



WKU<sup>®</sup>

SOCIAL  
WORK

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# Why Choose Social Work?

- Interest in human behavior and social systems
- A very versatile profession
- Want to address the causes of social problems, not just the symptoms (e.g. poverty, trauma, lack of access to resources, etc.)
- Job security and growth
- Person fulfillment and alignment with personal values
- Intellectual challenge-creative problem solving
- Work-life balance and integration (various ways to work)

# What Do

# Social Workers Do?



- Foster care and adoption
- Probation and parole services
- Youth offender services
- Victim assistance
- Employee hiring, retention, and retirement
- Working with older adults
- improving conditions for low-income populations
- Planning and developing community programs
- Providing academic services in schools
- Working with developmentally disabled
- Drug or alcohol addiction treatment
- Developing programs that promote healthy living
- And much more!

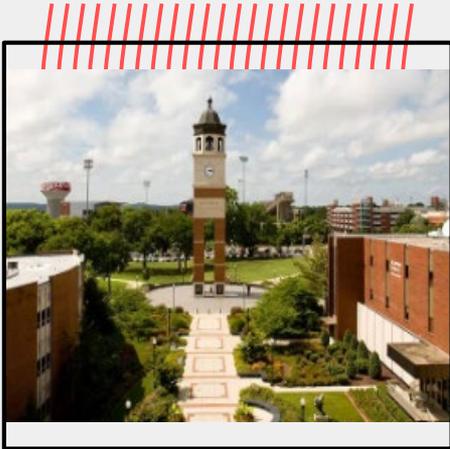
# Occupation Outlook

## The field of social work



- As of early 2026, there are 810,000 social workers nationally
- The greatest demand for social workers is in mental health, healthcare, child, family and school social work
- Expected growth of 6% for 2024-2034, higher than the national average!
- Take the quiz to find the field of social work best suited for you!
  - [What type of social worker will you be?](#)

# Social Work at WKU



## Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program

- Since 1974, accredited 1978
- Currently over 300 SWRK majors (including pre-majors) and almost 100 minors
- 4 program options for the BSWW:
  - Bowling Green
  - Online
- Regional Signature Programs: Glasgow, Elizabethtown, Owensboro

## Master of Social Work (MSW) program

- Since 2004
- Full-time, Part-Time, Advanced Standing, Hybrid Online

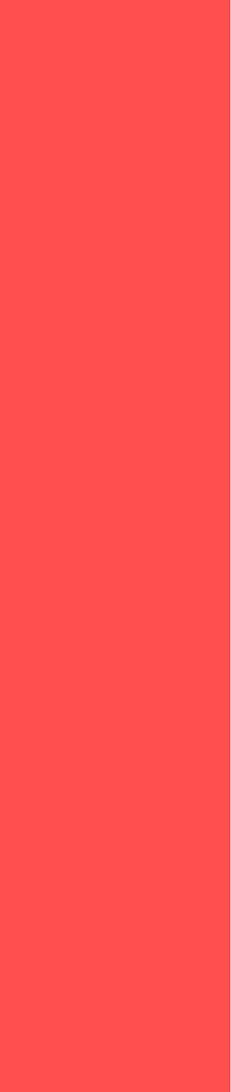
Please Visit our webpage for more info!

<https://www.wku.edu/socialwork/bsw/>

# The BSW Path



1. **If you begin at WKU**, you can start as a Social Work Prep major
  - Generally this is for your first and second year of college
  - Complete pre-requisites and Colonnade Courses, work with a general advisor
  - Apply to BSW program upon completion of prerequisites and with a 2.5 GPA, usually spring of sophomore year
2. **If you transfer in**
  - Apply to WKU and be accepted
  - Apply to the BSW program at the same time IF you have completed all prerequisites and conditions of admission
  - If you haven't completed all prerequisites, apply after completing those
3. **After admission**
  - You will be assigned a social work faculty advisor and begin classes restricted only to accepted majors in addition to other coursework



# Prerequisite Classes Before Applying to the SWRK Major

- ✓ SWRK 101 (must pass with a “C”)
- ✓ ENG 100
- ✓ SOCL 100/AGRI 108
- ✓ PS 110
- ✓ DEI Course from approved list

# Program Admission Criteria and Process

- ✓ Attain sophomore standing at time of admission and **be an admitted WKU student**
- ✓ Completion of prerequisites (see previous slide)
- ✓ **GPA 2.5 or higher**
- ✓ Complete application that includes an essay
- ✓ Read and Sign off on NASW Code of Ethics agreement
- ✓ Read and Sign off on BSW Student Handbook agreement
- ✓ Submit application online by deadline:
  - ✓ Spring: November 1<sup>st</sup>
  - ✓ Fall: April 1<sup>st</sup>
- ✓ BSW Program may request an interview

# Training to Become A Professional Social Worker

## Courses Related to:

- Human behavior
- Aspects of human diversity
- Practice with individuals, groups, communities, and organizations
- Case management
- Research methods/program evaluation
- Social Welfare Policy and Issues
- Electives you select (e.g. substance use disorders, trauma, military social work, social work with children, social work with older adults, ethics, etc.)



- **400-hour practicum** in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> semesters (6 credit hours per semester)
  - At local agency in area of interest
  - Under supervision of professional social worker

# Field Internships



A D A N T A  
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER



**LifeSkills, Inc.**  
Premium Healthcare Services



**Wendell Foster**  
Empowering People With Disabilities



Hardin Memorial Health



**Alliance**  
*Counseling Associates*



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF AMERICA



**Hospice**  
of Southern Kentucky, Inc.



**The**  
**Medical**  
**Center**



Note. This is a partial list of approx. 200 potential field agencies.

# S.T.A.I.R Certificate



Strategies for Trauma-Informed Approaches Improving Resilience (STAIR)

Prepares students for using research-based practices in trauma recognition, assessment of impact, and skill development to assess the needs of people with trauma histories

**13 hours**

SWK 311 Understanding Intergenerational Trauma

SWK 330 Human Behavior in the Social Environment

SWK 438 Understanding Trauma

**One** elective from a list (e.g. Introduction to Child Welfare; Race, Class, and Crime; Disability in the United States; Women's Health)

SWK 455 Integrative Seminar (1 hour capstone class)

# Substance Use Disorders (SUD)Certificate



Prepares students with the skills necessary to become a substance use counseling professional. The curriculum in the program focuses on assessment, treatment, counseling skills, field practice, and referral. Courses in this certificate meet partial requirement for state certification as a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC) and as a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor Associate (CADCA I and CADCA II)

**18 hours**

- SWRK 433 Ethical Issues and Dilemmas in Social Work
- SWRK 310 Introduction to Substance Use Assessment and Treatment
- SWRK 313 Co-occurring Disorders 3
- SWRK 320 Introduction of Substance Use Counseling Skills
- SWRK 324 Opioid Epidemic 3
- SWRK 420 Substance Use Professionals Capstone

# Child Welfare – Prepare, Retain, Engage, and Partner (CW PREP)

## Benefits

- Up to four semesters of tuition (in-state rate)
- Priority consideration or employment with DCBS
- Specialized training & access to a support network
- Enter into a contractual agreement with the Cabinet for Health & Family Services

## Obligations

- List 10 counties in which you are willing to intern/become employed
- Apply for employment within specified time frame

# DCBS Co-Op/Intern Program

## Paid Internship!

### Benefits\*:

- \$15/hr (up to 37.5 hrs/wk)
- Meet and work with specialists and experts in child protection services
- May lead to full time job

### Must be:

- Enrolled full-time
- In good standing
- GPA  $\geq$  2.50
- Sponsored by BSW program

\*No obligation to work for DCBS after graduation;  
can also complete Co-Op Intern Program while in an MSW program in Kentucky

# Other Opportunities

## **SOCIAL WORK STUDENT UNION**



## **PHI ALPHA**

(National honor society for social workers)

# LifeSkills Center for Child Welfare Education & Research (LCCWEAR)

- An applied research center that seeks to find solutions to chronic conditions that negatively impact Kentucky's families and children.

Contact: [childwelfare@wku.edu](mailto:childwelfare@wku.edu) / 270-745-4096

<https://www.wku.edu/childwelfare/> / Socials: @WKUChildWelfare



# CONNECT WITH US

## Questions?

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