Social work is a profession with a two-fold mission: to help people function as well as they can within their environment and to work for improved social conditions. Social workers are involved in providing services to people in such areas as education, health, mental health, housing, public welfare, counseling, services to the aging, care for the retarded, recreation, corrections and criminal justice, family services, child welfare services, services for the physically and mentally handicapped, vocational rehabilitation and the like. This includes services designed to protect, promote or restore the well-being of people. Both universal services and services for special-needs groups are included.

Social work is not only restorative in nature, responding to human problems after the fact; there is also a strong commitment towards preventive measures. An emphasis upon institutional change within society is predicated upon the principle that society has a responsibility to protect the most vulnerable groups in its midst from falling prey to damage and injury. This expresses itself in the central thrust of the social work profession towards social justice.

The origins of social work are rooted in the ancient human impulse of altruism, the desire to care for one another’s needs. Social work became a profession around the beginning of the twentieth century through the efforts of social reformers to meet the needs of the poor, of neglected children and of exploited workers through the better organization of charities and the first “friendly visitors.” Social workers led the fight for child labor laws, more humane industrial conditions, voting rights for women and other progressive causes.

Today, professional social work as described in a publication of the National Association of Social Workers, is a “dynamic, growing profession based on knowledge drawn from the social sciences and its own research and practice. It has a code of ethics, standards for practice, and a nationwide system of accredited educational programs designed to merge the impulse to help others with the skill and knowledge needed to provide that help.”

Kay S. Hoffman, Ph.D., is Dean of the College of Social Work; Surjit S. Dhooter, Ph.D., is Director of Graduate Studies; Martin B. Tracy, Ph.D., is Associate Dean for Research; Florence M. Lankster, M.S.W., is Interim Director of Field Education; Carole J. Olson, Ph.D., is Director of the Undergraduate Program.

“"I came to the University of Kentucky without any clear ideas about directions for my career. Among other whimsical selections, I took an introductory social work course and fell in love with the subject like no other. Through the years of personal instruction that have followed, I have received a very well-rounded education from UK’s College of Social Work that has opened the door to what I believe will be a successful and rewarding future."

-- Carla Humphrey
Class of 2004 and Maurice A. Clay Award Recipient as Outstanding Senior in Social Work

Program Accreditation
Both the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and the Master of Social Work degree programs are fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

Licensing
Social work graduates are eligible for licensing from the State Board of Examiners of Social Work of Kentucky, PO Box 456, Frankfort, KY 40602, as follows:
• BASW graduates for license as “social workers”
• MSW graduates for license as “certified social workers”

Undergraduate Program in Social Work
The University of Kentucky grants the following degree in the College of Social Work:
• Bachelor of Arts in Social Work

THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM OF EDUCATION FOR SOCIAL WORK
The undergraduate program in social work was inaugurated in 1944. Effective July 1, 1969, its administration was transferred from the College of Arts and Sciences to the newly established College of Social Professions, which is now the College of Social Work. Freshmen and transfer students who elect social work as a major should arrange to register in the College of Social Work. Each student will be assigned a member of the faculty of the college as an advisor who will assist in the selection of appropriate courses and ensure that the requirements for the B.A. degree are met. Students who wish special information or a personal interview prior to registration may make an appointment through the Office of the Director of the Undergraduate Program of the College of Social Work.

Advising
Every student is assigned an academic advisor who assists them in preparing for registration each semester. Undergraduate advisors are assigned by the Director of the Undergraduate Program, 673 Patterson Office Tower, (859) 257-2369.

Undergraduate Admission Policy
Admission to the University of Kentucky is required for admission to the College of Social Work as a premajor. Social work students receive academic advising from the College of Social Work faculty and must
successfully complete the premajor course requirements before applying to the BASW degree program. The premajor course requirements are: (SW 124 and SW 222) or SW 322; an introductory psychology course; an introductory sociology course; and BIO 102 and BIO 103 or BIO 110. 

An application must be filed with the College of Social Work in order for a student to be considered for admission as a major. In general, admission as a major depends upon the qualifications and preparation of the applicant, as well as the availability of resources for maintaining quality instruction.

Admission Criteria to the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work Degree Program

In order to be admitted to the BASW degree program as a major, applicants must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Admission to the University of Kentucky (students are considered for acceptance by the College only after acceptance by the University);
2. A grade of B or better in both SW 124 and SW 222, or equivalent (or a grade of B or better in SW 322);
3. Submission of an application form;
4. Minimum of a 2.5 cumulative grade-point average on all college work attempted as computed by the Registrar’s Office;
5. Ability to articulate reasons for choosing social work as a career, as evidenced in an essay;
6. A passing grade in the introductory psychology course, sociology course, and in the required biology courses.

Applications for admission to the College of Social Work must be received by the Records Office of the College of Social Work no later than May 1 for summer sessions, August 1 for the fall semester, and December 1 for the spring semester.

Individuals who do not meet the admissions criteria may submit additional materials to the College’s Admissions Committee. Admission may be granted if there is persuasive evidence of both the capability and motivation to undertake successfully the BASW degree program.

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIAL WORK**

Degree Requirements

The College of Social Work requires students to earn a minimum of 120 hours for the B.A. in Social Work with a minimum grade-point average of 2.0. Students may take additional hours in accordance with stated University policy.

In addition to fulfilling University Studies requirements, students must complete the program requirements listed below.

**College Required Courses**

- SW 124 Introduction to Social Services and SW 222 Development of Social Welfare .......... 6
- SW 322 Social Work and Social Welfare .......... 4

*For junior transfers only; substitutes for SW 124, SW 222.

**Subtotal: College Required Hours .......... 4-6**

**University Studies Requirements**

See “University Studies Program” on pages 70-74 for the complete University Studies requirements. The courses listed below are (a) recommended by the college, or (b) required courses that also fulfill University Studies areas. Students should work closely with their advisor to complete the University Studies Program requirements.

**Inference-Logic**

- plus
- PHI 120 Introductory Logic
- or
- PHI 320 Symbolic Logic I ......................... 3

**Oral Communication**

Social work majors fulfill this requirement using courses in the Major Requirement.

**Natural Sciences**

- BIO 102 Human Ecology .................................. 3
- BIO 103 Basic Ideas of Biology .......................... 3

**Preliminary Requirements**

**Anthropology**

Three hours, normally chosen from the following:

- ANT 220 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology .......... 3
- ANT 333 Contemporary Human Variation ................. 3

**Biology**

Three or six hours:

- *BIO 102 Human Ecology and
- *BIO 103 Basic Ideas of Biology ....................... 6
- or
- BIO 110 Introduction to Human Biology and Health ... 3

**Economics**

Three hours, normally:

- *ECO 101 Contemporary Economic Issues ............... 3

**Political Science**

Three hours, normally chosen from the following:

- *PS 101 American Government .................................. 3
- PS 240 Ideology, Political Change, and Contemporary Industrial Society .......... 3
- PS 245 Introduction to Political Analysis ................ 3
- PS 255 State Ideas of Biology .......................... 3
- *PS 271 An Introduction to Political Behavior .......... 3
- PS 280 Issues in Public Policy .......................... 3

**Psychology**

Three or four hours, normally chosen from the following:

- *PSY 100 Introduction to Psychology .................... 4
- PSY 223 Developmental Psychology .................... 3

**Sociology**

Three hours, normally chosen from the following:

- *SOC 101 Introductory Sociology .......................... 3
- SOC 151 Social Interaction .................................. 3
- *SOC 152 Modern Social Problems ....................... 3
- SOC 220 The Community .................................. 3

**Statistics**

Three hours:

- STA 292 Descriptive Statistics and
- STA 293 Probability and
- STA 294 Sampling and Inference ....................... 3

**Major Requirements**

See the “University Studies Program” on pages 70-74 for the complete University Studies requirements. The courses listed below are (a) recommended by the college, or (b) required courses that also fulfill University Studies areas. Students should work closely with their advisor to complete the University Studies Program requirements.

**Subtotal: Major Hours .......... 21-25**

**Social and Behavioral Sciences and Social Work Electives**

Students must complete 15 hours of upper-division courses from any of the following: anthropology, economics, family studies, political science, psychology, social work, sociology.

**Subtotal: Related Electives .......... 15**

**Electives**

Students must complete at least six hours of upper-division free elective courses and enough lower-division elective hours to lead to the minimum total of 120 hours required for graduation.

**Subtotal: Free Electives .......... 120**

**TOTAL HOURS: .......................... 120**

**COURSES FOR NONMAJORS**

Students from other departments are eligible to take certain social work courses offered to enrich the content of their basic major and/or to increase their knowledge and understanding of the society of which they are a part. They may take SW 124, Introduction to Social Services; SW 222, Development of Social Welfare; and elective social work courses.

**GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

The College of Social Work offers graduate curricula leading to the Master of Social Work degree and to the Ph.D. in Social Work. The Ph.D. program is offered jointly with the University of Louisville. An MSW is a prerequisite to Ph.D. admission.

Master’s applicants holding the baccalaureate degree in social work may be eligible for the 36-credit advanced standing option. Others will be considered for the regular 60-credit MSW program.

For further information, see The Graduate School Bulletin or the College of Social Work Bulletin.