

Academic Offerings

This section contains descriptions of programs, majors, minors, areas of concentration, fields of specialization, and courses. Semesters following course titles indicate when each course is normally offered. On rare occasions, a course may not be available when indicated because of low enrollment or unexpected staffing changes.

Courses listed as Fall Odd and Spring Even are scheduled to be offered during the 2011-2012 academic year. i.e., fall 2011-2012 is Fall Odd, spring 2011-2012 is Spring Even.

Social Work

The social work program is built upon a strong liberal-arts base and foundational courses in the social sciences. The program is designed to equip students with the requisite knowledge and skills for beginning social work practice. The program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (1986). Admission to the social work program and completion of the major will require a formal two-part application process. Graduates will receive the bachelor of social work degree.

Admission to the Program Application for admission to the program is required and should be filed during the spring semester of the sophomore year prior to spring break. Forms may be obtained from the chairperson of the Social Work Program Committee. The Social Work Program Committee reviews completed application forms, and admission to the program is based on the following criteria:

- A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.20; completion of at least 39 credits; completion of or current enrollment in CORE 120 or English 100, CORE 140, 150, 160, 180, 212, Psychology 201, Sociology 201, Mathematics 131, CORE 200, Communication 100, Economics 200 or Political Studies 201, Social Work 215, 216, 200, and 226.
- A written statement of personal interest that indicates an ability to communicate effectively and a commitment to social work as a vocation.
- A letter of reference indicating acceptable physical and psychological health.
- Enrollment in practice courses is limited to students who have been admitted to the program.

Upon review of the application, the committee will take one of the following actions:

- Accepted-meets all criteria
- Accepted conditionally-some criteria require further attention.
- Denied - some or all criteria inadequate.

The student will receive written notice of status.

Admission to the Professional Semester The second part of the application process is an application to participate in the professional semester that includes an intensive field work experience. This application should be filed during the spring semester of the junior year, prior to spring break. Forms may be obtained from the chairperson of the Social Work Program Committee. The Social Work Program Committee will review the application, and admission to the professional semester will be based on the student's meeting the following criteria:

- A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50.
- Completion of the required courses as listed under the major.
- Senior standing (anticipated).
- Two letters of reference (one academic, one professional) indicating acceptable physical, intellectual, and psychological suitability.

- A written statement that demonstrates acceptable communication skills and a mature and knowledgeable interest in social work.
- An interview that demonstrates the student's suitability to social work in terms of interest, knowledge, maturity, personality, and physical and mental health.

Upon review of the application, the committee will take one of the following actions:

- Accepted-meets all criteria.
- Accepted conditionally-some criteria require further attention.
- Denied - some or all criteria inadequate.

The student will receive written notice of status.

The Social Work Program Committee reserves the right to refuse admission or continuation in the program, to any student who does not maintain a 2.50 GPA, or who, in the judgment of the committee, has physical, mental, or personality handicaps that would be detrimental to the student and/or to the welfare of the clients to be served.

Academic credit for life experience or previous work experience shall not be given, in whole or in part, in lieu of the field practicum or of the courses in the professional foundation areas.

Course Requirements, B.S.W. - Social Work Program

Core Program (see page 34) Social Work majors must complete all of the core program requirements for students seeking a bachelor's degree, with the following guidelines:

- Social Work majors must take CORE 212 as part of the natural science requirement.
- Mathematics 131 (Elementary Statistics) meets the quantitative reasoning requirement.
- Spanish is the recommended foreign language.

Major (54 credits)

Social Work 200 (3)	Freshman
Social Work 215 (3)	Freshman or Sophomore
Social Work 216 (3)	Freshman or Sophomore
Social Work 226 (3)	Sophomore
Mathematics 131 (3)	Junior
Social Work 303 (3)	Junior
Social Work 309 (3)	Junior
Social Work 310 (3)	Junior
Social Work 311 (3)	Junior
Social Work 315 (3)	Junior
Social Work 307 (3)	Senior
Social Work 304 (3)	Senior
Social Work 312 (3)	Senior
Social Work 325 (3)	Senior
Social Work 374 (12)	Senior

Note: Social Work 374 (Field Work Experience) must be taken at Dordt College to receive graduation credit toward the social work major.

A survey of the major fields of social work practice and of the problems with which they deal. It will include agency field visits. Overarching this survey will be a concern for the Christian's individual and collective responsibility for the health and welfare of his neighbor and community.

- 215 **Vulnerable Populations (3)**.....Spring
 A historical and contemporary analysis of groups considered vulnerable by economic and social standards in American society. Causes, consequences, and implications for society are examined from a biblical view of humankind with an emphasis on social work practice. [Cross-listed: Sociology 215]
- 216 **Diversity and Inequality (3)**..... Fall
 Students examine the historical and contemporary factors related to diversity and inequality in North America and increase their appreciation for the contributions of diverse groups in culturally-pluralistic societies. The course assumes that human diversity is created good and explores how to discern that goodness after the Fall. Students assess their own biases in light of course material and increase their sensitivity to diversity. [Cross-listed: CORE 276, Sociology 216]
- 226 **The History and Philosophy of Social Welfare and Social Work (3)**.....Spring
 Examines the history and development of social welfare and the philosophy, theory, and practice of social work as a response to the health and welfare needs of society.
- 281- **Service-Learning (1-3)**Fall, Spring, Summer
 283 See page 161, Individual Studies
- 303 **Child and Family Welfare Policy (3)**.....Spring
 A study of child and family welfare policy and practice including an analysis of how society's ideological, political, and economic concerns affect agency organization and practice. Prerequisite: junior standing or by permission of instructor.
- 304 **Aging and Social Work (3)** Fall
 An in-depth examination of the myths and realities of aging in Western culture. Combining sociological theory and practice, this course introduces the student to ageism, physiological and psychological change over time, and theories of social gerontology as well as current issues such as health policy, retirement, the extent of family support, institutionalization, and the aged in the political arena. Will include field work assignments with older persons, guest speakers, and site visits to programs for the aging. Prerequisite: senior standing or by permission of instructor.
- 307 **Methods of Social Science Research (3)**..... Fall
 An introduction to the research process as applied to the study of problems/issues in social science. Problem selection, research design, measurement, methods of observation and data collection, data analysis and interpretation, and report writing will be emphasized. A module on microcomputer utilization and the application of descriptive statistics is presented for application in student projects. Prerequisites: Mathematics 131; junior or senior standing. [Cross-listed: Sociology 307]
- 309 **Human Behavior and the Social Environment (3)**Spring
 Presentation of a theoretical and conceptual framework for understanding socio-psycho-biological factors in human development across the life cycle. The focus is on the interrelationship between the individual, family, small groups, and society. Prerequisites: CORE 212, 261; Psychology 201.
- 310 **Fundamentals of Social Work Practice (3)**..... Fall
 The focus is on acquiring the foundation interpersonal and problem-solving skills for social work practice. Development of self-awareness and self-knowledge related to growth in skills and a beginning identity as a social work professional will also be emphasized. The course is organized around experiential learning models. Prerequisites: Social Work 200, 215; English 100 or CORE 120; Communication 100.

- 311 **Practice Methods I: Social Work with Groups (3)**Spring
 An overview of general systems theory as a basis for developing an integrated social work practice model. Special emphasis will be given to the development of problem-solving skills related to groups found within social work practice with a variety of intervention strategies presented. Prerequisite: Social Work 310.
- 312 **Practice Methods II: Social Work with Organizations and Communities (3)** Fall
 This course explores social change and organizational theories along with an emphasis on practice at the organizational and community level. A continuation of Social Work 310 and 311 with an emphasis on practice at the agency and community levels. Prerequisites: Social Work 310, 311.
- 315 **Social Welfare Policy (3)** Fall
 Students work within a social welfare policy analysis framework that allows their critique and development of recommendations for current and past social welfare policies. The course explores both faith-based and secular attempts at addressing social problems through policy. Two special features within this are the analysis of welfare reform within the United States and political advocacy. Prerequisites: Social Work 226; Political Studies 201.
- 325 **Integrative Seminar in Social Work (3)**Spring
 An opportunity for students to reflect on and integrate the academic and field work experience with a special emphasis on ethical and value dilemmas confronted by the student in the field. (Open only to senior social work majors who have completed the professional semester admission process.) Corequisite: Social Work 374.
- 374 **Field Work Experience (12)**Spring
 The field work course is designed to provide the student with the opportunity to apply classroom knowledge, principles, and skills in a community agency under the supervision of a professional social worker. (Open only to senior social work majors who have completed the professional semester admission process.) Corequisite: Social Work 325.
- 391- **Individual Studies (1-3)**Fall, Spring, Summer
 393 See page 161, Individual Studies