

SOCIAL WELFARE, BS

The Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work core mission is to enhance human well-being and promote human rights and social and economic justice for people who are disadvantaged to achieve an equitable, healthy, and productive society. Cultural humility, anti-oppressive practice, and social justice are values central to the profession of social work and our school. Social work seeks to actively confront racism.

Undergraduates in the Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work receive a liberal arts education in the social and behavioral sciences and their application to human problems that prepares them to be informed citizens involved in human services or social welfare problems and policies. Students majoring in social welfare leverage their understanding of the historical context of social work and the systems and policies that underlie our society and learn strategies to address social, racial, economic, and environmental justice and political contexts. Students take courses in a variety of social sciences to enable them to view social welfare in its broad social, economic, and political contexts. The social welfare major offers an overview of current social problems and prepares students for further academic study or for employment in selected human service arenas.

Social work's special contribution rests on an established body of knowledge, values, and skills pertinent to understanding human relationships and the interaction between people as individuals, in families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social work courses offer a theoretical understanding of social problems and an introduction to practice methods used by social workers. The curriculum covers areas such as aging, family and child welfare, poverty, mental health, developmental disabilities, substance use disorders, diversity, race and ethnicity, criminal justice, oppression and social, economic and environmental justice, and at-risk populations.

Graduates of the Social Welfare major go on to work at non-profit organizations and federal, state, and local governments. Many alums go on to complete graduate degrees in Social Work, Counseling, Sociology, Psychology, Gender and Women's Studies, and Law, among other degrees in the social sciences and beyond.

The School's main undergraduate Guide page (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/social-work/>) provides a broader overview of the School and its mission.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Students in the social welfare major and BSW program often choose from a variety of certificate programs (<https://www.wisc.edu/academics/certificates/>) available. Common certificates include African American Studies, American Indian Studies, Business, Chicano/a and Latino/a Studies, Criminal Justice Certificate, Gender & Women Studies, Global Health, LGBTQ Studies, South Asian Studies, and South East Asian Studies, among others.