The student providing a course syllabus for the semester during which the course was taken; and
- Upon request, students providing the text used in the course for review of content comparability by the BSW program faculty.

Students are responsible for ensuring all required information is received in a timely manner. Final decisions rest with the BSW program faculty.

*** All students must complete 30 hours of coursework at UHCL to graduate with a BSW degree. In the event that students have been granted one or more course waivers by the UHCL BSW program faculty, they must consult with the university advisers to ensure they meet all university requirements for graduation.

***** Under no circumstances will students be allowed to transfer in internship hours.**

BSW Curriculum Overview

Prerequisites (for admission to the BSW Program): *(grade must be "C" or better)*

SWRK 2361: Introduction to Social Work
 SWRK 3304: Professional Issues and Ethics in Social Work

BSW Foundation Courses: *(grade must be "C" or better)*

SWRK 3314: Diversity & Human Behavior in the Social Environment (HBSE)
 (pre or co-requisite: Introduction to Social Work & Professional Issues and Ethics in Social Work)
 SWRK 3324: Oppression, Diversity and Social Justice (ODSJ)
 (pre or co-requisite: Introduction to Social Work & Professional Issues and Ethics in Social Work)
 SWRK 3317: Social Welfare Policy and Services (SWPS)
 SWRK 4319: Social Welfare Policy Analysis (SWPA)
 (pre-requisite: SWPS)
 SWRK 4363: Experimental Methods and Statistics
 SWRK 4370: Nonexperimental Methods and Statistics
 SWRK 4318: Social Work Practice I: Practice with Individuals
 (pre-requisite: Introduction to Social Work, Professional Issues and Ethics in Social Work, HBSE & ODSJ)
 SWRK 4328: Social Work Practice II: Practice with Groups and Families
 (pre-requisite: Practice I)
 SWRK 4338: Social Work Practice III: Practice with Organizations & Communities
 (pre-requisite: Practice I)
 SWRK 4619 & SWRK 4629: Internship Placement I & II
 (pre-requisite: all core social work courses except SWPA, Overview Course Requirements, advanced writing and approval of BSW faculty)

*****Students may choose to complete SWRK 3314, SWRK 3317, SWRK 3324, SWRK 4363 and SWRK 4370 prior to being fully admitted to the program.**

***Courses in the SWRK Rubric may only be taken twice in an attempt to earn a "C" or better. Failure to do so will result in students being ineligible to apply for the program or removed from the program if already admitted.

Major (Interdisciplinary) Requirement:

Students must complete 2 of the following behavioral science requirements:

- ARTS 3355 Latin American Art of the Twentieth Century
- ARTS 3356 Mexican Art, 1500-Present
- ARTS 4366 Propaganda and Persuasive Images
- HUMN 3374 Critical Inquiry (Can take more than once, as long as each has a different topic area)
- HUMN 3375 Ideas in Transition (Can take more than once, as long as each has a different topic area)
- PHIL 3331 Ethics
- WGST 1301 Gender Matters: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies
- WGST 4308 Perspectives in Women's and Gender Studies
- SWRK Elective or Course Designated by Major (3000/4000 level) *Must be approved by Program Faculty*

Overview Courses Requirement: (grade must be “C” or better)

Students must complete 2 courses; they must be from 2 of the following 3 HSH disciplines: Psychology, Sociology, or Anthropology.

Psychology Overview

- Learning -3231
- Theories Person-3331
- Introduction to Psychopathology – 2320
- Social Psychology– 2319
- Psych of Latinos/x - 4349
- Cognitive Psychology – 4382
- Gender and Racial Identity Development - 4348
- Psychology of Women – 4334

Sociology Overview

- Social Structure – 4312
- Family & Society – 4358
- Family Policy – 4369
- Women’s Health & Sexuality - 4328

Anthropology Overview

- Contemporary Cultural – 3311
- Interdisciplinary Perspectives in Global Health – 3330
- Human Sex, Culture, & Health – 3334
- Political and Economic Anthropology - 3352
- Mexico, Central America, Borderlands – 4333
- Human Rights, Social Justice, Health – 4342
- Studies in Cultural Diversity – 4301
- Gender and Sexuality in Global Perspectives – 4341

Writing requirement: (grade must be “C” or better)

Students must choose one of the following writing courses.

- WRIT 3307: Advanced Writing; or
- WRIT 3306: Writing for the Social Sciences
- WRIT 3315: Advanced Technical Writing

*** Students must maintain at least a 2.5 GPA to remain in the BSW Program.

Certificate in Women’s and Gender Studies Option: Students pursuing a BSW Degree who would also like to receive an undergraduate certificate in Women’s Studies should enroll in the following courses: WMST: 1308, PSYC 4334 and one of the following Anthropology options: ANTH 4341, ANTH 4301: Studies in Cultural Diversity: Women of Color or ANTH 4301: Studies in Cultural Diversity: Latina/Latin American Feminisms. Students will need to complete the “Women’s Studies Certificate Intention Form” which is found on the UHCL Women’s Studies Website.

*** **Course requirements are subject to change from time to time. Prospective students are encouraged to consult with BSW Program faculty prior to registration to ensure they are enrolled in appropriate courses.**

Course Sequencing Guidance related to entering Internship (Effective 5/1/15)

1. Students must complete all Core Social Work courses with the exception of Social Welfare Policy Analysis (SWRK-4319) prior to entering Internship I.
2. Prior to entering Internship I, students must complete Advanced Writing.
3. Completion of HSH Overviews (Psyc, Soci, & Anth options) which are pre and/or co requisites of Practice I (SWRK 4138) and as such, must be completed prior to Internship I.

*** This also applies to those students who are enrolled in the Women and Gender Studies Certificate Program (WGST) and utilizing the HSH Overview requirements to help meet those requirements.

*** If students have enrolled in the Women and Gender Studies Certificate Program they may take one WGST course (the last of their requirements) during field.

4. Students may take a lower or upper level elective, WGST course or Interdisciplinary overview course during Internship I and/or II.
5. Under no circumstances will students be allowed to take more than 12 total hours during each semester of Internship.
6. If a student does not earn a grade of "C" or better in Internship Field I (SWRK 4619) or SWPA (SWRK 4319), they will not be allowed to enroll in Internship II.
7. If a student does not earn a grade of "C" or better in an overview requirement or elective during Internship I, they may retake it during Internship II as long as they remain in good standing within the program and will not be taking over 12 hours during their final semester.

NOTICE: It is the practice of BSW faculty to encourage students to complete as much coursework as possible prior to entering Internship Field so they may focus all their energy toward successful completion of Field Practicum and on graduation.

The undergraduate program in social work leads to the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree, eligibility to sit for the Texas Licensed Bachelor of Social Work (LBSW) examination, and a career filled with exciting opportunities. Imagine potential careers in any one of the following areas:

HEALTH CARE

Social work in/with:

- The Emergency Room;
- The Neonatal Intensive Care;
- Public Health with pregnant Women; or
- Individuals & groups infected with HIV/AIDS.

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK

Social work in/with:

- At-risk youth;
- Drop-out prevention; or
- Basic needs services.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Social work in/with:

- Adoption;
- Foster Care;
- Child Protective Services;
- Neighborhood Youth Centers;
- Working with Gay, Lesbian, Transgender youth; or
- Employee Assistance Programs.

DISABILITIES

Social work in/with:

- Developmental Disabilities;
- Advocacy with children or adults; and
- Case Management.

MENTAL HEALTH

Social work in/with:

- Outpatient Care & Counseling;
- Partial Hospitalization Services or Group Homes; or
- Grief Counseling.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK

- Disaster Response;
- Development and Infrastructure work;
- Refugee Services; or
- Human Trafficking.

VETERANS AND THE MILITARY

Social work in/with:

- Returning Veterans;
- Family members of the enlisted; or
- Physical and mental health services.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Social work in/with:

- Children;
- Adults;
- Those Dually Diagnosed;
- Outpatient Services & Programs; or
- Inpatient Services & Programs.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: WORKING WITH OFFENDERS AND VICTIMS

Social work in/with:

- Prison Substance Abuse Treatment;
- Probation or Parole Officer;
- Residential Treatment for Adolescent Sexual Offenders; or
- Victim Services.

OLDER ADULTS AND THE END OF LIFE

Social work in/with:

- Nursing Homes;
- Hospice Agencies; or
- Home Health Services.

WORKING IN COMMUNITIES

Social work in/with:

- Community Organizing for Social Change;
- Policy Practice; or
- Migrant Families.

AND MUCH, MUCH, MORE...

University of Houston – Clear Lake

Social Work Education FAQ

1. What is CSWE?

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) is a national association that preserves and enhances the quality of social work education for practice that promotes the goals of individual and community well-being and social justice. CSWE pursues this mission through setting and maintaining policy and program standards, accrediting bachelor's and master's degree programs in social work, promoting research and faculty development, and advocating for social work education. For more information on CSWE visit www.cswe.org.

2. Why should I attend a program accredited by CSWE?

CSWE is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation as the sole accrediting body for social work education in the U.S. Social work education programs that are accredited by CSWE have met a series of rigorous standards designed by leading social work educators and practitioners to ensure that students are adequately prepared for professional practice. Membership in the National Association of Social Workers and the social work licensing laws in most states require graduation from a CSWE-accredited program. The profession of social work in the United States looks to the CSWE-accredited programs to produce social workers that have the knowledge and skills to be professional social workers. Your chances of being licensed or hired as a social worker are greatly enhanced by an accredited social work degree.

3. What is a "five-year" master's program or advanced standing?

The typical master's degree program consists of the equivalent of two years' full-time study. Some graduate programs will grant advanced standing to applicants who hold a bachelor's degree from a program accredited by CSWE. The extent of advanced standing varies from program to program. You should contact individual programs for information on the extent to which they offer advanced standing. Some advanced standing programs allow for completion of the master's degree in one calendar year (usually three concurrent semesters).

4. What conditions must be in place for BSW graduates to sit for their licensing exam in the state of Texas?

The Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners allows for graduates from programs that are accredited with CSWE or those who have achieved "candidacy" status to apply and sit for licensure. For more information visit: <https://www.bhec.texas.gov/texas-state-board-of-social-worker-examiners/index.html> or call.

5. What is NASW?

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world, with more than 155,000 members. NASW works to enhance the professional growth and development of its members, to create and maintain professional standards, and to advance sound social policies. For more information visit <http://www.naswdc.org> and <http://www.naswtx.org>.