Social Work (B.S.S.W.)

Gain the knowledge, values and skills for generalist social work, with an emphasis on culturally responsive practice in rural communities.

Be the change. Work in an empower-oriented profession to help people improve their lives and communities. Through the Bachelor of Science in Social Work (B.S.S.W.), you'll be prepared to serve communities with special preparation for rural settings, lead from within the profession and pursue continued professional development.

Program Snapshot

Program type: Major
Format: On-campus or online
Est. time to complete: 2-4 years
Credit hours: 120 or less (depending on number of completed credits)

Why Study Social Work at UND?

Choose Social Work if you're looking for a career with "meaning, action, diversity, satisfaction, and an abundance of optimism" (NASW). UND's nationally-recognized and caring faculty, numerous "firsts" in online education, and high profile in the state and region make us a great value and a great choice.

In addition to a social work major, students often pursue related academic minors:

- Gerontology
- Chemical Dependency

Social work stands apart from other social science degrees in that most states license social workers at the bachelor's level. Only those who hold formal social work degrees can call themselves social workers.

Accreditation

The undergraduate program in Social Work, offering a Bachelors of Science in Social Work (B.S.S.W.) degree, has been accredited since 1974, when undergraduate accreditation first began. The Department of Social Work was re-accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) in 2014. The department continues to update its curriculum to adhere to revised standards established by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education.

Top Online Social Work Program in the Nation

Every accredited social work program offers education, but not every program prepares students to make a real impact the way UND does. UND is increasingly regarded as one of the top academic and research institutions in the nation for social work. We consistently rank among the best for educational quality, affordability, and career outcomes.

#2 - Best Online Bachelor's of Social Work Degree Program
#5 - Most Affordable Online College for Bachelor's in Social Work
#23 - Best Online Social Work Degree
Priority Application Deadlines

FALL: FEB. 1* (FRESHMEN) | APRIL 15* (TRANSFER STUDENTS)  
SPRING: DEC. 1  
SUMMER: April 1  
*academic scholarship priority deadline

Online Program Application Deadline

FALL: June 15

Program Highlights

- Complete a field internship under the supervision of a licensed field instructor.
- Get involved with our nationally-recognized award-winning student clubs, the Student Social Work Association or Phi Alpha, the social work honor society.
- Top 25% program in terms of the total number of undergraduate students enrolled at UND.
- Develop knowledge, values and skills that equip you to intervene with individuals, families, groups, communities, and in the policy arena.
- The first state university to offer a distance BSSW using web-based videoconferencing technology.

Outcomes

16%  
Growth rate for social workers through 2026*

46K  
Median annual salary for social workers*  

*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

A BSSW will prepare you for social work practice in a variety of settings. You will be eligible to apply to take the social work licensing exam in any states that license at the BSSW level. You'll also be eligible to apply to any Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) programs.

Social work is a profession valued, in part, for its broad range and variety of career opportunities. You might find a career in one of these areas:

- Administration  
- Adoption services  
- Child welfare  
- Corrections  
- Disability services  
- Gerontology  
- Health and public health  
- Mental health and substance abuse  
- Schools  
- Social welfare policy