



# Becoming a Social Work Major at WKU

Western Kentucky University  
College of Health & Human Services  
Department of Social Work  
BSW Program

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# What do social workers do?

WE  
HELP

- Foster care and adoptions
- Counseling and therapy for individuals and families
- Probation and parole services
- Youth offender services
- Victim assistance
- Planning and developing community programs
- Employee hiring, retention, and retirement or termination
- Working with individuals who are developmentally disabled
- Working with older adults
- Improving conditions for people who are poor
- Providing academic services in schools
- Counseling people coping with an illness
- Developing programs that promote health
- Drug or alcohol addiction treatment
- And much more!



# OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK

Employment of social workers is projected to grow 19% from 2012 to 2022, faster than the average for all occupations! (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2014)



## JOB OPENINGS!

- **CHILD, FAMILY, AND SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS** provide assistance to improve the functioning of children & their families. May assist single parents, arrange adoptions, & find foster homes for abandoned or abused children. In schools, they address such problems as teenage pregnancy, misbehavior, & truancy. May also advise teachers.
- **Kentucky** -- 336 openings/yr -- \$17.45/hr; \$36,290/yr
- **Barren River** -- 19 openings/yr-- 17.52/hr; \$36,442/yr
- **Lake Cumberland** -- 16 openings/yr - \$17.43/hr; \$36,241/yr



\* Among Top 50 occupations with the highest average number of annual openings in Kentucky; Requiring a Bachelor's degree or higher; Job openings includes separations and new positions; Median wages are listed

# OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK

## GROWTH!



- **In Kentucky**

- **SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND BEHAVIORAL DISORDER COUNSELORS** (\$17.34/hr; \$36,070/yr)
- **MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS** (\$16.97/hr; \$35,290/yr)
- **MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS** (\$16.56/hr; \$34,440/yr)

- **In Barren River Area**

- **REHABILITATION COUNSELORS** (\$15.75/hr; \$32,806/yr)
- **MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS** (\$16.46/hr; \$34,240/yr)

- **In Lake Cumberland Area**

- **MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS** (n/a; n/a)
- **MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELORS** (\$13.81/hr; \$28,718/yr)



\* Among Top 50 fastest growing occupations In Kentucky; Requiring a Bachelor's degree or higher; Job openings includes separations and new positions; Median wages are listed

# Social Work at WKU

- BSW since 1974, accredited 1978
  - Currently >200 social work majors/minors
  - BSW @ Bowling Green, E'town, Owensboro, Glasgow
- MSW since 2004
  - MSW degree options
    - Full-time, part-time
    - Advanced standing
    - Online



The Academic Complex houses the Department of Social Work within the College of Health & Human Services

# Prerequisites for SW Major

## 9 Classes

- SWRK 101 and SWRK 205 (must pass with a “C”)
- English 100
- Math 116 (or eligible to enroll 1<sup>st</sup> semester)
- Biology 113 or 120 or 131
- PSY or PSYS 100/199 or SOCL100/AGRI 108 (one for admission; **both** are required no later than the end of the first semester following admission to the program)
- PS110 or ECON 150/202/203 (one for admission; **both** are required no later than the end of the first semester following admission to the program)

# Advising for the Major

Pre-majors are assigned an ACE advisor <http://www.wku.edu/ace/>

Becoming a SW major:

- Complete change of major/minor/advisor form on Topnet
  - Indicate “yes” for change of advisor
  - Submit form on Topnet
- Print form and deliver to the Office Associate for Dept. of SW, in Academic Complex 211; or fax form to 270-745-6841
- The Program Director will assign a SW advisor
- Office Associate – Ms. Benita Langley
  - 270-745-5312
  - benita.langley@wku.edu



# Admission Criteria and Process

- Attain sophomore standing at time of admission
- Completion of prerequisites (see previous slide)
- **GPA 2.5 or higher**
  - Students enrolled at WKU fall 2009 or later
  - GPA 2.2 or higher - Students enrolled at WKU prior to fall 2009
- Submit application, including personal essay
  - essay: your introduction of yourself to the faculty and a sample of your best writing
    - Include a paraphrase; cite source in your essay; include documentation
- Sign off on NASW Code of Ethics agreement
- Sign off on BSW Student Handbook agreement
- Interview with BSW Program Director

# Application Deadlines

- **April 1/July 15** for students seeking admission for the following Fall semester at all campuses
  - **November 1** for students seeking admission for the following Spring semester at WKU Bowling Green \*
- \* The BSW Program enrolls new students at the regional campuses in Fall semester ONLY.



# Once you're admitted. . .

Following admission to the major, it requires a minimum of five semesters to complete the courses for the major, which will very likely include one summer session for your field placement. Regional campuses will have one summer semester of field.

Plan now for using your financial to account for summer field.

# Course Sequence: SW Major

- First Semester
  - SWRK 330:HBSE I
  - SWRK 344:Stats
  - SWRK 375: Generalist Practice I
  - ACE – Advisor Consent Elective
- Second Semester
  - SWRK 331:HBSE II
  - SWRK 345: Research
  - SWRK 379: Skills
  - ACE – Advisor Consent Elective

# Course Sequence (cont.)

- Third Semester

- SWRK 381:  
Generalist Practice III
- SWRK 378: Gen.  
Practice II
- SWRK 395: Policy
- SWRK elective

- Fourth Semester

- SWRK 480/481 (field  
placement and seminar)

- Fifth Semester

- SWRK 482/483 (field  
placement and seminar)

During the five semesters  
students must complete  
all Gen Ed's. and  
electives to fulfill 120  
hrs. for graduation

# Waiting for the decision . . .

- Application has been turned in by deadline
- Must register for classes for next semester
- If accepted, student takes SWRK 330, 344, 375 during the first semester in the major.
- Cannot enroll in these classes until acceptance is verified . . .  
. but some must be enrolled as full time student. So . . .
- This is the time to work closely with your SW advisor so you will know how to plan for the next semester.

# Tuition Rates

[https://www.wku.edu/bursar/tuition\\_fees\\_1516.php](https://www.wku.edu/bursar/tuition_fees_1516.php)

## 2015-2016 estimates (in-state rate)

- Fall semester/spring semester: \$4,741 per semester or \$9,482 for the academic year (AY)
- Summer tuition is calculated differently:
  - Summer: tuition is assessed per credit hour at the rate of \$395 per credit hour for summer 2016.
  - \$395 x six credit hours for SWRK field & seminar = \$2,370
- All of this information is available on WKU's web site @ Financial Aid. Rates will likely change with each AY.

# Public Child Welfare Certification Program (PCWCP)

- Eligibility
  - Cumulative GPA of 2.5
  - SW cumulative GPA of 3.0 or “B” average in all SW classes
  - At least 3, and not more than 4 semesters of undergraduate SW courses to complete
  - Completed one SW *practice course*, typically *SWRK 375*, prior to enrolling in second of two PCWCP specialization courses, *SWRK 450* and *SWRK 451*

# Public Child Welfare Certification Program (PCWCP)

- Benefits
  - Up to four semesters of tuition (instate rate)
  - Stipend for four semesters
  - Employment with DCBS upon completion of the BSW and PCWCP (consistent with state personnel requirements)
  - Dr. Dean May is WKU site coordinator for PCWCP

<https://www.wku.edu/socialwork/pcwcp.php>



# Public Child Welfare Certification Program (PCWCP)

- Obligations
  - Enter into a contractual agreement with the Cabinet for Health & Family Services
  - Apply for employment within specified time frame
  - Failure to complete the above may lead to forfeiture of funds and reimbursement to Cabinet in one lump sum

# Social Work Minor

21 hours

- SWRK 101
- SWRK 205
- SWRK 330: HBSE I
- SWRK 331: HBSE II
- SWRK 395: Policy
- SWRK elective (3-hour)
- SWRK elective (3-hour)



# BSW Scholarship Program

Applications are available on the  
departmental web site at

[www.wku.edu/socialwork/bsw](http://www.wku.edu/socialwork/bsw)



# You'll need a social worker when ...



- You come into the world too soon
- You are bullied
- You get poor grades
- Your friends pressure you to get high
- You didn't want this baby
- You feel like running away
- You can't forget the assault
- You want to adopt
- You wonder if you are drinking too much
- You lose your baby
- Your child with a disability needs friends
- Your spouse wants a divorce
- Your neighborhood needs a community center
- You want to be a foster parent
- You struggle to readjust after military service
- Your best friend has panic attacks
- You find drugs in your son's room
- Your mom gets Alzheimer's
- You can't afford respite care
- Your children ignore your medical decisions
- Your retirement check won't pay the bills
- You learn you have a terminal illness
- You need a nursing home

***Life's Challenges –  
Social Workers Are There For You!***

# Thank you!

## QUESTIONS?

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