

About This Major . . .

Social Work is a profession dedicated to social and economic justice. The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) describe social workers as “people who care about people, who want to make things better, who want to relieve suffering, who want their work to make a difference.” (Retrieved from: <http://careers.socialworkers.org/explore/choose.asp>)

According to the NASW Code of Ethics, the profession’s core values, have been “embraced by social workers throughout the profession’s history, are the foundation of social work’s unique purpose and perspective.” These values are: service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity and competence. (Retrieved from: <https://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp>)

The CMU BSW Program Mission is: “To educate students as generalist social work practitioners who embrace the mission and core values of the social work profession, including issues of diversity, service, the dignity and worth of all people, and social and economic justice. (CMU Social Work BSW Student Handbook 2017-18)

Job opportunities include work in: mental health, child welfare, substance abuse, medical services, developmental disabilities, schools, geriatrics, military and veterans services, hospice, adoption and foster care, international agencies, homeless shelters, domestic violence, community practice, and private practice (MSW with licensure).

All CMU baccalaureate graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking, communication fluency, quantitative fluency, and specialized knowledge/applied learning.

Bachelor Social Work Program Goals (Student Learning Outcomes)

1. Demonstrate proficiency in utilizing the social work profession’s 9 core competencies and 31 practice behaviors through a senior-year practicum in a social service agency in our community (specialized knowledge).
2. Demonstrate the ability to use practice experience to inform scientific inquiry and use research evidence to inform practice (quantitative fluency).
3. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication in working with individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities and colleagues through professional documentation and oral presentations (communication fluency).
4. Demonstrate critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments through distinguishing, appraising, and integrating multiple sources of knowledge; and through analyzing models of assessment, prevention, intervention, and evaluation (critical thinking).

From: (CMU Social Work BSW Student Handbook 2017-18)

Program Highlights:

Did You Know?

According to the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), social work jobs are expected to increase by 12% in the United States between 2014 & 2024. The average growth rate for all occupations is 7 percent.

Get Involved with a Club

Social Work students can participate in the Social Work Club, a dynamic group of students interested in “rolling up their sleeves” and putting social work into “action.” A core value of the social work profession is service—and the club is always looking for opportunities to address issues of poverty and need at the local, community level.

Get Involved in the Community

Field experience is considered the “signature pedagogy” in the social work profession. Field work provides an educationally supervised learning experience in social service agencies in the local community. Field work allows you the opportunity to “put into practice” the theories, knowledge and skills learned in your academic classes.



Program Requirements

A student must follow CMU graduation requirements by completing 120 semester credit hours, including 40 credits of coursework at the 300+ level. See the “Undergraduate Graduation Requirements” in the catalog for additional graduation information. Students should work closely with a faculty advisor when selecting and scheduling courses prior to registration. In general, CMU’s programs of study are based on two curriculum groups:

1. Essential Learning

CMU’s Essential Learning program provides the foundation of skills and information that cuts across all fields of study and the support for advanced concepts that students will later encounter in their majors. Before moving into work at the 300+ level, students complete the Maverick Milestone and its co-requirement, Essential Speech. This pair of courses is a capstone experience where students integrate what they have learned from their foundation courses by making connections between diverse areas of knowledge. The capstone also is an opportunity for students to work with disparate ideas, a critical skill expected of all CMU graduates that will aid them in solving the complex and unscripted problems they will encounter in their personal, professional, and civic lives.

2. What You Will Study in This Major. . .

Introductory Courses

- Introduction to Social Work
- Social Work for Diverse Populations

Core Courses

- Social Work Intervention Methods I (Case Management)
- Social Work Intervention Methods II (Groups)
- Social Work Intervention Methods III (Community Organizing)
- Social Work Research Methods
- Social Welfare Policy
- Practicum Seminar I
- Social Work Practicum I
- Social Work Practicum Seminar II
- Social Work Practicum II
- Social Work Practices in Mental Health
- Ethical Issues in Social Work

Social Work Electives

- Child Welfare
- Medical Social Work
- School Social Work
- Legal Aspects of Social Work
- Spirituality and Social Work
- Gerontology and Social Work
- Topics
(Special Interest Courses)
- Directed Readings
(Independent Study Courses)

For more information about this major, go to: <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/sbs/socialwork.html> or contact the Academic Department Head for Social and Behavioral Sciences, 414 Lowell Heiny Hall, 970.248.1932.