Program Coordinator: J. Helbert

The Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program provides students with a range of knowledge, skills, abilities, values, and ethics that effectively prepares them for generalist careers as professional social workers. Because graduates enjoy title protection as “social workers,” BSW graduates are highly in demand in the domestic and global job markets.

Professors of the King University BSW program are social workers themselves, with a minimum of a Masters of Social Work degree. In addition to years of social work field experience, BSW professors are experienced administrators, practitioners, and educators who believe in nurturing students while challenging them to reach higher goals.

The social work program boasts four decades of proven academic success through its longstanding presence in the region and its continuously maintained accreditation with the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The program began at Virginia Intermont (V.I.) College and continued uninterrupted at King University when V.I. closed in 2014.

In the 40 years of the Bachelor of Social Work program’s accredited existence, a stellar social work education has been provided to students from Northeast Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, and several states across the United States and abroad. In addition to membership with the CSWE, the Bachelor of Social Work program is affiliated with the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), the National Association of Christian Social Workers (NACSW), International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), International Consortium on Social Development (ICSD), and Phi Alpha, a national social work honors society. The King University chapter of Phi Alpha is Chi Omega.

Students who wish to declare a social work major must first complete an application to the BSW program, which includes an essay and a background check completed prior to the field practicum component. An entrance interview may be required. All BSW students must adhere to the NASW Code of Ethics, which can be found online. The cumulative GPA requirement for admission is 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

NOTE: Students with a GPA of 2.2 may be accepted provisionally, but are expected to improve the GPA within the first semester after admission. From admission forward, students are required to maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 to remain in the BSW program.

Each BSW student receives the NASW Code of Ethics at orientation. The BSW program has both academic and nonacademic requirements for retention and progression, which are detailed in the BSW student handbook.

Students who complete the BSW program successfully are prepared for entry into an Advanced Standing Masters of Social Work program and/or entry into the work force in professional social work practice. The Advanced Standing placement is designed for BSW
students who excel academically, having maintained a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Advanced Standing placements enable social work students to complete a Masters of Social Work degree in one academic year of full-time study.

Courses in the social work major begin in the junior year of study, following completion of 45-60 s.h. of specified courses. The program provides students with theoretical and practical skills required to work as professional social workers in addition to a generalist knowledge base that examines human behavior and complex social interactions. This generalist approach to preparation allows social workers to engage with individuals, families, groups, agencies, and communities to resolve problems and improve capacities for healthy social functioning.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior
2. Engage diversity and difference in practice
3. Advance human rights and social, economic, restorative, and environmental justice
4. Engage in practice-informed research and research-informed practice
5. Engage in policy practice
6. Assess, engage, intervene, and evaluate practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities

King University’s mission is to build meaningful lives of achievement and cultural transformation in Christ. The BSW program supports this mission by utilizing a bio-psycho-social-spiritual framework toward addressing social and economic issues utilizing restorative justice components. Counseling and advocacy skills are also employed, which emphasize the importance of addressing barriers that may be experienced by individuals, families, groups, communities, or organizations. The signature pedagogy of the BSW program is the incorporation of an extensive supervised professional fieldwork experience in one or more relevant social work settings.

Bachelor of Social Work students are expected to follow a strict set of ethical guidelines that inform practice and professional conduct of social workers in the following ways:

1. Maintain continuous education regarding cultural competence and social diversity
2. Develop an ability to maintain respect for colleagues and unconditional positive regard of clients by honoring the dignity and worth of each person
3. Admonish discrimination, exploitation, and domination of any individual or group
4. Act to prevent injustices through social and political action
5. Develop and maintain strong boundaries
6. Maintain integrity
7. Elevate service to others above self-interests

These are the core values of the social work profession. These guidelines are clearly articulated in the 2008 National Association of Social Worker’s Code of Ethics, as amended. Additionally, social work students should possess compassion, strong interpersonal skills, good listening skills, good organizational and time-management skills, and good problem-solving skills.

**Comprehensive Assessment**

Students must enroll in SOWK 4990 Comprehensive Assessment during their final semester of BSW course work. This course consists of a one-day examination. Students must pass the BSW comprehensive examination, which is comprised of 60 items. This exam measures the student’s learning and retention of the social work subject matter.
Computer Requirements:
PC with MS Office 2010 or later, Webcam, Microphone

General Education Recommendations
It will be to the advantage of Bachelor of Social Work majors to take the following courses to fulfill specified categories of the King University Core Curriculum requirements. Please refer to Section 3.04.010, The Core Curriculum, for additional details as well as course options and descriptions.

The following courses are recommended:
- BIOL 1010 Anatomy and Physiology I (Science requirement)
- MATH 1560 Introduction to Statistics (Mathematics requirement)
- ECON 2200 Principles of Economics or PSCI 2010 U.S. Government (one should be taken to fulfill the U.S. and Global Citizenship requirement; the other is a recommended elective)

The courses below are not part of the Core Curriculum, but are strongly recommended electives:
- PSYC 1520 General Psychology
- APAL 3110 Appalachian Culture

GPS Bachelor of Social Work Major Requirements
Educational outcomes and competencies are attained through the combination of learning experiences (course work in theory and conceptual learning) and skills development in the field education component.

The content courses in the major can be completed in three semesters (one calendar year). Students are expected to enroll in SOWK 4800 Integrative Practice during their fourth semester in the program. SOWK 4800 is an intensive clinical experience of 400 on-site hours. Students will complete the clinical experience while attending a required seminar one night per week during the 15-week semester. Outside employment during the clinical semester may hinder successful completion of the required practicum, thus delaying graduation.

SOWK 3180
Social Work Research and Evaluation .........................................................4 s.h.
SOWK 3410*
Historical Foundations and Contemporary Issues ........................................4 s.h.
SOWK 3420
Human Diversity and Ethical Issues ............................................................4 s.h.
SOWK 3610
Human Behavior and the Social Environment:
Person in Environment Perspective ..............................................................4 s.h.
SOWK 3620
Human Behavior and the Social Environment:
Life Course Perspective ..............................................................................4 s.h.
SOWK 3810
Generalist Practice .......................................................................................4 s.h.
SOWK 3820
Family and Group Practice .........................................................................4 s.h.
SOWK 3830
Community and Organizations Practice ......................................................4 s.h.
SOWK 3840
  Writing for Social Workers ................................................................. 4 s.h.
SOWK 4410
  Social Work Policy .................................................................................. 4 s.h.
SOWK 4800
  Integrative Practice ................................................................................ 12 s.h.
SOWK 4990
  Comprehensive Assessment ...................................................................... 0 s.h.

* SOWK 3410 Historical Foundations and Contemporary Issues must be taken *one time only*, either during or prior to the first semester of enrollment. The course is offered every semester in Quest format (meets once every third week throughout the 15-week semester).

Summary of Total Credits
Core Curriculum .......................................................................................... 30 s.h.
Major Requirements .................................................................................... 52 s.h.
Electives and/or Minor ............................................................................. 42 s.h.
Minimum to Earn a Bachelor of Social Work ......................................... 124 s.h.