



**SOCIAL WORK UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM
STUDENT HANDBOOK**

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024

Revised August 2023

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Introduction

Welcome to Stockton University Social Work Program! If you are thinking about majoring in Social Work, this *Social Work Program Student Handbook* will serve as a guide. In addition to developing a familiarity with the contents of this handbook, you need to consult regularly with your Preceptor or Program chair/Program chair. Feel free to also visit our website at www.stockton.edu/sowk.

The Stockton Social Work Program was established in 1972. Graduates from our program receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work and are prepared to assume entry-level positions as generalist social work practitioners or to continue their studies at the graduate level.

We wish you success as you work towards your educational and career goals, and we look forward to getting to know you.

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Mission, Goals, and Competencies

(Revised August 2018)

Mission

The Stockton University Social Work Program's mission is to prepare undergraduate social work majors for generalist social work practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities by providing a broad-based, professional education that rests on a solid liberal arts foundation. The Program also seeks to serve the larger university community through Social Work and General Studies course offerings that have universal appeal to those seeking a better understanding of the human condition. The Program's central focus is on producing graduates who have a lifetime commitment to upholding human rights, respecting human diversity, and working towards social and economic justice in their professional and personal lives.

To that end, the Program aims to: 1. prepare undergraduate students for generalist social work practice and professional leadership within a diverse learning environment; 2. advance knowledge for effective social work practice and education; 3. enhance the well-being of the people and communities regionally, nationally, and around the world; and 4. further the goals of the University and the social work profession through collaboration, consultation, and public service.

More specifically, the Social Work Program's educational and research programs draw on social work values and a multi-disciplinary body of knowledge and skills in seeking to: 1. reaffirm the importance of respectful, meaningful, collaborative relationships as a core element of social work practice; 2. strengthen practices, programs, and policies that support and enhance the opportunities, resources, and capacities of people to achieve their full potential; 3. prevent and alleviate personal, interpersonal, and societal problems; 4. redress conditions that limit human development and quality of life; and 5. promote human rights, social justice, and respect for human diversity.

Our mission is to prepare students for generalist social work practice; to provide them with a solid liberal arts foundation; to teach general studies courses that elucidate understanding of the human condition; and to emphasize the importance of human rights, diversity, and economic/social justice. Our junior sequence amply covers theories and methods to enhance generalist practice across levels (micro, mezzo, macro).

Subsequently, our senior sequence emphasizes the inextricable link of practice to policy and research methods. During the spring semesters, intentional focus is spent on integrating knowledge acquired from a wide array of liberal arts (e.g. biology, economics, psychology, sociology) and general studies courses.

Across prerequisites, core courses, and general studies classes students are prepared to practice with

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- Engage, assess,

Competency 6: Engage with Individuals

- apply critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.

be committed to the essential values of social work which are the dignity and worth of every individual and his/her right to social and economic justice.

Knowledge Base for Social Work Practice The professional activities of social work students must be based on relevant social, behavioral and biological science knowledge and research. This includes knowledge and skills in practicum, data-gathering, assessment, interventions and evaluation of practice.

Objectivity The social work student must be sufficiently objective to systematically evaluate clients and their situations without bias.

Empathy The social work student must attempt to seek to comprehend another individual's way of life and values. He/she must be able to communicate this empathy and support to the client as a basis for a productive professional relationship.

Cultural Competence & Acceptance of Diversity The social work student must appreciate the value of human diversity. He/she must be able to work effectively with all persons in need of assistance, regardless of the person's age, class, race, ethnicity, religious affiliation (or lack thereof), gender, ability, sexual orientation and value system.

Coping with Stress The social work student must be knowledgeable about the undesirable effects of stress. Students should be self-aware when stressors are negatively impacting them and take appropriate steps to implement self-care strategies, coping skills, and/or seek input from faculty or professional resources.

Attendance and Lateness Policies

Attendance, Preparation, and Participation: As a professional social worker, you will be expected to be reliable in attendance. Preparation for each encounter with a client system and for every professional meeting will also be expected. As a student preparing for a professional career, you are expected to come to every class and be prepared for active participation. This means doing required readings before classes, handing in assignments on time, and being attentive in class. It also means assuring that there will be no cell phone interruptions or other

please contact your instructor to privately discuss your needs as soon as practical to ensure that reasonable accommodations are implemented.

Withdrawal from the Social Work Program

Students who wish to withdraw must notify the Social Work Program and the preceptor in writing via email.

Readmission

The student must notify the Social Work Program chair and their preceptor by email of your request for readmission - by December 15 or June 30, whichever is applicable. Failure to respond by these dates will

NON-CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES:

Stockton Police: 609-652-4390
Student Rights and Responsibilities: 609-626-3585
Title IX Coordinator, Valerie Hayes: 609-652-4693

Faculty and Professional Staff

The faculty and professional staff of the Social Work Program is part of the School of Social and Behavioral Science (SOBL). Faculty members can be reached at the following locations.

Ted Alter H-229 652-4411 (Ext. 4411)
Ph.D. (Yeshiva University), MSW (Wurzweiler School of Social Work), Associate Professor of Social Work; with a focus on Aging, dementia, life cycle, health care, end-of-life, ethics, chronic illness and disability.

Robert Barney G-245 652-4435 (Ext. 4435)
Ph.D. (University of Louisville), MSW (University of Kentucky), Associate Professor of Social Work, with a focus in international social work, foreign development, indigenous knowledge and values, cultural diversity, HIV/AIDS prevention and care, HIV/AIDS in South Africa, organizational commitment, and research ethics.

Guia Calicdan-Apostle H-225 626-3820 (Ext. 3820)
DSW (University of Pennsylvania), MSSW (Asian Social Institute, Philippines), Associate Professor of Social Work: spirituality and mental health, school social work, international social work, racism, immigration and cultural diversity issues, public health advocacy (tobacco control).

Nicole Cantoni H-221 626-3488 (Ext. 3488)
Ph.D., LSW (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), Assistant Professor of Social Work: Animal Assisted Interventions and Animal Assisted Therapy, Simulations for Teaching Clinical Skills, Mental Health Treatment Stigma Reduction, DEI Education.

Lisa E. Cox F-126 652-4310 (Ext. 4310)
Ph.D. (Virginia Commonwealth University), M.S.W. (Virginia Commonwealth University), LCSW, Professor of Social Work, with a focus on clinical social work practice, health care, HIV/AIDS clinical trials, gerontology, medication compliance and social support, psychopathology, and cultural neuroscience.

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Robin Hernandez-Mekonnen AC-224E 761-1257 (Ext. 1257)
Ph.D. (University of Pennsylvania), MSW (University of Pennsylvania), Associate Professor of Social Work: Social work with children and families, impacting social and child welfare system reform via research and policy, immigration and child well-being.

Rachel Kirzner H-202 652-4689 (Ext. 4689)
Ph.D. (Bryn Mawr), MSW (University of Pennsylvania), LCSW, Associate Professor of Social Work, with a focus in social policy (public benefits), data analysis, research methods, social work practice, neighborhood effects, community violence exposure.

Dawn Konrady G-258 652-4270 (Ext. 4270)
Ed.D. (Drexel University), MBA (Stockton University), MA (La Salle University), Director, Child Welfare Education Institute, Baccalaureate Child Welfare Education Program Coordinator, with a background in bilingual-bicultural studies in Spanish and business administration.

Maya A. Lewis G-243 652-4329 (Ext. 4329)
Ph.D. (University of Maryland, Baltimore), MSW (Washington University in St. Louis), **BSSW Program Chair**, Associate Professor of Social Work, with significant experience in social work/mental health administration, adolescent psychiatry, and college mental health. Research interests include both quantitative and qualitative methods in areas such as sexual risk behavior among African American college women, maternal and child health, and Motivational Interviewing.

Christine Lill H-204 908-910-7009
MSW (Fordham University), Assistant Coordinator of Undergraduate Practicum Education, with background in clinical social work; grants, oversight and implementation of Parent Education programs; DCP&P contracts; and, administration of a community based social service agency. She has experience as both a Practicum instructor for Stockton College and a Practicum liaison for Rutgers University.

Sunny Mathew H-226
Ph.D. (Fordham University), MSW (Mangalore University), Assistant Professor of Social Work, with a focus on parenting and child wellbeing in disadvantaged families. His research agenda focuses on the social and personal conditions of parents and their effects on the wellbeing of children in immigrant and socioeconomically disadvantaged families.

Loretta Mooney

You must successfully complete SOWK 1101 and SOWK 1103 or their equivalent before entering the Junior sequence.

SOWK 2103 Human Behavior in the Social Environment II
(4credits)

SOWK 3101 History of Social Welfare Policy (4 credits)

SOWK 3102 Research Methods in Social Work (4 credits)

SOWK 3604 Generalist Social Work Practice: Theory and Methods I (4 credits)

SOWK 3605 Generalist Social Work Practice: Theory and Methods II (4 credits)

SOWK 3905 Practicum Practicum (2 credits)

In the Junior year, having completed the introductory sequence and liberal arts base, you take courses to begin to integrate the knowledge, value, and skills of generalist social work practice. In the Fall semester of the Junior year while enrolled in the Generalist Social Work Practice: Theory and Methods I, you apply to enter Generalist Social Work Practice: Theory and Methods II and Practicum. The faculty determines your eligibility based on your academic and professional performance. Successful completion of this process ensures that you have become a full-fledged major. In addition to the six courses listed above, you are expected to continue fulfilling General Studies requirements and should begin to complete more advanced social and behavioral science requirements (18 credits).

Entering the Social Work Junior Sequence (Spring Semester)

Policy and Procedures for students entering Spring semester of their Junior year in the Social Work Program will be evaluated by their Theory and Methods I professor. At the end of the fall semester, if a student has exhibited behaviors counter to the KEY ATTRIBUTES OF A STOCKTON SOCIAL WORK MAJOR listed on page 7 in this handbook, at the end of the Fall semester, the student will meet with his/her Theory and Methods I professor, the Program chair, and the preceptor (and any other faculty members who can attest to these behaviors being exhibited).

TOTAL = 16-credits

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Introduction to Social Work (SOWK 1101)
Intro to Anth, Socy, Gero, or Criminal Justice
At Some Distance Course (ASD)
General Studies Course

(These courses should satisfy R1 or R2;
Arts or Values attributes)

TOTAL = 16-credits

Advanced SOBL Cognate or SW Elective

TOTAL = 16-credits

Additional Curriculum Information:

- ****Biology Requirement:** All Social Work students must complete one course in human biology. Acceptable courses include: *GIS 3628, GERO 2107, GERO 2109, GIS 3319, GIS 4486, GNM 2108, GNM 2123, GNM 2144, GNM2151, GNM 2179, GNM 2201, GNM 2206, GNM 2336, GNM 3105, GNM 3318, GSS 2161, PSYC 2212, PSYC 3331, BIOL 1180, BIOL 2180* or other courses approved by Social Work preceptor. The course used to meet this area may also be used in another area as appropriate.
- “G” courses are general studies/liberal arts courses. Students must meet the following distribution requirements: 1 GEN (general), 2 GAH (arts/humanities), 2 GSS (social sciences), 2 GNM (natural sciences and mathematics), and 1 GIS (integration seminar in Junior or Senior year).
- Students transferring in with 64+ credits must meet the following distributions of General Studies requirements: 1GIS (integration seminar in Junior or Senior year) AND 3 additional “G” courses 1 G 3 a=(r)3.6Anin

Sciences and Mathematics (GNM), General Social and Behavioral Sciences (GSS), General Interdisciplinary Skills and Topics (GEN), and General Integration and Synthesis (GIS) will allow you additional opportunities to build upon the liberal arts and knowledge base of

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Work; Atlantic County Women's Shelter; Bergen County Prosecutor's Office; New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services; Administrative Offices of the Court; Federation of Jewish Agencies; Family Service Association of Atlantic County; AtlantiCare Behavioral Health; Ancora Psychiatric Hospital; County Office on Aging; County Welfare Boards; Atlantic City Medical Center; Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Atlantic County; and the Arc of Atlantic County.

Certification and Licensure

All states now have some form of state licensure or certification for social workers. In New Jersey there are three possibilities: CSW (Certified Social Worker), LSW (Licensed Social Worker), and LCSW (Licensed Clinical Social Worker). Once you have obtained your BS in Social Work, you are eligible to obtain the CSW. Currently in NJ, there is no examination for this certification. To obtain your CSW, you need to contact the State Board of Social Work Examiners at 973-504-6495 or visit www.state.nj.us/oag/ca/social/index.htm. Once you have obtained your CSW, you will need to earn

Acceptance into the Social Work Program

Social Work majors apply during the Fall Semester of their Junior Year for admission to the Generalist Social Work Practice: Theory and Methods II and Practicum. The application consists of a personal statement and a profile of interests and is reviewed by program faculty in a series of meetings held for that purpose. Upon approval of the faculty, the student is admitted to Generalist Social Work Practice: Theory and Methods II and Practicum. This admission is considered by the faculty as signifying that the student is in good standing in the Social Work Program and is in compliance with its academic and professional standards.

Procedures for Appeal are as follows:

Students who are refused admission to the Theory & Methods II and Practicum and wish to appeal the decision by the faculty should follow the following procedure:

1. Contact preceptor to review student's progress in program.
2. Contact Program chair to discuss and clarify decision of the program.
3. Contact Dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences to discuss, review and appeal program decision.
4. Contact Provost to appeal division and program decision.
5. Contact University President for final appeal.

At each step in the process the student's records will be reviewed and a written statement issued to clarify the position of the program.

Good Academic Standing, Probation, and Dismissal Procedure

A student with a cumulative grade point average below 2.0 will be placed on Academic Probation and notified accordingly by the University. A student on Academic Probation is expected to meet with his/her advisor/preceptor to discuss a Student Performance Improvement Plan (SPIP) upon receiving notification of probation status.

Students are also expected to maintain a GPA of no less than 2.50 in all Social Work Program courses. A minimum 2.50 GPA in Social Work Program courses is required for graduation as a social work major.

In addition, students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 and have maintained a **2.50 GPA in Social Work Program courses before they are allowed to take the following courses:** Senior Seminar: Social Work Practice I (SOWK 4601) and Senior Practicumwork I (SOWK 4901).

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When in doubt about how to complete

- integrity, as described in the *NASW Code of Ethics*
- Disruptive behavior towards other students, faculty, University staff, agency staff, practicum instructors, or agency clients
 - Consistent inability to form effective helping relationships (e.g., lack of respect for client self-determination, inability to be non-judgmental, discriminatory behavior, lack of cultural competence and appreciation for social diversity with respect to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic class, age, disability, and religion).
 - Lack of minimal self-awareness that consistently interferes with ability to relate to others (e.g., uses self-disclosure inappropriately in the classroom, practicum placement, or the profession; is unable to work toward resolving one's p /vinsi2slt

Academic and Professional Standing Committee Composition and Operation

“Every two years, at the

considered based solely on procedural grounds.

Confidentiality

All procedures must be confidential to protect student's rights to privacy. All parties involved are expected to comply with this requirement.

Procedures for Readmission to the Social Work Program

Students who have been terminated for reasons of academic and/or professional performance from the Social Work Program may seek to be readmitted later. A terminated student who displays renewed determination to complete the program satisfactorily may reapply for acceptance after a wait of at least one year. The procedure for requesting reacceptance is to write a formal letter to the Social Work Program chair to request a personal appearance before the Social Work Program. At this time, the student should provide clear evidence of academic and/or professional growth during the period that he or she was out of the

A Final Word

We hope this handbook answers many of your questions about Stockton's Social Work Program. If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Social Work