

# Social Work

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health, aging*

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*Research, practice*

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*Practice, addictions and  
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## SHADY GROVE PROGRAM

Katherine Morris  
*Instructor*

Kathleen Leiser  
*Clinical Instructor Field  
education, practice*

*Courses in this program are listed under SOWK and are also available on the Web: [www.umbc.edu/undergrad/Catalog](http://www.umbc.edu/undergrad/Catalog)*

The social work major prepares students for generalist social work practice with individuals, families, groups and communities at the beginning level. Students learn a range of skills and helping techniques that will enable them to intervene effectively in addressing social problems.

UMBC's Social Work Program meets the highest professional standards. The program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, a national organization founded to promote and improve the quality of education in social work. Based on this accreditation, students are assured that the quality of education at UMBC meets national standards and prepares them for employment at the bachelor's level, for graduate study and for meeting the various state

licensing and employment requirements for social work practice. Social work students and graduates are also eligible for membership in the National Association of Social Workers. Graduates qualify to take the state examination to become licensed social work associates in Maryland, and they are qualified for examination in all other states that license baccalaureate practice.

## Career and Academic Paths

Graduates of the UMBC program succeed in the job market, as well as in graduate school. Alumni are employed in various human-service positions with federal, state and local governments, as well as with non-profit agencies, corporations, health care organizations and hospitals.

The undergraduate social work major at UMBC is affiliated with the University of Maryland School of Social Work. As such, students completing the social work major at UMBC with an overall GPA of 3.0 or better in their final 60 credits may be eligible for consideration for advanced standing in the master's degree program of the School of Social Work.

Completion of the accredited program at UMBC also qualifies graduates for consideration for admission to all accredited master's degree social work programs in the United States.

## Academic Advising

Students enrolled in the social work major are assigned a faculty advisor from the department.

Students are encouraged to contact their advisor early in their educational experience to plan their course of study. Advisors in the program are also available to meet with students who anticipate majoring in social work to plan prerequisite courses.

## Major Program

Social work builds on and is integrated with a liberal arts base that includes knowledge in the humanities and the social, behavioral and biological sciences. The course of study in social work at UMBC includes: social work practice methods, social welfare policy and services, human behavior and the social environment, statistics and social research and participation in direct services through an intensive field-work education in a community-based social service department or agency.

## Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Degree

### Core courses:

SOWK 240  
Information Technology in  
Social Work [3]

SOWK 260  
Introduction to Social  
Welfare, Social Policy and  
Social Work I [3]

SOWK 360  
Social Welfare, Social  
Policy and Social  
Work II [3]

SOWK 388  
Human Behavior I [3]

SOWK 389  
Human Behavior II [3]

SOWK 397  
Social Work Methods I:  
Introduction to Practice [3]

SOWK 470\*  
Social Work Research [3]

SOWK 480  
Field Instruction I [6]

SOWK 481  
Social Work Methods II: A  
Generalist Approach  
to Practice [3]

SOWK 482  
Field Instruction II [6]

SOWK 483  
Social Work Methods III:  
Selected Intervention  
Strategies Research and  
Evaluation [3]

SOWK Elective [3]  
300- to 400-level social  
work course

The following are additional requirements for completion of the social work major:

1. A grade of "C" or better in all major courses
2. Overall GPA of 2.5 or better
3. Completion of the general university requirements and other degree requirements

AND

4. Completion of the following courses:  
 Human Biology\*  
 PSYC 100  
 ECON or POLI 301  
 SOCY 101  
 STAT 121\*

\* A list of approved courses is available in the program office.

5. A second area of concentration of at least 18 credit hours, such as another major, a minor or an approved plan. At least six credits of the area of concentration must be upper-level.

**Note:** The minor in social welfare cannot be used in conjunction with the social work major.

6. Recommendation of the faculty to complete the required field and methods courses (SOWK 480, 481, 482, 483).
7. The program does not give credit for life experience.

**Field Requirement**

The required field education experience is 16 hours per week and is taken throughout the senior year. It begins in the fall semester and continues during winter session and spring semester. Student participation in the field during the winter session does not require additional payment of fees or tuition. The Baccalaureate Social Work Program does not arrange evening and weekend field placements. Field experience is taken on a P/F basis. Admission to field education is at the recommendation of the faculty.

To be considered for a field placement, students must have an overall GPA of at least 2.5 and must have completed SOWK 260, 397 and 388 with a grade of "C" or better in each course. All students registering for field edu-

cation must participate in a university-arranged professional liability insurance plan for which they are billed separately by the university. The cost of travel to and from the field agencies and health insurance are additional student expenses.

**Minor in Social Welfare**

The minor in social welfare provides the student with a comprehensive background of study in social welfare in the United States; its relationship to the market economy; and the historical, political and cultural factors that shape its course. The minor also offers the opportunity to explore, in depth, some of the challenging issues confronting society in the alleviation of poverty and the delivery of health and welfare services to families and children, elderly people and individuals with disabilities. This knowledge will be of particular importance to students planning careers in government, the private sector, law and health. To earn a minor in social welfare, students must complete the following 18 credits of course work with a grade of "C" or better in all courses to be applied to the minor. Courses are divided as follows:

**A. Core requirements [9]**

SOWK 260  
 Introduction to Social Welfare, Social Policy and Social Work I [3]

SOWK 360  
 Social Welfare, Social Policy and Social Work II [3]

SOWK 388  
 Human Behavior I [3]

**B. Any of the following courses [9]**

SOWK 200  
 Social Issues-Social Action [3]

SOWK 240  
 Information Technology in Social Work [3]

SOWK 311  
 Introduction to Field Experience in Social Work [3]

SOWK 386  
 Problematic Family Functioning [3]

SOWK 387  
 Policies, Programs and Services for Children [3]

SOWK 389  
 Human Behavior II [3]

SOWK 371  
 Social Work Practice in Aging [3]

SOWK 372  
 Social Work and Health Care [3]

SOWK 377  
 Women and Social Policy [3]

SOWK 390  
 Special Topics in Social Welfare [3]

SOWK 395  
 Addictive Behavior and Social Functioning [3]

SOWK 470  
 Social Work Research [3]

SOWK 499  
 Independent Study [1-3]

**Honors Program**

The Social Work Program has established a chapter of Phi Alpha, the social work national honor society. Phi Alpha "fosters high standards of education for social workers and invites into membership those who have attained excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work." At present, there are 62 chapters of the honor society in schools nationwide. Students are eligible to join if they have:

- ◆ Declared social work as their major
- ◆ Achieved sophomore status

- ◆ Completed nine semester hours of required social work courses
- ◆ Achieved an overall GPA of 3.0
- ◆ Achieved a 3.5 GPA in required or elective social work courses.

Interested students may obtain an application from the program.

In addition, students may choose to take honors courses in social work through the Honors College.

**Evening and Part-time Options**

All core courses, with the exception of the senior field education courses, can be taken in the evening on a space-available basis.

In addition, the design of the program allows students to complete their course work on a part-time basis. The senior field experience (SOWK 480/482) must be taken during the work week. The program does not arrange evening and weekend field placements.

**Special Opportunities**

Information technology has an important role to play in effective social work practice. At UMBC, students are introduced to the use of technology in human services through laboratory experiences in the introductory course, SOWK 240: Information Technology in Social Work, as well as through course assignments throughout the curriculum. Students are taught to use technology to communicate electronically, conduct research, organize data and develop efficient service systems. Students use this training in their advanced course work and field experiences.

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### The Universities at Shady Grove

UMBC offers the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work at the Universities at Shady Grove in Rockville, MD. Students can complete the last two years of the program at this suburban Washington location. Because only upper-level courses are offered, students must have

completed most General Education Requirements and lower-level major requirements. Prospective students are invited to make an appointment with the Shady Grove program coordinator to review their previous courses. For more information about the Universities at Shady Grove, see page 16.

### Student Organizations

The Social Work Student Association (SWSA) is the student organization of social work majors at UMBC. The SWSA works to sensitize its members to the profession, promote social work through community activities and provide majors with the opportunity to discuss issues and concerns. It also provides them with information and resources related to their educational experience and career planning.

Membership is open to all majors. Activities of the SWSA have included food drives, community volunteer activities, career planning conferences, newsletters and student socials. Information on the SWSA is available through the program on the association's Web site: [www.umbc.edu/socialwork](http://www.umbc.edu/socialwork)