



Bachelor of Social Work Behavioral & Health Sciences GPS

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 (MSW) 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 BSW 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 BSW 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), the Association of Bachelor Program Directors (BPD), and Phi Alpha, a national social work honors society. The King University chapter of Phi Alpha is Chi Omega.

Bachelor of Social Work Application Packet Requirements

1. Submit a completed application.
2. Submit official transcripts from all prior colleges and universities attended.
 - a. Applicants are required to have a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale. Students whose cumulative GPA falls below 2.5, but is 2.2 or higher, may be considered on a conditional basis. Students are expected to maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 while in the program.
3. Submit a specific application to the Social Work program. This may be accessed at <http://www.king.edu/admissions/gps/programs/bsw/programapplication.aspx>
4. Complete the required self-assessment form. This may be accessed at <http://www.king.edu/admissions/gps/programs/bsw/programapplication.aspx>
5. Historical Foundations of Contemporary Issues (SOWK 3410) is a required course for the program. This course is an introduction to the discipline of Social Work. Students who took a similar course at another institution can petition for the course to transfer. Those who have not taken the course before entering must complete it during the first two semesters of enrollment in the program.
6. A highly recommended prerequisite course is Introduction to Statistics.

7. Write and submit a 500-750 word personal statement using the prompt on the Social Work application form.
8. Be willing to participate in an Interview with Program Committee (online or in person), if there are questions about your application packet.

Students who wish to declare a social work major must first complete an application to the BSW program, which includes an essay, a self-assessment, and a criminal background check completed prior to the field practicum component. An entrance interview may be required.

Students must have completed a minimum of 45 semester hours of applicable coursework to apply for admission to the Social Work program. In order for students to successfully complete the BSW program plan of study within the specified timeframe, completion of 60 semester hours is recommended before application to the BSW program. Students seeking admission to the program with fewer than 60 semester hours of applicable coursework must seek permission from the BSW Program Coordinator. All BSW students must adhere to the NASW Code of Ethics (see link below).

Each BSW student must access the NASW Code of Ethics information online at <https://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/default.asp>. This information is an essential part of each course in the major.

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 well prepared for entry into an Advanced Standing Masters of Social Work (MSW) 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 MSW 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 at least 45 s.h. of coursework including 30 s.h. of general education requirements and recommended electives. 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.

BSW 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 a 60-item questionnaire and a writing assessment with adherence to the latest standards of the APA style. This exam measures the student's learning and retention of the social work subject matter.

Technology Requirements

PC with MS Office 2010 or later, Webcam, Microphone

General Education Recommendations

It will be to the advantage of BSW 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 specific courses are *recommended*:

- MATH 1560 Introduction to Statistics (fulfills Mathematics requirement)
- ECON 2000 Introduction to Economic Principles 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 course 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.
RELG 1001	
Foundations of Christian Thought and Practice	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 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 (4 s.h.), must be taken *one time only* either prior to or during the student's 1st or 2nd semester of enrollment in the program. This course will be offered every semester in Quest Format (meets once every third week throughout the 15-week semester) and will be available both to Social Work majors and to any other King University students who wish to take it as an elective.

NOTE: SOWK 3840, Writing for Social Workers (4 s.h.), may be taken as an elective.

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 BSW Degree.....	124 s.h.

BSW GPS/Online Two-Year Course Rotation

Bachelor of Social Work GPS/Online			
<p>This is a team-based program. Students may enter in Module A or Module B of Semesters 1, 2, and 3. The final semester is a 12-s.h. practicum. <u>Students may find maintaining outside employment challenging during the practicum semester.</u></p> <p>All courses are 4-s.h. with the exception of SOWK 4800 (12-s.h.) and SOWK 4990 (0-s.h.). Students are permitted to transfer 16-s.h. of prior equivalent applicable courses in social work. <i>Recommendations</i> for Core: ECON 2000 Introduction to Economic Principles or PSCI 2010 U.S. Government (Citizenhip) and MATH 1560 Introduction to Statistics (Mathematics)</p>			
Semester 1	Module A	SOWK 3420	Human Diversity and Ethical Issues
	Module B	SOWK 3610	Human Behavior and the Social Environment: Person and Environment Perspective
	Module C	SOWK 3620	Human Behavior and the Social Environment: Life Course Perspective
	Quest Format Mod D (Online)	SOWK 3410	Historical Foundations and Contemporary Issues
Semester 2	Module A	SOWK 4410	Social Work Policy
	Module B	SOWK 3810	Generalist Practice
	Module C	SOWK 3820	Family and Group Practice
	Quest Format Mod D (Online)	<i>SOWK 3410</i>	<i>Historical Foundations and Contemporary Issues</i>
Semester 3	Module A (Online)	RELG 1001	Foundations of Christian Thought and Practice
	Module B	SOWK 3180	Social Work Research and Evaluation
	Module C	SOWK 3830	Community and Organizations Practice
	Quest Format Mod D (Online)	<i>SOWK 3410</i>	<i>Historical Foundations and Contemporary Issues</i>
Semester 4	Module D	SOWK 4800	Integrative Practice
		SOWK 4990	Comprehensive Assessment: BSW Comprehensive Exam

NOTES:

- Semesters 1, 2, and 3 will be offered once a year.
- Eventually, Semester 4, SOWK 4800, Integrative Practice, the final semester of clinical practice will be offered every semester as students finish their course work and need to complete the clinical work of 400 on-site hours and the associated seminar in order to finish the BSW program of study. Students may find maintaining outside employment challenging during the practicum semester.
- SOWK 3410: Historical Foundations and Contemporary Issues, must be successfully completed *one time only* either during or prior to the first or second semester of enrollment in the program. This course will be offered every semester online in quest-

style format and will be available both to Social Work majors and to other King University students wishing to take it as an elective.

4. Other ***recommended*** preparatory courses: PSYC 1520 General Psychology, APAL 3110 Appalachian Culture. These are recommendations and NOT requirements.
5. Updated: 062917 jmh

The layout of this document is valid for the 2017/2018 academic year.