

**Transforming
our world,
our future,
OURSELVES**



University of
Pittsburgh®



Photos within this publication were taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and do not necessarily reflect current health and safety guidelines.



Toya Jones,
Director, BASW Program

University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work

Founded in

1918

1st community organizing program in the nation

2nd-largest child welfare program in the country

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socialwork.pitt.edu

Why Social Work at Pitt?

Changes in our domestic and international environment are ones that continue to directly affect children, families, and communities of all socioeconomic backgrounds, creating a high demand for professionals in the social work field. In fact, the demand for social workers is projected to grow by 13% by the end of the current decade.

Earning your bachelor's degree in social work provides you with the skills necessary to make a difference in the lives of others. A degree in social work provides you with a sense of purpose, a range of career options, and the knowledge that you will have a positive impact on the world.

The Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) program at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work has been continuously accredited by the Council on Social Work Education since 1974.

The School of Social Work has a threefold mission of education, research, and service that complements the tradition of excellence upheld by the University.

Program Goals

BASW students are prepared to engage in generalist social work practice. As such, it is our goal that by the time they complete the program, students will be prepared to:

1. practice with cultural humility in accordance with the principles, values, and ethics that guide the social work profession;
2. use their liberal arts foundation and their understanding of biological, psychological, social, spiritual, and cultural development to engage in evidence-informed generalist social work practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities within a multicultural society;
3. advocate for human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice; and
4. continue their formal education, either in graduate-level social work or in some other graduate discipline.

BASW Program Mission

In concert with the school's mission, the BASW Program, built on a strong liberal arts base, prepares its students to be competent entry-level generalist social work practitioners and for graduate education. Recognizing the profession's values of service, social justice, the dignity and worth of the person, the importance of human relationships, integrity, competence, human rights, and scientific inquiry, the program provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to advance human and community well-being. Using a person-in-environment framework, the program prepares students to enhance the quality of life of all people, locally and globally; to practice with diverse populations; to analyze critically the social, economic, and environmental factors affecting individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities; and to advocate for those who confront structural barriers. Thus, program graduates are prepared for service and leadership.

Career Services

The School of Social Work VanKirk Career Center helps students prepare for the social work job market by providing contemporary workshops, individual consultation, and licensure support. These services are designed to develop greater self-confidence, expand awareness of career opportunities, and foster effective job search practices.

- Student and alumni networking events held throughout the year
- Opportunities to make vital connections and maintain a strong social work network
- Biannual job fair
- Workshops:
 - Writing résumés/cover letters
 - Effective interviewing techniques
 - Negotiating salary offers
 - Preparing for licensure exams
 - Conducting a long-distance job search

VanKirk Career Center resources are available to both students and alumni at socialwork.pitt.edu/student-resources/career-services.

86%

of graduates secure social work employment within six months of graduation—nearly

100%

within a year

More than

10,000 ALUMNI

Careers

Care manager
Case worker
Child and family advocate
Clinical educator
Communications officer
Community organizer
Director of community programs
Director of social services
District office coordinator
Field environmental officer
Group counselor
Housing coordinator
Legal advocate
Milieu therapist
Prevention division chief
Researcher
Risk manager
Service coordinator
Vice president of clinical affairs
Volunteer coordinator





Degree Requirements

To graduate from the BASW program, you must earn a minimum of 120 credits (60 of which are required for admission) and fulfill the following degree requirements. Full- and part-time options are available.

Requirements

Complete general education requirements—36 credits*

- Africana Studies..... 3 credits**
- Anthropology 3 credits**
- Economics 3 credits
- English Composition 3 credits
- Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies (GSWS)..... 3 credits** (Any course with a GSWS class attribute)
- Global Studies 3 credits** (Any course with a global studies class attribute)
- Human Biology..... 3 credits
- Political Science 3 credits**
- Psychology 3 credits**
- Religion/Spirituality 3 credits** (Any course with a religious studies class attribute)
- Sociology..... 3 credits**
- Statistics 3 credits

BASW social work courses, including field practicum and a three-credit social work elective

* Some or all of these courses may have been taken as part of the 60 credits required for admission.

** Some courses in this subject area may satisfy more than one requirement.

Successfully complete all 48 credits of required

Social Work Minor

Undergraduates throughout the University are eligible to complete a minor in social work with only 15 credits. Completing a minor in the field allows students to receive a general background in social work practice, which can translate into desired skills in a range of career options. Students should contact their advisor or visit the school’s Web site to learn more about enrolling in our minor program.

Course options for the minor are listed on our website at socialwork.pitt.edu/academics/bachelor-arts-social-work-basw/social-work-minor.



Field Education

Field placements are vital to preparing students for the professional positions they will assume after graduation. Field instructors in the School of Social Work aren't just teachers—they are guides, challengers, and role models.

Field Education Requirements

Field education is an integral part of the social work curriculum for the BASW program. The Council on Social Work Education designates field education as the signature pedagogy where the classroom and the field integrate.

The field experience for BASW students requires 600 hours (12 credit hours) over two terms.

Students participate in experiential and integrative learning in affiliated community organizations so that they can apply to real-life practice situations what they have learned in the classroom.

Field sites include the following:

Allegheny County Department of Human Services
Allegheny County Public Defender's Office
Center for Victims
Community Human Services
Family Services of Western Pennsylvania
Gateway Rehab
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
Gwen's Girls
Just Harvest
The Midwife Center for Birth & Women's Health
Pittsburgh Mercy
Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project
United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania
UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
UPMC Palliative and Supportive Institute
Veterans Place of Washington Boulevard
Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh



School of Social Work students collectively provide more than

200,000

field placement hours to service agencies and organizations—worth more than

\$5.7 million annually.



More than

1,400

field placement sites throughout the greater Pittsburgh region

Special Opportunities

Child Welfare

The Child Welfare Education for Baccalaureates program represents a network of welfare agencies aimed at improving outcomes for children and families.



99% participation rate from counties in the commonwealth

Career options may include:

- protective services that address child abuse and neglect;
- community-based family support services;
- kinship and foster care;
- adoption;
- group and residential care;
- trauma-informed treatments for children and parents; and
- work with family courts, schools, and early intervention programs.



2nd-largest child welfare program in the country

25% of Pennsylvania's child welfare positions held by graduates or current students

Aging Initiatives

The School of Social Work is committed to developing professionals and supporting agencies that serve older adults.

The Pittsburgh region has one of the oldest populations in the United States and is home to more than 200 organizations and agencies that provide services to older adults.

- **Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education**

Career options may include:

- **Care manager**
- **Community health worker**
- **Nursing home transition coordinator**
- **Protective services coordinator**



Center on Race and Social Problems

The Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP) is one of the most productive and exciting race centers in the country.

Staff, faculty, and students conduct applied social science research on race, color, and ethnicity and their influence on the quality of life for all Americans.

CRSP areas of focus are education, economics, criminal justice, interracial group relations, health disparities, mental health, families and youth, and the elderly.

Center offerings include:

- a speaker series;
- Summer Institutes;
- the Race Research Online Directory;
- the journal Race and Social Problems;
- the CRSP Fellows Program; and
- pilot study funding.





Dean Farmer discusses various topics of the day with students.

Student Advising

BASW students will meet their assigned faculty advisor at orientation, which is held before the start of the fall term. Students should make an appointment with their faculty advisor during the first few weeks of the term to discuss all educational options and career opportunities and to address any questions. Faculty advisors often discuss the following with students:

- Registration (including add/drop, leaves of absence, and withdrawals)
- Clarification of all academic policies and procedures (e.g., grading policies, graduation requirements, and directed study)
- Academic expectations and performance
- Information about other departments and/or programs in the school or at the University
- Planning your educational program in accordance with your career interests

Admissions

Requirements

Students must complete 60 transferable credits from an accredited undergraduate institution or an associate's degree program before being admitted into the BASW program. A minimum 2.5 GPA is required for admission. Applicants with a GPA below 2.5 may be considered for provisional admission.

Students will need to complete credits in the following areas:

- HUMANITIES 9 credits
- NATURAL SCIENCES 9 credits
- SOCIAL SCIENCES 9 credits
- OTHER COURSES 33 credits

The undergraduate program in the School of Social Work has a rolling admissions policy. There is no specific deadline for submitting applications, but the suggested fall term deadline is August 1 and the suggested spring term deadline is December 1.

Financial Aid

Information on financial aid, including grants, scholarships, loans, and student employment, can be obtained through the University's Office of Admissions and Financial Aid.

For additional information or an application packet, contact the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid:

University of Pittsburgh
Office of Admissions and Financial Aid
120 Alumni Hall
4227 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-624-7488

Applications and additional information also are available at socialwork.pitt.edu/admissions.

Contact

For additional information or to make arrangements to visit the School of Social Work:

University of Pittsburgh
School of Social Work
Office of Admissions and Financial Aid
2101 Cathedral of Learning
4200 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-624-6302
sswadmit@pitt.edu

socialwork.pitt.edu/admissions

International Students

The School of Social Work welcomes applications from international students whose credentials meet the requirements and standards of the School of Social Work. International applicants should contact:

University of Pittsburgh
Office of International Services
708 William Pitt Union
3959 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-624-7120
ois.pitt.edu

Student Organizations

BASW Club

The BASW Club is a great way for students to become involved with the School of Social Work. The club is designed to promote and enhance the development of the academic and social goals as well as the interests of the school and the BASW program. Students automatically become members when they are accepted into the BASW program. While participation is not mandatory, the club is an excellent way to enhance one's academic experience.

Phi Alpha National Honor Society

The Phi Alpha honor society was created to provide a closer bond between social work students and the profession in order to promote humanitarian goals and ideals. Its motto is "Through knowledge—the challenge to serve."

Students must meet the following membership requirements:

- be admitted to the BASW program as a major
- have completed 24 credits (two full-time terms)
- have a GPA of 3.5 or above on a 4.0 scale in required social work courses
- have at least a 3.0 overall GPA

Our Mission

The University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work prepares courageous leaders to transform social work practice, policy, research, and education in a community-engaged and inclusive environment; develops and advances innovative approaches to understand, prevent, and ameliorate complex social problems; and builds collaborative partnerships to promote social justice.

The City Is Our Campus

More information on living, working, and playing in Pittsburgh can be found at pitt.edu/student-life.





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socialwork.pitt.edu



University of Pittsburgh Nondiscrimination Policy Statement

The University of Pittsburgh, as an educational institution and as an employer, values equality of opportunity, human dignity, and racial/ethnic and cultural diversity. Accordingly, as fully explained in Policy 07-01-03, the University prohibits and will not engage in discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information, disability, or status as a veteran. The University also prohibits and will not engage in retaliation against any person who makes a claim of discrimination or harassment or who provides information in such an investigation. Further, the University will continue to take affirmative steps to support and advance these values consistent with the University's mission. This policy applies to admissions, employment, and access to and treatment in University programs and activities*. This is a commitment made by the University and is in accordance with federal, state, and/or local laws and regulations.

For information on University equal opportunity and affirmative action programs, please contact: University of Pittsburgh; Office of Diversity and Inclusion; Katie Pope, Title IX Coordinator, and Cheryl Ruffin, 504 and ADA Coordinator; Second Floor, Webster Hall; 4415 Fifth Avenue; Pittsburgh, PA 15260; 412-648-7860.

For complete details on the University's Nondiscrimination Policy, please refer to Policy 07-01-03. For information on how to file a complaint under this policy, please refer to Procedure 07-01-03.

**Except where exempt by federal or state laws.*

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