

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Social work is the professional application of social work theory and methods by someone who has completed a social work degree from an accredited program for the purpose of prevention, assessment, diagnosis, and intervention with individual, family, group, organizational, and societal problems. A Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree is one of the most useful undergraduate degrees one can earn in the social services sector. CU Denver's BSW is a generalist program that prepares students for entry-level, professional social work practice and graduate social work education.

CU Denver's BSW degree features interdisciplinary expertise across sociology, psychology, political science, public health, education, counseling, and public policy and follows national accreditation requirements established by the Council for Social Work Education (CSWE). The program's interdisciplinary design creates opportunities for students to pursue specialized tracks in health & medicine, education, non-profit and community leadership, behavioral health, and criminology. Housed within an urban research university, the BSW allows students to embed research into their undergraduate education through research methods training and involvement in faculty research.

All prospective majors should contact the undergraduate advisor in Social Work as early in their academic careers as possible for information about the degree requirements. Transfer or returning students should consult with the undergraduate advisor in Social Work concerning completion of the core courses.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) supports students to graduation using a shared advising system. CLAS students have two academic advisors with whom they should meet regularly to discuss academic and degree progress: a CLAS Academic Advisor and a major advisor.

For questions related to CU Denver Core Curriculum, CLAS, general graduation requirements, university/college academic policies, or campus resources contact:

CLAS Academic Advising

clas.advising@ucdenver.edu

Visit the CLAS Advising website [here](#)

North Classroom (NC) 1030

303-315-7100

For questions related to major requirements, major course prerequisites, or evaluation of transfer coursework in your major contact:

Social Work Major Advising

[CLAS Major Advisor Contact Information](#)

Visit the program website [here](#)

Lawrence Street Center (LSC) 420

303-315-2148

GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

All CU Denver CLAS students are required to complete the following minimum general graduation requirements to be eligible to apply for graduation:

1. Complete a minimum of 120 credit hours
2. Achieve a minimum 2.0 CU cumulative grade point average (GPA)
3. Complete a minimum of 30 upper-division (3000- to 4000-level) credit hours
4. Complete all CU Denver Core, CLAS, and major requirements
5. Complete a minimum of 30 CLAS credit hours with letter grades at CU Denver

*The following are **maximum** credit hours that can apply toward the minimum 120 credit hours required for graduation:*

- 16 credit hours Pass/Fail
- 12 credit hours of Independent Study/Directed Research
- 12 credit hours of internship credit
- 8 credit hours of physical education credit

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

Students are responsible for meeting with the major advisor to confirm major requirements. In addition to completing all CU Denver Core and CLAS requirements, students completing the Social Work BSW Degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Students must complete a minimum of 57 major credit hours. Of these, at least 12 credits must come from electives chosen from two of the following topic clusters (Healthcare, Crime & Law, Education, or Families) and 12-18 credits from either a listed undergraduate certificate or minor.
2. Students must meet a minimum of 400 hours of field education completed in SOCY 4900 and SOCY 4920.
3. Students must earn a minimum grade of C (2.0) in all courses that apply to the major and must achieve a minimum cumulative major GPA of 2.0. Courses taken using P+/P/F or S/U grading cannot apply to major requirements.
4. Students must complete all field practicum site clearance requirements, which may include background checks, drug screens, and immunization record reviews. Field placements are not guaranteed for students who cannot successfully pass these requirements.
5. Admission into the BSW program is required, although students may declare Social Work as their major at any time following admission into the University. However, declaration of the social work major does not guarantee admission into the BSW program. Generally, first- and second-year Social Work Majors complete general education requirements and the lower-division SOCY 1900 Introduction to Social Work course. Students enrolled in Introduction to Social Work will be informed and instructed on the BSW admission process.

LYNXCONNECT RESOURCES

Are you interested in learning about internship, study abroad, career, and research opportunities for this major? Visit the CU Denver LynxConnect, located in Tivoli Student Union (TV) Suite 339, and browse the LynxConnect [website](#) for more information.



Degree Requirements	Credits	Notes
* Course prerequisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for prerequisite information. *		
CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements	34 - 40	CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements
CLAS Graduation Requirements		CLAS Graduation Requirements
SWRK Major Requirements	57 - 63	
SOCY/SWRK Required Courses		
SOCY/SWRK 1900 Introduction to Social Work	3	
SOCY 3100 Foundations of Behavioral Health or PBHL 3110 Foundations of Behavioral Health	3	
SOCY 3113 Applied Community Care for Social and Community Service	3	<i>*Prerequisite: C- or higher in SOCY 2113</i>
SOCY 3700 Families and Society	3	
SOCY/SWRK 3910 Social Work with Individuals, Families, and Groups	3	<i>*Prerequisite: C- or higher in SOCY/SWRK 1900</i>
SOCY/SWRK 3920 Social Work with Organizations and Communities	3	<i>*Prerequisite: C- or higher in SOCY/SWRK 1900</i>
SOCY 4810 Sociology in Action: Apply Sociological Inquiry to Solve Real World Problems	3	<i>*Prerequisite: C- or higher in SOCY 3115, 3319, and 3140</i>
SOCY/SWRK 4900 Field Practice in Social Work I	3	<i>*Prerequisite: C- or higher in SOCY/SWRK 1900</i>
SOCY/SWRK 4920 Field Practice in Social Work II	3	<i>*Prerequisite: C- or higher in SOCY/SWRK 1900 and SOCY/SWRK 4900</i>
PSCI 4414 Non-Profits and Social Change	3	
PSCI 4914 Community Organizing and Community Development	3	
Cluster Courses Complete at least two courses in at least two of the following clusters: - Healthcare - Crime and Law - Education - Families	12	See the CU Denver Catalog for approved courses.
Minor or Certificate Choose and complete one of the following minors or certificates: - Community Health and Medicine Certificate - Criminal Justice Minor - Criminology Certificate - Families and Social Welfare Certificate - Ethnic Studies Minor - Human Development and Family Relations Minor - Justice, Allyship, Diversity, & Equity (JADE) Certificate - Law Studies Minor - Mediation Certificate - Public Administration Minor - Public, Non-Profit, and Community Leadership Certificate - Social Justice Minor - Teacher Education Minor - Women's and Gender Studies Minor	12 - 18	See the CU Denver Catalog for complete minor or certificate requirements. Some courses in each minor or certificate may require prerequisites that must be met. Please see course descriptions.
Estimated General Electives	17 - 29	<i>General Elective credit hours will vary. Students are highly encouraged to explore and complete additional programs including certificates, minors, double-majors, and dual-degrees. Consult with CLAS Academic Advisor.</i>
Total Minimum Credit Hours:	120	<i>30 credit hours must be upper-division</i>

SAMPLE ACADEMIC PLAN OF STUDY

The following academic plan is a *sample* pathway to completing degree requirements for this major. Students should tailor this plan based on previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit), course availability, and individual preferences related to course load, schedules, or add-on programs such as certificates, minors, double-majors, or dual-degrees.

Year 1 - Fall	CRS
ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	3
CU Denver Core Mathematics – MATH 2830 <i>recommended</i>	3
SOCY/SWRK 1900	3
CU Denver Core Behavioral Science	3
General Elective / First-Year Seminar	3
Total Credit Hours	15

Year 1 - Spring	CRS
ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II	3
SOCY 2113	1
CU Denver Core Humanities	3
CU Denver Core Nat/Phys Science with lab	4
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	14

Year 2 - Fall	CRS
SOCY 3100 or PBHL 3110	3
SOCY 3113	3
Approved Cluster Course	3
CU Denver Core Arts	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15

Year 2 - Spring	CRS
SOCY 3700	3
Approved Cluster Course	3
CU Denver Core Nat/Phys Science without lab	3
CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15

Year 3 - Fall	CRS
SOCY/SWRK 3910	3
Approved Cluster Course	3
PSCI 4414	3
CU Denver Core International Perspectives ^M	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15

Year 3 - Spring	CRS
SOCY/SWRK 3920	3
SOCY 4810	3
Approved Cluster Course	3
PSCI 4914	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15

Year 4 - Fall	CRS
SOCY/SWRK 4900	3
Minor or Certificate Course	3
Minor or Certificate Course	3
Minor or Certificate or General Elective Course	3
General Elective	4
Total Credit Hours	16

Year 4 - Spring	CRS
SOCY/SWRK 4920	3
Minor or Certificate Course	3
Minor or Certificate Course	3
Minor or Certificate or General Elective Course	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15

^M Major Course Available ^C CU Denver Core Course ^{PE} Prerequisite Enforced ^{PR} Prerequisite Recommended