

SOCIAL WORK

Department of Community Development & Social Work

FACULTY

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR(S)

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BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK (Honours)

OVERVIEW

The Honours Bachelor of Social Work (HBSW) program prepares students for generalist social work practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities, and societies. The program has a particular focus on social work in and with Northern, rural, remote, Indigenous, and Franco-Ontarian communities. Graduates of the program will be prepared to practice anti-oppressive social work at the entry level with diverse populations in a Canadian context.

The rich and innovative curriculum reflects a sound generalist program, while maintaining a focus on newer directions in social work. Students will use structural, Indigenous, and feminist approaches to critically analyze the ways that social contexts shape personal and social problems. Graduates will have a deep awareness of how their personal experiences are embedded in social structures. The program includes a 700-hour field placement that will link social work concepts, values, and theory to practice.

The program was designed in partnership with Sault College in Sault Ste. Marie and Northern College in Timmins. College transfer students will enjoy seamless pathways to the HBSW that build on prior learning at the diploma level, and will be able to complete their degree in either Sault Ste. Marie or in Timmins. Classes in Timmins will be offered on the Northern College campus using a "blended learning" model – a mix of in-person and video conference-based learning. College graduates in Sault Ste. Marie and Timmins are now able to "degree-ladder" without leaving their home communities.

Algoma's HBSW is recognized by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE).

Admission to Professional Years: Requirements and Application Procedures

The admission requirements for the professional years (years 3 and 4) of the Honours Bachelor of Social Work program require that students have completed two years of university study with a minimum of 60 credits or have received course recognition from a previous post-secondary institution. Students are required to make application to the Office of the Registrar at Algoma University before March 1. Students transferring from other programs will be assessed individually by the Office of the Registrar and will be subject to the same admission procedures.

Direct from High School

Students who apply directly from high school to the Honours Bachelor of Social Work program are not guaranteed admission to the professional years and will be required to apply to the professional years. Students are required to possess a minimum cumulative average of 70 percent on a minimum of 60 credits completed from Algoma University. (Students applying directly from high school will be required to have a minimum grade of 70% from 6 U/M courses)

University Transfers

Students transferring from another university may apply to the professional years after completing 60 credits or two years of study. Students will be required to have a minimum average of 70 percent. In some cases, students will be required to complete core courses required in the first two years of the HBSW program.

University Graduates

Students who have completed a recognized university degree with a minimum of 70 percent may apply to the Bachelor of Social Work program. Students will be required to complete a minimum of 63 credits to complete the HBSW as a second degree. In some cases, students will be required to complete core courses required in the first two years of the BSW program before being allowed admission.

College Diploma

Students who have completed a recognized college diploma may receive course recognition towards the Bachelor of Social Work program depending on their GPA and diploma program of study. Students graduating with diploma programs with an affinity to the BSW will receive the following transfer credits:

Honours Bachelor of Social Work Admissions Requirements for College Graduates				
Diploma Type	Diploma Average	Credits Recognized	Credits Required to Complete Degree	Time to completion (full-time studies)
2-year Social Service Worker Diploma	Minimum overall average of B	45 credits	75	2.5 years (5 semesters)
	Minimum overall average of C+	15 credits	105	3.5 years (7 semesters)
3-year Child and Youth Worker Diploma	Minimum overall average of B	45 credits	75	2.5 years (5 semesters)
	Minimum overall average of C+	30 credits	90	3 years (6 semesters)

**Note that entry into the HBSW program for diploma graduates does not guarantee entry to the professional years (3 & 4) of the HBSW program. Admission to Year 3 is a competitive process based on academic grades, volunteer and work experience, and a short essay. For details regarding admission to the professional years, please see the Applications Procedures page.*

The Office of the Registrar reserves the right to transfer core credits to the HBSW which may require a specific grade minimum for credit transfer from individual courses completed within the diploma program.

In all cases, students will require a minimum grade of 70 percent in SWRK 1006/1007, 2106/2107.

All students applying to the professional years will be required to complete/submit the following:

- Application fee
- HBSW Supplementary Application Form for Admission to the Professional Years
- Human Service/Social Change Experience Summary Form
- Application Checklist

Students wishing to study in Timmins must indicate that on their application form. For more information, contact the Office of the Registrar at 1-888-ALGOMAU or admissions@algomau.ca.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

The following is the recommended pattern of courses for a full-time student, leading to the Bachelor of Social Work (Honours) degree. Deviations from this pattern must be discussed with the student's academic advisor.

Honours Bachelor of Social Work Degree Requirements

Year 1

- SWRK 1006: Introduction to Social Welfare in the North*
- SWRK 1007: Introduction to Social Work: Anishinaabe, Structural and Feminist Perspectives*
- SOCI 1016: Understanding Society I: Principles and Processes
- SOCI 1017: Understanding Society II: Institutions and Issues OR
- ANIS 1006: Anishinaabe Peoples and our Homelands I
- CESD 1006: Introduction to Community Economic and Social Development I
- CESD 1007: Introduction to Community Economic and Social Development II
- 12 additional credits (Students are encouraged to select electives from ANIS 1007, COSC 1701, JURI 1105, ENGL 1501/1502, 1561, PSYC 1106/07)

Year 2

- SWRK 2106: Political Economy of Social Welfare*
- SWRK 2107: Human Services Organizations*
- SWRK 2356: Basic Helping Skills in Social Work Practice: A Northern Perspective
- SWRK 2127: Introduction to Social Work Research
- 3 credits of SWRK electives
- 15 additional credits (Students are encouraged to select electives from ANIS 2006/07 and SOCI 2636)

Year 3

- SWRK 3206: Anti-oppressive Social Work Practice: Anishinaabe, Structural and Feminist Perspectives
- SWRK 3207: Critical Social Policy in the North
- SWRK 3806: Family and Child Welfare
- SWRK 3456: Social Work Research and Program Evaluation
- SWRK 3596: Social Work Philosophy and Ethics
- SWRK 3406: Concepts of Wellness in First Nations' Communities: An Historical Exploration
- SWRK 3407: Concepts of Wellness in First Nations' Communities: The Contemporary Context
- 3 credits of SWRK electives
- 6 elective credits (Students are encouraged to select electives from any CESD course, JURI 3506, or JURI 3606)

Year 4

- SWRK 4206: Northern and Rural Social Work Practice
- SWRK 4207: Mino-Wiichiitwin: Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups
- SWRK 4004: Field Education (12 credit, 700 hour block placement)
- 3 SWRK elective credits
- 9 elective credits

*Minimum grade of 70% required.

CERTIFICATE IN SOCIAL WELFARE

The Certificate in Social Welfare may be taken as a stand-alone program or it may be taken in conjunction with a degree program in another subject. The certificate consists of 30 credits. All courses taken for the certificate may also count toward a B.A. or B.S.W. degree program.

The following are the certificate requirements:

- SWLF/SWRK 1006/1007
- SWLF/SWRK 2106/2107
- 18 additional credits from the following: CESD 1006/1007, any SWLF or SWRK course, SOCI 2016, 2086/2087, 2506

*A maximum of 6 credits of SOCI courses may apply toward the Social Welfare certificate.

ELECTIVES

Social Work courses are also available as NON-ARTS electives in other programs. Prerequisites must be observed.

SOCIAL WORK COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**SWRK 1006 Introduction to Social Welfare in the North**

The course surveys the history of social welfare in Canadian society, from Anishinaabe pre-contact times to present-day. The course examines various social policies and their relevance for social welfare. The course studies the historical development of the welfare state with its differential treatment of mainstream and Anishinaabe people, and the major ideological, political, social and economic influences (Anishinaabe and European) on Canadian social welfare. *Students may not retain credit for both SWRK 1006 and SWLF 1006. (LEC 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 1007 Introduction to Social Work: Anishinaabe, Structural and Feminist Perspectives

A survey of the profession of social work, including early influences, the relationship between social analysis and social work practice, values and ethics and the factors that shape contemporary social work practice. Students will be introduced to Anishinaabe, structural, feminist, northern and rural/remote and anti-oppressive approaches to social work and sensitivity to Franco-Ontarians. The course also introduces students to an examination of issues related to the delivery of social services, particularly in remote/rural, Northern and Anishinaabe communities. *Students may not retain credit for both SWRK 1007 and SWLF 1007. (LEC 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 2016 Community Based Research

This course will focus on Aboriginal and smaller community-based research issues and approaches. Students will explore qualitative and quantitative techniques such as community-based and participatory action research methods, needs assessment and survey applications, capacity assessment, conflict resolution and building public participation. Students will engage in critical evaluation of the tools, techniques and principles associated with project planning and evaluation. *Prerequisites: SWRK 1006/1007. Students may not retain credit for both SWRK 2016 and CESD 2016. (LEC 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 2106 Political Economy of Social Welfare

The course begins with a review of the emergence of the welfare state and traces the development of social programs in Canada from our colonial inheritance to the present day. It includes an analysis of the origins, influences, present forms and relative effectiveness of social programs designed to meet human needs. It examines the destructive impact of welfare state policies on Anishinaabe communities. Particular attention is given to structural and ideological factors that have combined to shape social policies, including issues related to social inequality, the impact of globalization, race, gender, class and sexual orientation. *Students may not retain credit for both SWRK 2106 and SWLF 2106. Prerequisites: SWLF 1006/1007. (LEC 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 2107 Human Services Organizations

This course focuses on issues related to the delivery of human services, including agency mandates, structures, inter-relationships, and professional practice issues. The course will introduce students to Anishinaabe organizational cultures and structures which are alternatives to mainstream models. It will also consider anti-oppressive and feminist considerations and strategies for working within and outside of oppressive structures with the goal of promoting progressive social transformation. *Students may not retain credit for both SWRK 2107 and SWLF 2107. Prerequisite: SWLF 1006 (LEC 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 2127 Introduction to Social Work Research

This course provides students with an introductory understanding of research designs as they relate to social work theory and practice. Students will learn about the roles of social workers in knowledge building and how the larger societal context shapes research activities. Students will be introduced to qualitative, quantitative, mixed method and critical research approaches. The course will review a wide range of applied research paradigms and frameworks such as: experimental design; survey design; community-based participatory action research; feminist methods; arts-based methods; and program evaluation. They will learn about research questions, literature reviews, data analysis and the importance and place of ethics in the research process. *Prerequisites: SWRK 1006/1007. Students may not retain credit for SWRK 2127 and SOCI 2127. (SEM 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 2156 Critical Analysis of the Canadian Health System

This course will provide a thorough discussion and examination of the Canadian health system from multiple perspectives. *Students may not retain credit for both SWRK 2156 and SOCI 2156. Prerequisites SWRK 1006/1007. (LEC 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 2356 Basic Helping Skills in Social Work Practice: A Northern Perspective

This is an introductory course designed to give students the opportunity to explore the relationship between social analysis and social work practice, including the importance of viewing social work relationships in a social, political and economic context. Students will be encouraged to reflect on the fact that social workers enter into helping processes and relationships in a society characterized by power imbalances based on age, class, ethnicity, gender, geography location, ability, race and sexual identity. The course emphasizes skill development using an anti-oppressive practice approach with a focus on developing helping relationships in Anishinaabe, remote, Northern and Franco-Ontarian communities. *Prerequisites: SWRK 1006/1007. Admission may be restricted to students registered for a major in social work. (SEM 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 3016 Community Economic and Social Development

This course provides students with an intermediate level of understanding of issues in community social and economic development, including an interdisciplinary approach to critiquing established or 'mainstream' concepts of development and globalization. It will provide a framework for examining effects of, and approaches to, the dominant development paradigm from a CESD perspective, exploring social and environmental issues globally and within Canada. Students will explore perspectives and experiences of people involved in community movements and initiatives at diverse levels. The course will examine efforts at solidarity and alliance building throughout the Americas, drawing parallels between diverse movements for change, and recognizing an on-going, creative resilience among people in face of major challenges. *Prerequisites: SWRK 2106/2107. Students may not retain credit for both SWRK 3016 and CESD 3016. (SEM 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 3026 Social Work Practice with Families

This course will examine current approaches to working with families in community counselling settings. It will include an overview of the diversity of what constitutes "family" in the present day context. Students will undertake a family assessment and a critical examination of power dynamics in families, and their connection with the larger society in relation to issues of gender, race, age, class, sexual preference, and ability. This course will help students to develop an understanding of family caring systems from an Indigenous/First Nations perspective. Topics explored include Indigenous/First Nations traditional roles of family members, the effect that historical events have had on current social realities of First Nations and the role that social workers can play in family wellness. Contemporary social work practices with Indigenous/First Nations children and families are also examined and critically reflected upon, with a particular emphasis on directions in Indigenous/First Nations child and family welfare. *Prerequisites: SWRK 1006/1007. This course is restricted to students admitted into the professional years. (SEM 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 3206 Critical Social Work Practice: Anishinaabe, Structural and Feminist Perspectives

This course allows students to explore and critically analyze social science and social work knowledge, theories and approaches to enable them to develop a critical, reflective approach to social work practice. The focus is on structural, Anishinaabe and feminist approaches, including their application to northern, rural and remote communities, Franco-Ontarians and racially oppressed peoples. These approaches will be contrasted with other approaches to social work practice, including those based on systems, ecological and psychosocial pathology theories. *Prerequisites: SWRK 2106/2107. This course is restricted to students admitted into the professional years. (SEM 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 3207 Critical Social Policy in the North

This course explores the field of social policy and administration. It examines the development of social policy in Canada, including the changing nature of the welfare state and themes and debates from conventional and critical perspectives that are fundamental to understanding these changes. The course helps students to become aware of the relationship among research, policy and social work practice. It focuses on the theory and practice of social policies and their administration within the Canadian welfare state (Anishinaabe and mainstream). *Prerequisites: SWRK 2106/2107 (SEM 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 3356 Social Welfare and Women

The impacts of historical and contemporary social welfare policies and social work practices on women are analyzed. From feminist and structural social work perspectives, the course examines issues such as socialization, work, poverty, abuse, health, sexuality, power and the state, and law and policy, as they relate to the roles and positions of women in Canadian society. A particular focus is placed on understanding these implications for women within the human services field. Particular attention will be given to the roles and positions of women in northern, rural/remote and Anishinaabe communities. *Prerequisites: SWRK 1006/1007. (SEM 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 3406 Concepts of Wellness in First Nations' Communities: An Historical Exploration

The course explores the issues which have historically affected the relationship between the First Nations Peoples and the social welfare system in Canada, particularly the effects of the colonization process on the health and well-being. The traditional Native family and community are viewed as an intricately balanced ecosystem which was placed in jeopardy after European settlement occurred. Traditional helping and healing practices are studied. Special attention is given to the power of the Medicine Wheel as a vehicle for achieving spiritual, physical, social and environmental well-being. *Prerequisites: SWRK 1006/1007. (SEM 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 3407 Concepts of Wellness in First Nations' Communities: The Contemporary Context

The course explores the contemporary issues which affect the relationship between First Nations Peoples and the social welfare system in Canada, ranging from the effects on health and well-being of colonization to the current movement toward self-determination. Past and present government policies and programs are examined. New First Nations-controlled services in the area of education, health and child welfare are examined. Special attention is given to the power of the Medicine Wheel as a vehicle for achieving spiritual, physical, social and environmental well-being. *Prerequisites: SWRK 1006/1007. (SEM 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 3456 Social Work Research and Program Evaluation

This course recognizes the ethical and professional responsibility of social workers to evaluate the effectiveness of their practice and the programs in which it takes place, to contribute to social work's knowledge base and to use research literature to guide decision-making in anti-oppressive practice and program development. Students will learn to critically evaluate the findings of social work research and to develop their competence in various approaches to qualitative and quantitative research. The course will consider the particular challenges of conducting research and program development in Northern, remote/rural, Anishinaabe and Franco-Ontarian communities. *Prerequisites: SWRK 2106/2107. This course is restricted to students admitted into the professional years. (SEM 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 3596 Social Work Philosophy and Ethics

This course will examine social work ethics in the context of Social Work (particularly structural and anti-oppressive Social Work) and Anishinaabe world views and values. Students will become familiar with the CASSW Code of Ethics as well as the IFSW Code of Ethics. They will learn to critically think about ethical issues in carrying out the tasks of Social Work practice, policy and research in the context of Northern and remote/rural settings. Models of ethical decision-making processes, critical thinking and problem-solving are explored and applied to micro, mezzo and macro levels of practice. *Prerequisites: SWRK 2106/2107. This course is restricted to students admitted into the professional years (SEM 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 3606 Social Work with Victims of Abuse

This course focuses on social work with victims of abuse, including partner abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, residential school abuse, and the societal violence of poverty and oppression. It examines physical, emotional, and sexual abuse and violence perpetrated on less powerful individuals. It also examines the roles played by helping professionals in this context. *Prerequisites: SWRK 1006/1007. (SEM 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 3707 Social Work and Law

This course will introduce the student to the interaction between social work practice and relevant laws, common law and the justice system. It will examine potential legal issues, constitutional documents and conventions, the court system, rights of Anishinaabe peoples, and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. It will also examine social work practice in court settings, including an introduction to children's rights, rules of evidence and the role of various interveners related to the justice system. *Prerequisites: SWRK 1006/1007. (LEC 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 3806 Family and Child Welfare

This course focuses particularly on feminist and Anishinaabe critiques of child welfare policy and social work intervention. It critically examines assumptions in family and child welfare policy including notions of family, substitute care, conceptions about violence and neglect, and the implications of child and welfare policy for social work practice in Northern, remote and rural communities. It includes an examination of practice strategies along with the legal procedures and responsibilities carried by the child welfare social workers. Contemporary Social Work practices with Anishinaabe children and families are also analyzed, with a particular emphasis on directions in Anishinaabe child and family welfare. *Prerequisites: SWRK 2106/2107. Students may not retain credit for both SWRK 3806 and SWLF 3806. (SEM 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 3817 Contemporary Issues in Aging

This course will study the aging and the aged in a cross-cultural perspective with special attention to Canada. *Prerequisites: SWRK 2106/2107. Students may not retain credit for both SWRK 3817 and SOCI 3817. (LEC 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 3856 Crisis Intervention

This course begins with an overview of crisis intervention practice and theory. It examines several models of crisis intervention and includes an analysis of their application to particular areas and fields of social work practice, such as spousal assault, physical injury, disability and illness, suicide assessment and intervention, child abuse, mental health emergency and grief resolution. The course will focus on crisis intervention as it applies to social work practice with diverse populations in northern communities. The course will include opportunity to learn and practice interview and process skills used in crisis work. *Prerequisites: SWRK 1006/1007. (SEM 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 3906 Special Topics in Social Work I

The course will examine advanced coverage of particular topics in social work. Specific content will vary from year to year depending on faculty expertise and research. *This course is restricted to students in the professional years of the BSWK program or permission from the instructor. (SEM 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 3907 Special Topics in Social Work II

The course will examine advanced coverage of particular topics in social work. Specific content will vary from year to year depending on faculty expertise and research. *This course is restricted to students in the professional years of the BSWK program or permission from the instructor. (SEM 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 3916 Selected Topics in Community Development I

The course will examine advanced coverage of particular topics in community development. Specific content will vary from year to year depending on faculty expertise and research. *This course is restricted to students in the professional years of the BSWK program or permission from the instructor. (SEM 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 3926 Selected Topics in Community Development II

The course will examine advanced coverage of particular topics in community development. Specific content will vary from year to year depending on faculty expertise and research. *This course is restricted to students in the professional years of the BSWK program or permission from the instructor. (SEM 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 4004 Field Education

This field placement course requires the student to perform in a social work role in an organizational setting for a total of 700 hours. It will provide students with an opportunity to enhance and refine their social work skills and deepen their ability to link social work theory with practice at the interpersonal, community, organizational and policy levels. It focuses on interpersonal relationships, power analysis, problem identification and analysis and problem solving using anti-oppressive approaches and awareness of Northern, remote/rural, Anishinaabe, Franco-Ontarian contexts. Students will be required to include a reflection paper that will demonstrate the student's ability to apply theoretical concepts and critical analysis to practice. *This course is restricted to students in year four of the HBSW program. Prerequisites: SWRK 1006/1007. (SEM 1, EXP 2) (12 cr)*

SWRK 4206 Northern and Rural Social Work Practice

This course builds on the structural, Anishinaabe and feminist approaches, including their application to northern, rural/remote communities, examined in SWRK 3206: Critical Social Work Practice with attention to Anishinaabe, Structural and Feminist Perspectives. Critical generalist practice will be examined within the context of current and emerging client populations and practice issues in rural and Northern regions of Canada. The course aims to develop a critical awareness/analysis of the context and response of social workers to the social problems with which they are meant to deal in their practice in Northern, remote and rural communities. Students will be introduced to the core concepts of rurality and rural Social Work in Canada. *This course is restricted to students in the professional years of the HBSW program. (SEM 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 4207 Mino-Wiichiitiwin: Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups

This is an advanced course designed to give students the opportunity to deepen their skills in engaging with individuals, families and groups in helping processes and relationships. Skill development will occur in the context of student knowledge of how social work is practiced in a society characterized by power imbalances due to age, class, ethnicity, gender, geographic location, ability, race and sexual location. The course emphasizes skill development at the fourth year level using anti-oppressive and Indigenous practice approaches with a focus on developing helping relationships in Indigenous, remote, Northern and Franco-Ontarian communities. *Prerequisites: SWRK 1006, 1007, 2356, 3206. This course is restricted to students in the professional years of the HBSW program. (SEM 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 4506 Social Work and Substance Abuse

This course examines the impact of substance (alcohol and other drugs) abuse on individuals, families, communities and the broader society. Substance abuse is explored in the context of structural social work. It places particular emphasis on the historical, social, cultural geographic, political and ideological contexts of addictions among women, youth, seniors, Anishinaabe peoples, and members of marginalized groups. The course is designed to encourage students to think critically about substance abuse issues, to engage in self-exploration as social workers and to think about how to establish a framework of substance abuse practice sensitive to the realities in which substance abuse issues occur. *This course is restricted to students in year four of the BSWK program. (SEM 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 4906 Advanced Topics in Social Work I

The course will examine advanced coverage of particular topics in social work. Specific content will vary from year to year depending on faculty expertise and research. *This course is restricted to students in year four of the BSWK program. (SEM 3) (3 cr)*

SWRK 4907 Advanced Topics in Social Work II

The course will examine advanced coverage of particular topics in social work. Specific content will vary from year to year depending on faculty expertise and research. *This course is restricted to students in year four of the BSWK program. (SEM 3) (3 cr)*