



School of Social Work
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

2024-2025 | STUDENT HANDBOOK

iBSW



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS School of Social Work

Social Work: <http://www.socialwork.illinois.edu>

The purpose of undergraduate social work education at the School of Social Work is to provide a comprehensive educational experience for students that is grounded in a liberal arts tradition and prepares graduates for excellence in the areas of social work practice, policy, community engagement and leadership.

Graduates will be prepared for entry into three potential tracks upon degree completion, including (but not limited to): generalist social work practice, advanced standing in graduate social work education and career opportunities, and graduate education in areas such as communications, corrections, business, education, government, health care, human resources, law, non-profit organizations, religious studies, and public service.

The focus of undergraduate curriculum delivery is through a student-centered, strengths-based educational model. This model fosters student understanding by providing a challenging, yet supportive, environment with high expectations that encourages the development of well-informed and engaged citizens.

General Education Requirements

All School of Social Work students must fulfill the University of Illinois' campus-wide General Education requirements prior to graduation. Courses that satisfy these categories are constantly being added to or deleted from this list of courses, and the current list is maintained on the Internet and is located at the following link: <https://courses.illinois.edu/gened>.

Language Requirement: The School of Social Work requires completion through the third level of one language other than English, either in high school or college. It is strongly recommended that transfer applicants complete this graduation requirement prior to the term of enrollment at the University of Illinois. Early completion of this graduation requirement will allow time to complete other degree requirements, e.g., General Education coursework. Length of time to graduation may increase if the Language Requirement for graduation is not completed prior to enrollment. Approved ASL (American Sign Language) coursework is also accepted.

Field Education

Field Education, a requirement for graduation, includes a 16-week, 32 hours-a-week internship at an agency or organization within the field of social work. **All general education courses and social work courses must be complete before a student can begin their internship.** Prospective transfer applicants are encouraged to make significant progress in general education requirements prior to transfer to allow time for social work courses and the Field Education component.

James Scholar Requirements

Students interested and eligible in the James Scholar Program must have at least a 3.5 GPA at their current institution. Students will be able to attend a James Scholar meeting at the beginning of the semester. This information will be distributed via email from the Academic Advisor at the School of Social Work.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Office of Academic Programs, University of Illinois, School of Social Work, 1010 W. Nevada St., Urbana, IL, 61801; Phone: (217) 244-5246; Fax: (217) 244-5220; Email: undergradsocialwork@illinois.edu

Social Work

Social Work Major: <https://socialwork.illinois.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs/bachelor-of-social-work/>

Transfer Information

The Bachelor of Social Work program welcomes transfer students from many majors and areas of interest. The program is highly structured in the junior and senior years, and provides course sequencing to support academic success in the profession.

For transfer course information, prospective transfer students should consult the Transferology website (<https://www.transferology.com>), as well as communicate directly with the Undergraduate Affairs Coordinator at the School of Social Work to determine if the substitute coursework is acceptable. If equivalent courses or course substitutions are not available, intended transfer students may need to extend the time to degree completion to satisfy the BSW degree requirements at the University of Illinois.

Transfer students are accepted **for both fall and spring semesters**. Admission to the School of Social Work requires the following:

- A **minimum GPA of 2.50 (A = 4.00)**
- Evidence of strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Evidence of personal attributes that are suitable for the profession of social work

Please note: The School of Social Work utilizes a holistic review process which assesses the entire student, i.e., academic record, work and service experience, leadership experience and ability, demonstrated analytical and critical thinking skills, grade point average, and the quality of the personal and professional information offered in the application essay. Ultimately, the criteria for transfer admission to the School of Social Work will be determined by the quality of the application and applicant pool at the time of submission.

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iBSW Two-Year Completion Program

Social Work iBSW Major: <http://www.socialwork.illinois.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs/ibsw-chicago-program/>

This two-year degree completion program allows students to earn their Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree while residing in students' home communities. The goal of social work is to improve society through empowering and supporting individuals and communities. Our program will teach students how to help people with diverse backgrounds and experiences. BSW candidates will learn to assist people impacted by social issues such as, poverty, unemployment, substance use disorders, family violence, and mental illness. Students will gain knowledge and skills to work with disempowered communities including children, older adults, people of color, individuals with disabilities, and people identifying as LGBTQ+. Our program offers a combination of high quality online and hybrid courses, and in-person internships in community-based agencies in and around the students' home communities.

BSW graduates are prepared for generalist social work practice and advanced standing in graduate social work programs. Graduates are also prepared to pursue career opportunities and/or graduate education in allied areas such as: communications, corrections, business, education, government, health care, human resources, law, non-profit organizations, religious studies, and public service.

Transfer Information

The iBSW Program is open to applications from junior-level transfer students. The program is highly structured to complete the junior and senior years and provides course sequencing to support academic success in the social work profession.

For transfer course information, prospective transfer students should consult the Transferology website (<https://www.transferology.com>), as well as communicate directly with the Undergraduate Affairs Coordinator at the School of Social Work to determine if the student's current and/or past coursework is appropriate.

iBSW transfer students are accepted **for fall semester only**. Students interested in a spring start may consider the campus BSW Program. Admission to the School of Social Work requires the following:

- A **minimum GPA of 2.75 (A = 4.00)**
- Evidence of strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Evidence of personal attributes that are suitable for the profession of social work

It is highly recommended that prospective transfer applicants complete all UIUC general education requirements prior to transfer. The School of Social Work cannot guarantee access to online courses at UIUC that meet all general education requirements and campus graduation requirements outside of the iBSW curriculum. Applicants who have completed or made significant progress in UIUC general education requirements will be favored in admissions.

Please note: The School of Social Work utilizes a holistic review process which assesses the entire student, i.e., academic record, work and service experience, leadership experience and ability, demonstrated analytical and critical thinking skills, grade point average, and the quality of the personal and professional information offered in the application essay. Ultimately, the criteria for transfer admission to the School of Social Work will be determined by the quality of the application and applicant pool at the time of submission.

Field Education

Students complete their field education part-time over two semesters at approved community-based organizations in and around their home communities. Prospective transfer applicants are expected to have completed all general education requirements prior to transfer to allow time for social work courses and the Field Education component.