

Undergraduate Social Work Bulletin  
San José State University

2025-2026

School of Social Work  
College of Health and Human Sciences

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIAL WORK (BASW)  
and A MINOR IN SOCIAL WORK

Accredited by the Council on Social Work Education Since 1976.  
Last accredited in 2022

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ADMINISTRATION

Dean, College of Health and Human Sciences (CHHS)..... Audrey Shillington, Ph.D.  
Director, School of Social Work..... Peter A. Lee, Ph.D.  
Field Education Director.....Stephanie Ruiz, LCSW,  
BASW Program Director..... Sadhna Diwan, Ph.D.

**Social work major advising:** Asha Thomas, Ph.D., SSW Faculty Student Advisor, [asha.thomas@sjsu.edu](mailto:asha.thomas@sjsu.edu)

**Important websites and other resources for students:**

- 1) Registrar: <http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/> for information on important Registration dates, Forms, Open University, Graduation application dates, Change of Major, Petition for Reinstatement, etc. *Phone number: 408-283-7500 1st Floor in the Student Services Center on the corner of 9th Street and San Fernando.*
- 2) The Bursar's Office is responsible for the billing and collection of tuition, fees, campus housing and other university related charges. See <http://www.sjsu.edu/bursar/> to find out about important dates and deadlines, recent changes and updates and answers to your frequently asked questions. *Phone: 408.924.1601 Located in Student Services Center.*
- 3) Advising Hub: <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/> for students/for information for Transfer Students, General Education requirements, etc. *Phone: 408.924.2129 Located in Student Services Center.*
- 4) College of Health and Human Sciences (CHHS) Student Success Center: <https://www.sjsu.edu/chhs-ssc/> for academic advising including GE advising, SJSU academic policies and procedures, graduation plans, change of major, etc. Located at MacQuarrie Hall room 533 (Phone: 408.924.2910) & Health Building Room 140 (Phone: 408.924.8601)
- 5) BASW Program: <https://www.sjsu.edu/socialwork/current-students/grad-forms.php> for forms, program information, handbook, academic integrity, notification of academic concern, professional standards, appeal process, FAQ's, etc.

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT - RE: COVID-19  
RETURN TO PRE-COVID 19 CLASS SCHEDULE**

Dear Students,

Welcome to the BASW program at SJSU. We are excited to have you in the program! Given the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, the School of Social Work is returning to the pre-pandemic schedule of classes which are all planned for in-person, on campus instruction.

- 1) The schedule planned for Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 is reflected on page 3 under the **SUGGESTED SEQUENCE OF COURSES FOR THE MAJOR IN SOCIAL WORK**
- 2) Finally, for those seeking to Change their Major to Social Work or doing a Minor in Social Work, please see the note on pages 5 and 6 of this Bulletin.

**Any changes to the curriculum and schedule will be made as necessary in keeping with guidelines and regulations from SJSU, CSU, and local, state, and national public health authorities.**

**Thank you for your interest in pursuing the BASW degree. We are committed to doing our best to provide a high-quality learning experience for our students. And we look forward to sharing this journey together!**

**ADVISING SYSTEM AT SJSU**

There is a dual advising system at SJSU. In general, the following guide will help you direct your questions to the unit most able to be of assistance.

|  | <b>Questions to ask an Academic Advisor in the CHHS Student Success Center:</b>   | <b>Questions to ask the BASW Major Advisor:</b>  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
|  | <p>All questions related to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower GE or SJSU Studies courses</li> <li>• Transfer credit for lower GE courses</li> <li>• Any non-BASW major related questions</li> </ul> <p>Students should speak to an Academic Advisor who can be contacted at the Student Advising Hub</p> <p><a href="http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/">http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/</a></p> | <p>All questions related to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The social work major</li> <li>• Transferring major (i.e., social work) courses</li> <li>• Requests to consider substitute courses for Statistics 95, or for the 100W course. All other GE related questions should be addressed to an Academic Advisor.</li> <li>• Fields of practice in social work or career advice</li> <li>• Graduation Applications</li> <li>• Undergraduate Social Work Student Association (USWA)</li> </ul> |  |

## THE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM SERVICE AREA

BASW graduates are employed in many different work settings under public and private agencies and programs that may include:

|                             |                                     |                        |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| family service agencies     | children and youth services         | aging services         |
| juvenile justice agencies   | elementary and/or secondary schools | nursing homes          |
| ethnic service agencies     | residential treatment programs      | hospices               |
| substance abuse programs    | domestic violence programs          | homeless shelters      |
| mental health services      | income maintenance programs         | hospitals              |
| community action agencies   | vocational rehabilitation services  | home care agencies     |
| legal services agencies     | child and adult day care centers    | public health agencies |
| mental retardation services | developmental disabilities services |                        |

## BASW CURRICULUM

The Bachelor of Arts in Social Work Degree requires 120 units for graduation. All students must satisfy the General Education (GE) requirements mandated by the CSU system. Most students met these requirements in California Community Colleges before transferring to the University. Students have Junior standing (60 units) before starting the Social Work major.

## GENERAL EDUCATION

All students must complete a minimum of 51 units of approved GE courses in letter grades. If a requirement is waived without unit credit, additional approved GE courses must be taken to complete the total required. Most students in the social work major are transfer students from California Community Colleges and have completed comparable **Core General Education** courses which may be acceptable to San José State University. Please contact the **CHHS Student Success Center** for information about Core General Education course requirements at <https://www.sjsu.edu/chhs-ssc/>

The **SJSU Studies** (formerly known as **Advanced General Education**) coursework must be taken in residence at San José State University, and **students must pass the (WST) Writing Skills Test before they are permitted to enroll in the SJSU Studies courses.** Only one lower division course is required for the social work major: **Elementary Statistics** (Stat 95 or equivalent upon approval by Major Advisor and the BASW Program Director).

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
|   | Units     |
| <b>General Education</b> .....  | <b>39</b> |
| Core General Education (39 units) [Stat95 may also count toward GE course requirement]  |           |
| <b>SJSU Studies</b> (Area R, Area S, Area V, and Area Z).....   | <b>12</b> |
| <a href="https://catalog.sjsu.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=12&amp;poid=3623#sjsustudiesupperdivisionrequirements">https://catalog.sjsu.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=12&amp;poid=3623#sjsustudiesupperdivisionrequirements</a> .         |           |
| <b>Area Z: SCWK100W</b> or another approved 100W from the following list: SOCS 100W; CHAD 100W, PSYC 100W, SOCI 100W, HPrf100W, JS100W. Please note other 100W courses (outside of this approved list) will not meet departmental approval. |           |
| <b>Physical Education</b> .....   | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Courses Required for the Social Work Major</b> .....   | <b>38</b> |
| Required: SCWK110, 111, 112, 120, 121, 130, 131, 140, 141, 142, 170, 175.   |           |

**Electives ..... 29**

Electives may be chosen in other disciplines to complement a student's major interest in social work: psychology, sociology, health science, gerontology, etc. These are considered “free electives.”

NOTE: You may already have enough units to qualify as electives. We do not require you to take any specific elective course. If you have questions about the electives, please contact CHHS Student Success Center for advising.

**Total Units Required for the Degree..... 120**

**RECOMMENDED FULL TIME SEQUENCE FOR THE MAJOR IN SOCIAL WORK**

**Entry in Fall Semester 2025**

| <b>Junior Year</b> |                        | <b>Senior Year</b>   |                             |
|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Fall</b>        | <b>Spring</b>          | <b>Fall</b>          | <b>Spring</b>               |
| SCWK110            | SCWK 131               | SCWK111 <sup>2</sup> | SCWK112 <sup>3</sup>        |
| SCWK140            | SCWK 121               | SCWK141 <sup>2</sup> | SCWK142 <sup>3</sup>        |
| SCWK120            | SCWK 170               |                      | <i>SCWK121, 131, or 170</i> |
| SCWK130            | SCWK 100W <sup>1</sup> |                      | <i>*** SCWK175</i>          |

<sup>1</sup> **Note:** SCWK 100W or pre-approved substitute

<sup>2</sup> **Note:** SCWK111 & 141 are only offered in the Fall and must be taken together after completing the BASW Core courses.

<sup>3</sup> **Note:** SCWK112 & 142 are only offered in the Spring and must be taken after successfully completing 111 & 141.

**\*\*\*NOTE:** SCWK175 is open to **Social Work majors only** and must be taken concurrently with SCWK 112 and SCWK 142, or following completion of SCWK142, and must have completed all other social work courses. It must be taken as the last social work course and students cannot plan to take other social work courses after completing SCWK175.

**Course Sequencing:**

- SCWK110 is a prerequisite or co-requisite for SCWK140.
- SCWK120 is a pre-requisite for SCWK121.
- SCWK130 is recommended but not required for entry to SCWK131.
- SCWK110, SCWK120, and SCWK130 are pre-requisites for SCWK170.
- STAT95 is a pre-requisite or co-requisite for SCWK170.

**BASW core courses and eligibility for enrollment in the field education program:**

SCWK110, 120, 130, and 140 comprise the BASW Core Courses. All students must complete SCWK110, 120 and 130 with a passing grade of “C” or better **and** receive a grade of “Credit” in SCWK140 before moving forward on to other advanced Social Work courses, or to the field education program.

**Capstone seminar:**

SCWK175 is the integrative capstone seminar for the social work program. It must be taken as the last social work course. Students can enroll in SCWK175 either: a) concurrently with SCWK112 and

SCWK142, or b) or following completion of SCWK142 **and** must have completed all other social work courses. (**Note:** Students cannot plan to take other social work courses after completing SCWK175.)

**Minimum passing grade requirements:**

C or better grade is required for the following courses: SCWK 110, 120, 130, 111, 112 and 175.

**WST requirement:**

Passing WST is pre-requisite or co-requisite of SCWK 112 and 175.

**THE MINOR IN SOCIAL WORK**

The minor in Social Work consists of 18 units and is designed to enrich a student’s major area of study by providing an understanding of the values and structures of current human service programs within a historical and developmental framework. Availability of space in the social work minor varies every year. Students must contact the BASW faculty student advisor (listed on page 1) prior to declaring a social work minor. If a course is not offered, please consult the BASW faculty student advisor for an appropriate course substitution.

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Requirements in the Minor .....                          | 18 |
| Required: SCWK110, 120, and 130 .....                    | 12 |
| Electives: two courses from SCWK121, 131, 140, 170 ..... | 6  |

NOTE for SCWK Minor:

- SCWK110 is a pre-requisite or co-requisite for SCWK140.
- SCWK120 is a pre-requisite for SCWK121.
- SCWK130 is a recommended but not required pre-requisite for SCWK131.
- SCWK110, SCWK120, and SCWK130 are prerequisites or co-requisites for SCWK170 and pre-requisites for SCWK175.
- STAT95 is a pre-requisite or co-requisite for SCWK170.

**FIELD INTERNSHIP/PRACTICUM**

The Field Internship/Practicum provides practical, service-oriented experiences in which students can apply abstract, generalized knowledge to concrete, specific situations. Learning emerges from involvement with individuals, families, small groups, organizations and community. The BASW degree prepares its graduates for entry-level human service professional positions. Bilingual ability is highly desired by agencies seeking to hire professionals to serve the diverse populations in California.

The Field Practicum (SCWK141 and SCWK142) occurs over two semesters (FALL and SPRING) in one community agency. **Field Placement Application** occurs in the Spring semester prior to entry into the field. Students spend two days (16 hours) per week in the agency learning about and participating in the functions of that agency. A minimum of 480 hours (240 per semester) of agency direct practice experience is required. Experience with client groups from an ethnic group different from that of the student is desirable. Students planning to enter field practicum should have their schedule and personal affairs arranged to enable them to devote 16 hours per week for field education in a program-approved agency. A valid California driver’s license and use of a vehicle is strongly recommended.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT FIELD EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. THE FIELD EDUCATION OFFICE WILL NOTIFY YOU OF CHANGES.**

## CHANGING YOUR MAJOR TO SOCIAL WORK

Students who want to change their major to Social Work will have to apply to the BASW Program. Please see “Admission” section on the following website for how to apply to the program: <https://www.sjsu.edu/socialwork/admissions/apply-basw.php>

There is no guarantee that an application will be approved. Being accepted into the program is based on GPA and whether or not the program has reached its maximum number of students. For more information about BASW impaction information, see the document titled “BASW Impaction Information and Application Tips” at: <https://www.sjsu.edu/socialwork/admissions/apply-basw.php>

### UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

#### **SCWK 100W - Writing Workshop**

Focuses on developing and enhancing writing and presentation skills vital to the social work profession in the following areas: research, grant writing, clinical documentation, and administration. (3 units. Satisfies SJSU Studies Z: Written Communication II.

**Prerequisite(s):** A3 or equivalent second semester composition course (with a grade of C- or better); completion of core GE; satisfaction of Writing Skills Test or completion of [ENGL 100A](#) / [LLD 100A](#) with C or better; and upper division standing. Or Graduate or Postbaccalaureate level.

#### **SCWK110 - *Foundations of Generalist Practice***

Introduction to the history, mission, values, skills and knowledge base of generalist social work practice within a transcultural perspective. Focus on social work practice with emphasis on those populations at-risk who are disenfranchised and marginalized. (3 units. Prereq: Junior standing or permission of instructor).

#### **SCWK111 - *Generalist Practice I***

Knowledge, values and skills for generalist social work practice utilizing problem-solving methods with systems of all sizes. Focus on development of professional relationships, defining issues, collecting data, and assessing individuals and families from diverse backgrounds interacting with their environments. (3 units. Prereq: BASW Core (110, 120, 130, 140). Co-req: SCWK 141. Open to SCWK Majors only).

#### **SCWK112 - *Generalist Practice II***

Knowledge, values and skills for generalist social work practice with emphasis on groups, organizations and communities. Focus on transactions to optimize social well-being and empowerment of individuals, families, and communities utilizing strengths and transcultural perspectives. (3 units. Prereq: SCWK 111. Co-req: SCWK 142. Open to SCWK Majors only).

#### **SCWK120 - *Social Welfare Institutions and Policies I***

Development of social work as a profession, including mission, values, ethics. Development and changes in the philosophy, legislative base and structures for social services as these affect social and economic justice and impact health and well-being. (3 units. Prereq: Junior standing or permission of instructor).

**SCWK121 - *Social Welfare Institutions and Policies II***

Methodology and frameworks for analyzing social policy and understanding institutional discrimination, particularly related to populations-at-risk and other disenfranchised groups. Political and organizational processes to influence policy development. (3 units. Prereq: SCWK 120).

**SCWK130 - *Human Behavior and the Social Environment I***

Theories and knowledge of bio-psycho-social development from birth to old age. The dynamics of interacting social systems and culture on human development. Human diversity and populations-at-risk emphasized. (3 units. Prereq: Junior standing or permission of instructor).

**SCWK131 - *Human Behavior and the Social Environment II***

Theories and knowledge about groups, organizations and communities from a systems perspective. The impact of discrimination, economic deprivation and oppression on populations-at-risk. Emphasis on the promotion of optimal health and well-being. (3 units. Prereq: Recommended but not required: SCWK 130).

**SCWK140 - *Introduction to Field Practicum***

Direct involvement with community services to provide the student with exposure to clients/client systems prior to Field Practicum 1. Six to eight hours weekly in community-based agencies and on-campus seminars. (3 units. Prerequisites: 1. Must have completed or be currently enrolled in SW 110, or 2. Prior consent of Instructor).

**SCWK141 - *Field Practicum I***

Generalist Social Work Practice with individuals, families, and communities from a transcultural perspective in an agency under supervision. Sixteen hours per week required in placement. (4 units. CR/NC grading. Prereq: SCWK110, 120, 130, & 140 or equivalent; Co-requisite: SCWK111.

**SCWK142 - *Field Practicum II***

Generalist Social Work Practice in an agency setting continued. Emphasis on individuals, small groups and communities from a transcultural perspective. Sixteen hours per week required in placement. (4 units. CR/NC grading. Prereq: SCWK111, 141; Co-requisite: SCWK112.

**SCWK170 - *Introduction to Research Methods***

Scientific and analytic approaches to building knowledge for social work practice, including ethical issues in social research. Evaluation of service delivery systems using qualitative and quantitative research methodologies. (3 units. Prereq: SCWK110, SCWK120, and SCWK130. STAT95 is a pre-requisite or co-requisite for SCWK170).

**SCWK175 - *Social Work Senior Seminar***

An integrative capstone seminar reviewing current trends, problems and issues confronting the profession. Developments and challenges in California and in the country for BA level generalist practitioners evaluated in light of the student's own personal and professional goals. (3 units. Prereq: Must be taken concurrently with SW 112 and SW 142 or following completion of SW 142 and must have completed all other social work courses.)

**SCWK180 - *Individual Studies***

Individual work on special topics by arrangement with a faculty member. Social Work majors only. (CR/NC grading. Repeatable for credit. 1-4 units.)

**SCWK107 - *Aging and Society***

Social, psychological and physiological aging processes. Implications of aging for individuals and societies, with emphasis on issues related to diversity, equality and gender in the U.S. GE Area: S

**Prerequisite(s):** Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or [ENGL 100A](#) / [LLD 100A](#) with a C or better (C- not accepted), completion of Core General Education and upper division standing are prerequisites to all SJSU studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended.

**SCWK192 - *Social Work with Families***

Exploration of various family forms, cultural factors, and dynamics influencing family interaction with agencies and community. Practice strategies include assessment, defining strengths, and focusing on interventions to promote health and well-being. (3 units. An elective).

**SCWK 192 I - International Program Studies**

Study Abroad and Away transfer credit course. Study Abroad and Away provides students the opportunity to study abroad on long term programs (Exchange Programs, CSU International Programs, and International Student Exchange Programs) and short-term programs (Faculty-Led Programs and Summer School Abroad Programs) for academic credit, offering Alternative Break Programs for cultural immersion, and designing other globally focused opportunities. This course is designated as a placeholder course for Study Abroad and Away programs. (1-6 units).