



Why study social work at WCSU?

Western's social work program exposes students to the diverse field of social work practice.

The Bachelor of Arts in Social Work is a professional degree. Students in the program receive education that prepares them for employment and/or graduate school, after completing the program.

Graduates of the social work program can apply for an advanced standing track in MSW programs throughout the country. Certain of these advanced standing programs can be completed in one year.

Social work students participate in two internships, one in junior year at a social-services agency and one in senior year with hands-on experience in the field.

The social work program at Western provides students with personal attention and guidance. Our faculty is made up of experienced practitioners, each bringing real-world social work experiences into the classroom.

Information

To learn more about our program, please visit wcsu.edu/sw or contact:

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Program overview

Social workers provide a broad range of services to individuals, families, and communities. These professionals may do advocacy work, enacting social change in neighborhoods or on the legislative level. Social workers connect individuals with the services they need and help them cope with problems ranging from everyday needs to lifelong challenges.

What will I learn in this program?

WCSU's Department of Social Work provides a generalist social work education grounded in the liberal arts and informed by instructors highly experienced in the field. You will learn about the social work profession, its ethics, and how critical thinking is applied in solving problems encountered in practice. You will gain the values, knowledge and skills of the profession. In addition, you will learn how to understand and work with diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. The program teaches you to recognize, support, and build on the resiliency of all human beings.

What kind of jobs can you get with a social work degree?

With a bachelor's degree in social work you can work in a variety of agencies: programs for children and adolescents; nursing homes; social action agencies; substance abuse agencies; mental health organizations; and numerous other settings. Graduates of our program are employed as direct service workers, case managers, program coordinators, and in many other capacities in the human services field.



With a master's degree in social work, you can be a clinical social worker in a hospital or mental health clinic; work in agency administration; or open your own private practice.

Is there an internship program available?

Yes. Internships are the centerpiece of our curriculum. We place students in a broad range of agencies around the Danbury area and beyond. In second-semester junior year, you will be interning at a social service agency for 13 weeks for eight hours per week. Your senior year internship is more intensive, involving 16 hours per week of field experience under the guidance of an experienced social worker for the entire academic year.

Are there eligibility requirements to get into the social work program?

Yes. You may declare a major in social work as early as freshman year, but you will need to apply during your junior year to attain junior standing in the program. A written application and personal interview, as well as a minimum University GPA and Social Work major GPA are required to enter the junior year second-semester of the program. Requirements are outlined in the program handbook, which is available online at wcsu.edu/sw.

Can I attend an accelerated master's degree program after I graduate from WCSU?

Graduates of our program are eligible for advanced standing at many graduate schools of social work across the country. Advanced standing allows students to take an accelerated path through an MSW program, cutting down the time needed to attain a master's degree in social work, sometimes to as little as one academic year.

How to become a social work major?

- Anyone can declare the Social Work major any time before junior year.
- To attain second-semester junior standing, students must apply during the prior semester.
- An application and interview process to attain this standing is required, as well as a University GPA of 2.5 and a GPA of 2.75 in Social Work major required courses. See the program handbook at wcsu.edu/sw for other requirements.
- Be sure to visit the Social Work office and make an appointment with an advisor.

** Persons with disabilities that affect learning in any social work course or on any assignments, and who may need accommodations, should schedule an appointment with AccessAbility Services. If there are any issues related to military service that impact attendance, participation or learning, students should see the instructor and AccessAbility Services.*

Social work career fields

Working with Older Adults	Occupational Social Work
Child Welfare	Community Organization
Justice Administration and Corrections	International Social Work
Substance Misuse and Addictions	Social Work Research
School Social Work	Politics
Hospital Social Work	Policy Practice
Developmental Disabilities	Mental Health

Sample of Social Work Courses:

Introduction to Social Work	Community Organizing I & II
Human Behavior and Social Environment	Seminar on Policy and Issues
Social Work Field Seminar	Internship
Social Welfare as an Institution	Cultural Diversity
Child Welfare Theory and Practice	Social Work Research
AIDS: A Social Work Perspective	Aging
Social Work Practice I, II, & III	