

SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

Mission:

The Social Work program at Alverno College is guided by ethics and values of the profession outlined by the National Association of Social Workers. This includes integrity, service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, competency, and the importance of human relationships. These values are embedded into the Social Work program and used to prepare graduates for generalist practice, whereby global perspectives, environmental justice, human rights, respect for diversity, social justice, economic justice, advocacy, evidence-based research, and racial justice are used to guide and inform a strengths-based approach to practice enhancing the quality of life for all people to promote human and community well-being.

The Social Work program provides a collaborative and inclusive learning environment that supports students as they demonstrate competency of acquired knowledge, values, skills, cognitive and affective processes of generalist social work education, through collaborative learning in an inclusive community. Furthermore, social work curriculum at Alverno College prepares social work graduates to engage in client-centered, ethics-grounded, research informed, social justice driven, strengths-based practice, with specific focus on advancing human rights through advocacy to enhance the quality of life for all individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. By using a person-in-environment and strengths-based approach to learning and practice, the Social Work program holistically prepares students for meaningful engagement with the world through service, commitment to justice (racial, economic, environmental, and social) and advancement of human rights for all.

Vision:

The Social Work Department is driven to motivate life-long learners who are client-centered, adaptable, culturally respectful, knowledgeable, social justice change leaders.

Learning Outcomes:

Following each program learning outcome are below followed by the some of the eight Abilities (<https://catalog.alverno.edu/geab/#abilitybasededucationtext>); Council on Social Work Education (<https://www.cswe.org/>) (CSWE) Nine (9) Competencies, and Social Work Code of Ethics Professional Values that are addressed.

1. Graduates understand the effective, ethical, and culturally competent social work practice emphasizing the strengths of people, families, groups, organizations, and communities to define, process, solve, and prevent social problems at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.
 - Communication, Analysis, Problem-Solving, Valuing in Decision Making, Social Interaction, Effective Citizenship
 - CSWE Nine Competencies: 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.
 - Social Work Code of Ethics - Values: Service, Social Justice, Dignity and Worth of a Person, Importance of Human Relationships, Integrity, Competence, Human Rights, Scientific Inquiry
2. Graduates apply knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive/affective processes of the social work profession emphasizing applied research and scholarship to positively impact generalist social work practicum practice and social welfare policy.
 - Communication, Analysis, Problem-Solving, Valuing in Decision Making, Social Interaction, Effective Citizenship

- CSWE Nine Competencies: 1, 4 and 5
 - Social Work Code of Ethics - Values: Service, Social Justice, Dignity and Worth of a Person, Importance of Human Relationships, Integrity, Competence, Human Rights, Scientific Inquiry
3. Graduates apply comprehension of person-centered, theory-driven, evidence-based and culturally enriched knowledge that engages, assesses, intervenes, and evaluates for socially and economically vulnerable and oppressed people, groups, families, organizations, and communities in a respectful manner while fostering human diversity and social justice perspectives.
 - Communication, Analysis, Problem-Solving, Valuing in Decision Making, Social Interaction, Effective Citizenship
 - CSWE Nine Competencies: 6, 7, 8 and 9.
 - Social Work Code of Ethics - Values: Service, Social Justice, Dignity and Worth of a Person, Importance of Human Relationships, Integrity, Competence, Human Rights, Scientific Inquiry

Major Information:

Bachelors in Social Work (BSW) students use their knowledge and skills providing human services to individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities and the broader society. According to the National Association of Social Workers (<https://www.socialworkers.org/>) (NASW), graduates from accredited programs help people increase their capacities for problem solving and coping, obtain needed resources, facilitate interactions between individuals and between people and their environments, make organizations responsible to people, and influence social policies. Social workers may work directly with clients addressing individual, family, and community issues, or they may work at a systems level on regulations and policy development, or as supervisors, administrators and planners of a large human services system.

Social work is a meaningful and challenging profession with a substantial range of career options and opportunities in the greater Milwaukee area as well as in the region, state, and nation. Social workers help people move forward with their goals and life, including overcoming barriers, social inequality, and harmful oppression. Social workers help individuals, families, organizations, and communities secure resources that empower dignity, self-determination, strengths, resources, options, opportunities, and futures. Because of the ongoing need for social justice action, it is essential that social work continuously adapts to support individual, families, organizations, and communities' in overcoming inequalities, underrepresentation, and oppression.

The *Social Work Department Practicum Education Manual* is an essential resource that is to be read prior to SW-483: Practicum Education and is referred to often in practicum education work.

Social work is a respected, client-centered, evidence-based, practice-driven, future-focused profession. A CSWE (<https://www.cswe.org/>)-approved BSW degree provides an enhanced cultural awareness, knowledge and skills at the individual, group, family, organization, and community levels, improving employment and graduate school opportunities. BSW graduates may be employed as generalist social workers; they can adapt to a wide variety of human services settings, including working at all levels, micro (individuals), mezzo (groups and families), and macro (organizations and communities). BSW graduates are eligible for social work certification (licensure) with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (WDSPS) (<https://dsps.wi.gov/pages/Home.aspx>) in Wisconsin and may transfer their

license to other states. Certification or licensure are not required for all social work and human services positions.

Social work has been growing and is expected to continue, according to the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development and Bureau of Labor Statistics. Social work has successfully defined itself as a respected profession and has made its mark on several human services arenas, such as hospitals, child welfare, and with veterans while gaining more marketability than other human services disciplines in the areas of mental health, domestic violence and sexual assault, schools, residential and in-home services for older persons, youth work, supports for people with disabilities, social action coalitions, and nonprofit leadership and management. Further, our graduates are prepared for graduate studies, such as a master's in social work (MSW) program.

Accreditation:

The BSW program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education since February 2021.

Faculty

Dr. Laura Rucks, DSW, APSW., Program Director & Assistant Professor, email: laura.rucks@alverno.edu

Degrees: DSW from Simmons University, , MSW from Aurora University, BA in Criminal Justice, Minor in Sociology from UW Oshkosh

Areas of Expertise:

- Child Welfare
- Child Sexual Abuse and Physical Abuse
- Forensic Social Work Practice
- High Conflict Parenting
- Effects of Divorce and Separation on Children
- Family Mediation
- Child Interviews

Dr. Rucks earned a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice with an emphasis in law and courts. This degree helped Dr. Rucks transition into the social work profession where she spent significant time working within the juvenile and family court systems. Dr. Rucks earned her Master of Social Work degree from Aurora University. Dr. Rucks earned a doctorate in social work (DSW) from Simmons University where the focus of doctoral studies centered around the need for nonadversarial interventions to address high conflict parenting dynamics.

Diana Johnstone, MSW, LCSW, Practicum Director & Assistant Professor, email: diana.johnstone@alverno.edu

Degrees: MSW from the College of St. Catherine/University of St. Thomas, BA in Psychology and English from Macalester College

Areas of Expertise:

- Clinical Social Work with individuals, families and groups
- Sexual violence and complex trauma
- Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Dialectical Behavioral Therapy
- Trauma Informed Care
- Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR)
- Clinical supervision and consultation

- Brainspotting
- Clinical Supervision and Consultation

Ms. Johnstone's professional experiences include direct practice in outpatient, school and community mental health settings, psychiatric crisis and inpatient social work, and Clinical Supervision and Consultation. She has specialized in providing evidence-based trauma therapy, advocacy, and community care to youth survivors of sexual violence. Ms. Johnstone is certified in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) and Brainspotting.

Major Req

Social Work ^(SW,D.BSW) Major¹ with Substance Abuse Counseling Specialization and General Education Requirements 25-26 Catalog

Code	Title	Credits
SOCIAL WORK REQUIREMENTS		
BSC-255	Behavioral Science Research Methods	4
SW-250	Human Behavior in the Social Environment	3
SW-300	Social Work Practice Methods: Individuals	3
SW-320	Families and Society	3
SW-400	Social Work Practice Methods: Groups & Families	3
SW-430	Systems of Oppression Groups & Family	3
SW-450	Grassroots Organizing	3
SW-483	Social Work Practicum Education	9
INTERN-383	Internship Seminar	1-4
GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS		
AC-151	Initial Social Interaction Assessment	0
ADV-299	Intermediate Level Event	0
BSC-215	Working in Diverse Groups	2
BSC-256	Probability & Statistics (General Education)	4
or BSC-257	Statistics for Health Professionals	
or MT-256	Probability and Statistics	
CM-120	Communication Seminar 1	4
CM-125	Communication Seminar 2	3
CM-225	Communication Seminar 3	3
FA-110	Intro to the Arts	4
FSS-125	First Semester Seminar	2
Globally Effective Citizen (GEC) Choose 1 Course From Below		3
AHS-409/GEC-307, GEC-302, GEC-312, GEC-314, GEC-315, GEC-317, GEC-320, GEC-324, GEC-328, GEC-333, GEC-398		
HFA-210	Humanities & Fine Arts Elective	2
HFA-310	Humanities & Fine Arts Elective	2
HUM-150	Express/Interpretn Human Experience	4
PPS-229	Career & Internship Planning	1
QL-122	Quantitative Literacy in Modern World	4
or BU-151	Personal Finance	
SW-200	Intro to Social Work (General Education)	3
BI, CH, PH, SC Science Course With Lab General Education		4
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SPECIALIZATION		
SAC-420	Substance Abuse Rehabilitation	4
SAC-440	Psychopharmacology	4

SAC-460	Mental Health & Substance Abuse: in Individual, Groups & Families	4
GENERAL ELECTIVES		25
Total Credits		114-117

¹ Must earn a minor with this major.

Major Map

Social Work with Substance Abuse Counseling Specialization and General Education Map 25-26 Catalog

Freshman

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
CM-120		4 BSC-215	2
FA-110		4 CM-125	3
FSS-125		2 QL-156	3
QL-122 or BU 151		4 SW-250	3
SW-200		3 BI, CH, PH, SC Science Course With Lab	4
		17	15

Sophomore

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
BSC-255		4 BSC-256 or 257	4
HUM-150		4 CM-225	3
SW-300		3 HFA-210	2
SW-320		3 PPS-229	1
		SW-430	3
		14	13

Junior

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
HFA-310		2 SAC-460	4
GEC-300		3 SW-450	3
SAC-420		4 General Electives	4
SAC-440		4	
General Electives		7	
		20	11

Senior

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
INTERN-383		2 SW-483	9
General Electives		13 General Electives	6
		15	15

Total Credits 120

Social Work Handbook

Social Work Handbook (<https://catalog.alverno.edu/programspecifichandbooks/socialwork/>)