

# Chapter 4

## BSW Curriculum

### Overall Degree Requirements

The curriculum for the BSW degree consists of a minimum of 120 credit hours attained through required and elective courses. Of these 120 credit hours, 42-45 credit hours are devoted to general/supportive liberal arts courses and 52 credit hours to social work courses (see individual campus supplements). The remaining required credits are earned through elective courses. Students are free to select elective courses of their choice.

The BSW program is offered on five IU campuses: Bloomington, East, Gary, Indianapolis and South Bend. Students come in through application to the School of Social Work. Students in the BSW program must successfully complete all freshman, sophomore and junior social work courses and achieve senior standing, as defined by the BSW program, before enrolling in the senior year course work.

### Credit for Life Experience

Academic credit for life experience and previous work experience is not given in whole or in part toward the social work degree.

### General Education Requirements

General education course requirements vary by campus. Students are expected to meet the general education requirements specific to the campus to which they are applying.

The BSW Program has basic general educational requirements consistent across campuses. The BSW general education area course requirements are divided into four areas and appear below. Work with your BSW Academic Advisor to ensure you meet both the campus and BSW general education requirements.

### Arts and Humanities (5 courses)

- A. English Composition (2 courses)
  - Elementary Composition
  - Professional Writing Skills OR a writing course approved by the student's campus
- B. Modern American History (1 course)
- C. Arts and Humanities courses designated as such by the student's campus (2 courses)
- D. Arts and Humanities or an equivalent designated as such on the student's campus (1 course)

### Biological Sciences (1 course)

Human biological sciences course (1 course)

### Mathematics

Mathematics course designated on student's campus as meeting general education requirements (1 course)

## **Physical Science**

Physical science course designated on student's campus as meeting minimum general education requirements (**1 course**)

## **Supportive Area Requirements (4 courses)**

The courses classified as meeting supportive area requirements are those linked to the general requirements and social work courses. All BSW students must take the following four (4) specific requirements:

- American Government
- Introductory Psychology
- A 300 level Psychology course
- Introduction to Sociology

## **Social Work Required Courses (17 courses)**

Course offerings vary by campus. **It is essential to consult with your advisor** for educational planning and to ensure timely completion of the BSW program.

- S102 Understanding Diversity in a Pluralistic Society (3 cr.)
- S141 Introduction to Social Work (3 cr.)
- S221 Human Growth and Development in the Social Environment (3 cr.)
- S251 History and Analysis of Social Welfare Policy (3 cr.)
- S322 Small Group Theory and Practice (3 cr.)
- S331 Generalist Social Work Practice I: Theory and Skills (3 cr.)
- S332 Generalist Social Work Practice II: Theory and Skills (3 cr.)
- S352 Social Welfare Policy and Practice (3 cr.)
- S371 Social Work Research (3 cr.)
- S401 Integrative Practicum Seminar I (2 cr.)
- S402 Integrative Practicum Seminar II (3 cr.)
- S423 Organizational Theory and Practice (3 cr.)
- S433 Community Behavior and Practice with a Generalist Perspective (3 cr.)
- S442 Integrated Practice/Policy Seminar (3 cr.)
- S472 Social Work Practice Evaluation (3 cr.)
- S481 Social Work Practicum I (4 cr.)
- S482 Social Work Practicum II (4 cr.)

## **Social Work Course Sequencing of Junior and Senior Courses**

Both full time and part time options for completion of the junior and senior level required social work courses are available. The course sequencing of required courses is described below. Please note that terms may vary by campus. Also, **students must complete all 300 level courses before beginning Field Practicum.**

**BSW COURSE JUNIOR / SENIOR SEQUENCING**  
**FULL TIME OPTION**

<b>JUNIOR YEAR</b>	
<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>
S221 (if not taken previously) Human Growth and Development in the Social Environment S251 (if not taken previously) History and Analysis of Social Welfare Policy S331 (formerly 231) Generalist Social Work Practice I: Theory & Skills S322 Small Group Theory and Practice	S332 Generalist Social Work Practice II: Theory and Skills S371 Social Work Research S352 Social Welfare Policy and Practice
<b>SENIOR YEAR</b>	
<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>
S423 (formerly 323) Organizational Theory and Practice S442 Integrated Practice/Policy Seminar S481 Social Work Practicum I (formerly 381) S401 Field Seminar I	S433 Community Behavior & Practice S472 Social Work Practice-Research Seminar S482 Social Work Practicum II S402 Field Seminar II / Capstone

**THREE YEAR PART TIME OPTION**

<b>JUNIOR YEAR PART 1</b>	
<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>
S221 (if not taken previously) Human Growth and Development in the Social Environment S251 (if not taken previously) History and Analysis of Social Welfare Policy	S371 Social Work Research S352 Social Welfare Policy and Practice
<b>JUNIOR/SENIOR YEAR</b>	
<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>
S331 (formerly 231) Generalist Social Work Practice I: Theory & Skills S322 Small Group Theory and Practice S423 (formerly 323) Organizational Theory and Practice	S332 Generalist Social Work Practice II: Theory and Skills S433 Community Behavior & Practice
<b>SENIOR YEAR</b>	
<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>
S481 Social Work Practicum I S401 Field Seminar I S442 Integrated Practice/Policy Seminar	S472 Social Work Practice-Research Seminar S482 Social Work Practicum II S402 Field Seminar / Capstone

## FOUR YEAR PART TIME OPTION

JUNIOR YEAR Year One	
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Fall</i></p> <p>S221 (if not taken previously) Human Growth and Development in the Social Environment S251 (if not taken previously) History and Analysis of Social Welfare Policy</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Spring</i></p> <p>S352 Social Welfare Policy and Practice</p>
Year Two	
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Fall</i></p> <p>S322 Small Group Theory &amp; Practice S331 (formerly 231) Generalist Social Work Practice I: Theory &amp; Skills</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Spring</i></p> <p>S371 Social Work Research S332 Generalist Social Work Practice II: Theory and Skills</p>
SENIOR YEAR Year Three	
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Fall</i></p> <p>S423 (formerly 323) Organizational Theory and Practice S442 Integrated Practice/Policy Seminar</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Spring</i></p> <p>S433 Community Behavior &amp; Practice S472 Social Work Practice-Research Seminar</p>
Year Four	
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Fall</i></p> <p>S481 - Social Work Practicum I S401 Field Seminar I</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Spring</i></p> <p>S482 - Social Work Practicum II S402- Field Seminar II / Capstone</p>

### Required Social Work Course Descriptions

In the following course listings, the abbreviation “P” refers to prerequisite and “C” indicates corequisite courses. The number of hours of credit given to a course is indicated in parenthesis following the course title. Many, but not all of the BSW courses, are offered in an online format. The number of online courses varies by campus.

#### **S102 Understanding Diversity in a Pluralistic Society (3 cr.)**

This course covers theories and models that enhance understanding of our diverse society. It provides content about differences and similarities in the experiences, needs, and beliefs of selected minority groups and their relation to the majority group.

**P or C:** Elementary Composition

#### **S141 Introduction to Social Work (3 cr.)**

This course is an introduction to the profession of social work and the philosophical, societal, and organizational contexts within which professional social work activities are conducted.

**P or C:** Elementary Composition

**S221 Human Growth and Development in the Social Environment (3 cr.)**

This course assists the undergraduate social work student in building a foundation for understanding human behavior and development in diverse contexts across the life course.

**S251 History and Analysis of Social Welfare Policy (3 cr.)**

This course is designed to provide a historical perspective on the evolution of social welfare policies and programs and allow students to develop beginning policy analysis skills so that students will be able to identify gaps in the service delivery system and inequitable or oppressive aspects of current policy delivery.

**S322 Small Group Theory and Practice (3 cr.)**

The course examines the significance of the small group as both the context and means for social development of individuals and as a vehicle for generalist practice. It includes discussion of the individual as a member of a variety of groups, including the family.

**P:** S221 Human Growth and Development in the Social Environment

**S331 Generalist Social Work Practice I: Theory and Skills (3 cr.)**

This course focuses primarily on the application of basic generalist social work skills that demonstrate an understanding and application of the continuum of social work practice in the helping relationship.

**P or C:** Human Growth and Development in the Social Environment  
Elementary Composition

**S332 Generalist Social Work Practice II: Theory/Skills (3 cr.)**

This practice course examines the middle and ending phases of the helping process and related skills.

**P:** S331 Generalist Social Work Practice I: Theory and Skills  
S251 History and Analysis of Social Welfare Policy

**P or C:** S322 Small Group Theory and Practice  
S352 Social Welfare Policy and Practice

**S352 Social Welfare Policy and Practice (3 cr.)**

This second course in social welfare policy builds on S251 by exploring in depth the current social welfare delivery system through policy analysis using a variety of frameworks and developing policy practice skills.

**P:** S251 History and Analysis of Social Welfare Policy

**S371 Social Work Research (3 cr.)**

The general goal of this basic social science research methods course is to introduce and develop skills needed to conceptualize a problem, make use of available literature, design a research strategy, evaluate, organize, and integrate relevant data (both existing and new), derive useful solutions based on knowledge, and communicate those solutions to clients and colleagues.

**P:** Junior standing according to the social work curriculum.

**S401 Integrative Practicum Seminar I (2 cr.)**

This course is designed to facilitate integration of material gained from social work practice and theory courses with the realities of practice in the field as they occur in the student's practicum placement, S481 Social Work Practicum I.

**P:** All 300 level social work courses.

**C:** S481 Social Work Practicum I

**S402 Integrative Practicum Seminar II (3 cr.)**

This second semester of practicum seminar provides a continuing forum for the integration of academic learning with agency-based field placement.

**P:** All 300 level social work courses.

S401 Integrative Field Seminar I and S481 Social Work Practicum I

**C:** S482 Social Work Practicum II

**S423 Organizational Theory and Practice (3 cr.)**

This course provides the theoretical and conceptual foundation for understanding organizational functioning and behavior, and introduces the knowledge and skills necessary for generalist social work practice and leadership within an organizational context.

**P or C:** S322 Small Group Theory and Practice

**S433 Community Behavior and Practice within a Generalist Perspective (3 cr.)**

This course provides the theoretical foundation for community functioning and behavior and the knowledge and skills of community interventions designed to mitigate social, political and economic injustice and bring social change.

**P:** All junior-level social work courses.

**C:** S402 Field Practicum Seminar II

S472 Practice Evaluation

S482 Social Work Practicum II

**S442 Integrated Practice/Policy Seminar (3 cr.)**

This course focuses the student upon a specific field of social work practice in increased depth, provides further opportunity for synthesis of student learning from previous courses, and seeks to integrate social welfare policies and policy analysis with social work practice.

**S472 Social Work Practice Evaluation (3 cr.)**

This course provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to evaluate their own practice and the effectiveness of social service programs within which they work, as well as to become critical consumers of the professional literature to guide their practice.

**P:** All 300 level courses

**C:** S402 Field Practicum Seminar II

S433 Community Behavior and Practice within a Generalist Perspective

S482 Social Work Practicum II

**S481 Social Work Practicum I (4 cr.)**

Field education provides the opportunity for social work students to demonstrate competency in practice, integrating knowledge, values and skills gained in the professional education curriculum. The first practicum experience in the Bachelor of Social Work program allows the student to develop and demonstrate beginning practice competency, laying the foundation for the final field experience (S482). Students spend 15 hours per week for the 16-week semester in the agency and receive weekly supervision from an approved agency-based field instructor.

**P:** All 300 level courses

**P or C:** 423 Organization Behavior and Practice within a Generalist Perspective  
442 Integrative Practice-Policy Seminar

**C:** S401 Integrative Field Practicum Seminar I

**S482 Social Work Practicum II (4 cr.)**

This course is the continuation of S481 agency-based field experience which provides opportunities for students to demonstrate the practice behaviors outlined in the competencies defined by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) in preparation for professional practice at the BSW level. The S482 practicum placement continues at the same agency as arranged for S481 with the student increasing the practicum time to 20 hours per week for the 16-week semester, with continued weekly supervision from an approved agency-based field instructor.

**P:** S481 Social Work Practicum I

S401 Integrative Field Practicum Seminar I

**P or C:** S433 Community Behavior and Practice within a Generalist Perspective  
S472 Practice Evaluation

**C:** S402 Integrative Field Practicum Seminar II

**Elective Course Opportunities**

The social work program offers elective courses in relevant areas of social work. The offering of electives is based on program resources and student demand. Not all electives are offered on all campuses.

**S280 Introduction to Field Experience (1 - 3 credit hours)**

Introductory field experience for testing interest in a social work career.

**P:** consent of the instructor

**S490 Independent Study (1 - 3 credit hours)**

BSW students may seek permission from the program director to take S490 Independent Study as an elective course under the direction of a social work professor. S490 affords the student an excellent opportunity to explore a topic not addressed in classroom courses or to examine a subject in greater depth. The student should submit a signed and completed Independent Study Proposal form to the program administrator and receive formal approval prior to registering for the course (See Appendix B). When the independent study involves research of human subjects, the proposed research project must receive formal approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) prior to course registration. This course requires senior standing in the BSW program.

**Some electives are campus specific as follows:**

**S180 Exploring Child Welfare in Indiana (3 cr.) Indianapolis**

This course provides a comprehensive overview of the child welfare system, with special emphasis on current child protection and child welfare services in Indiana.

Students have the opportunity to explore careers working with children and families in the child welfare system. This course is a service-learning course with a required component of a minimum of twenty hours of volunteer work in an identified social service agency in the child welfare system.

**S201 Introduction to Case Management (3 cr.) Indianapolis**

This course explores current models of case management. It addresses emerging case manager's functions and roles within the contemporary network of human services. This is a required course to fulfill requirements for the Certificate in Case Management, and may include a service-learning option.

**S300 Developmental Issues for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual People (3 cr.) Bloomington**

This course explores the complexity of the developmental challenges facing the GL&B population and has important implications for social work and other helping professionals working with this group across practice settings.

**S300 Substance Abuse and Social Services (3 cr.) Bloomington**

The purpose of this course is to give students an overview of the field of addiction (alcohol & drugs) including discussion of several conceptual models and theories.

The course focuses on self-help groups, assessment procedures, and current intervention strategies. A brief overview on other addictions (gambling, sex, food) will be presented.

**S300 Poverty in the United States (3 cr.) Bloomington**

A major purpose of this course is to examine the nature of poverty, both rural and urban, in the United States: its history, extent, causes, and effects on individual development. It will examine various policies and programs that have been designed to alleviate poverty, and the effects and consequences of these efforts.

**S300 SEL Topics in Social Work: Global Issues of Human Rights and Cultural Competent Practice (3 cr.) Indianapolis**

The purpose of this course is to examine a range of issues including human rights, distribution of wealth, ethnic diversity, and social development, within a global interdependent context. Problems of global poverty, social injustice, and inequality will receive special attention. These areas will be examined utilizing among others empowerment, strengths, and multicultural perspectives.

**S301 Computer Technology for Social Workers (3 cr.) Indianapolis**

This course provides a broad overview of computer software applications and Internet and World Wide Web, with an emphasis on their utilization in the social work profession. Ethical and social implications of computer technology for the social work profession are explored, highlighting considerations specific to at-risk populations. Students may use this course to fulfill the BSW computer course requirement or they may take it as an elective.

**S302 Law, Inequality and Poverty (3 cr.) Indianapolis**

This course analyzes the history of economic social safety nets. Course content provides particular emphasis on the US major welfare reform that occurred in 1996, and the impact of the reform in the years that followed. The course uses social science and legal literature to discuss how welfare policies interact with trends in the labor market and family structure. Implication for practitioners is addressed.

**S305 Introduction to Child Protection (3 cr.) All Campuses**

This elective work course examines both research studies and the service application of knowledge in the field of family violence, abuse, and neglect. This course is required for the Child Welfare Scholars program and may also be taken as an elective.

**S306 Crisis Intervention (3cr.) Indianapolis**

This course focuses on the increasing number of complex and painful personal, couple, family, and community crisis situations encountered by social workers in the course of service delivery. This is a required course to fulfill requirements for the Certificate in Case Management. It may also be taken as an elective.

**S307 Grief and Loss Across the Life Span (3 cr.) Indianapolis**

This is an elective course that will explore the complex components of grief and loss throughout the life span from an ecological and strength based theoretical perspective.

**S308 Family Life Education (3 cr.) Indianapolis**

An understanding of the general philosophy and broad principles of family life education in conjunction with the ability to plan, implement, and evaluate such educational programs. This is a required course to fulfill the requirements for the Certificate in Family Life Education. It may also be taken as an elective.

**S309 Working with Families (3 cr.) Indianapolis**

Exploration of family relationships and roles in the 21st century. Examination of challenges encountered by families across the family life cycle. This is a required course to fulfill the requirements for the Certificate in Family Life Education. It may also be taken as an elective.

**S372 Statistical Reasoning in Social Work (3 cr.) Indianapolis**

This introductory statistics course is designed for students who wish to master some very important tools used by contemporary social work practitioners to better understand the world of practice. The primary purpose of the course is to enable students to gain an understanding of the basic principles that guide statistical reasoning, especially as they relate to making informed decisions about the quantitative aspects of their practice. It should be noted that this course meets the prerequisite requirement for students wishing to apply for admission to the IU MSW program. It is classified as a BSW elective, and as such, it may be taken as either a graded or as a pass/fail option. If this course is taken for the BSW Math/Physical Science requirement, it must be taken as a graded course.

Also, students on all campuses are encouraged to peruse the courses offered by the Labor Studies Program within the School of Social Work. The majority of Labor Studies courses are offered online.

## **Pass-Fail Courses**

Students can take a maximum of four non-social work elective courses as Pass-Fail. **All general requirements and supportive area requirements need a letter grade.** All required social work courses receive a letter grade except for S481 and S482 Social Work Practicum I and II which are graded as Satisfactory/Fail.

## **Repeated Courses**

Required social work courses may be repeated after the student is reinstated in the program OR by permission of the Program Director.

## **Senior Field Courses**

Field practicum courses provide students with opportunities to apply and integrate content from all areas of the curriculum and to develop competencies in generalist practice.

In the BSW Program, students enroll in two practicum courses in the senior year. Only students who are admitted into the BSW Program and have completed all 300 level social work courses are allowed to take the Senior Practicum courses. Practicum courses are designed to provide social work experiences with various system sizes (individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities). Practica take place in a wide range of fields of practice (i.e. child welfare, mental health, medical, addictions, homelessness, etc.). Field agency sites include multi-service community centers, child welfare agencies and group homes, nursing homes, services for the physically, mentally, and emotionally challenged, health settings, advocacy agencies for various clientele, and many other specialized services.

In the fall semester of the senior year, students enroll in S481 Social Work Practicum I, a four (4) credit hour course, as well as S401 Integrative Field Seminar, a two (2) credit course. In this first semester of the practicum sequence, students complete a minimum of 240 hours of supervised practice in a community agency during the Fall Semester (15 hours per week) as well as the S401 seminar course. These seminars are taught by faculty. Seminar assignments relate specifically to field experience journals, process recordings, and the beginning development of the student's second program outcome measure. Faculty works closely with the students and the assigned agency field instructors to provide support and guidance throughout the practicum experience. Field placements are made within the city or counties surrounding the campus in which the student is enrolled.

In the second semester of the senior year, students enroll in S482 Social Work Practicum II, a four (4) credit hour course, and S402 Field Practicum Seminar, a three (3) credit hour course, and continue in placement at the same agency as S481. During this second semester, students complete a minimum of 320 hours of supervised practice in a community agency (20 hours per week). S402 Field Practicum Seminar is designed to integrate theoretical material gained from social work practice and theory courses with the realities of practice issues as experienced in S482 as well as for students to complete the second program outcome measure.

**Given the nature of human service organizations, most practicum sites expect students to practice during the daytime hours. Very few sites are available in late afternoons, evenings and weekends. Applicants are encouraged to assess their day time availability for the field practicum courses before applying to the program.**

## Liability Insurance

Students are required to carry professional liability insurance while performing their field practicums. IUSSW administration has arranged malpractice insurance coverage for students enrolled in practica courses. It is expected that students will perform their roles in a competent and professional manner. However, situations may arise that can lead to civil or criminal action against a student including but not limited to:

- misrepresenting qualifications such as failing to inform the client of student status;
- providing treatment without obtaining proper consent;
- keeping inaccurate or inadequate records;
- administering inappropriate or radical treatment;
- failing to consult with or refer to a specialist;
- failing to seek proper supervision;
- failing to take action to prevent a client's suicide;
- failing to warn third parties of potential harm.

Students are asked questions relevant to their eligibility for malpractice insurance when they accept admission to the School as well as when they apply to participate in a field practicum. If a student has a criminal history or other previous professional/legal challenges, he or she must discuss this with the campus Program Director and/or field coordinator as these challenges may impact eligibility for malpractice insurance, an agency's willingness to provide a field placement as well as his or her future licensure.

The Indiana University School of Social Work carries a professional liability insurance policy issued by *American Professional Agency, Inc.*, which provides coverage during the time students are in the field placement and is limited to practice issues. This insurance does not provide coverage for the social work student who volunteers at the field placement agency or any other agency.