

## WHY SOCIAL WORK AT ALGOMA U

Algoma University's four-year Bachelor of Social Work degree is a unique professional program, different from other university programs found across the province. Our social work faculty are committed to a hands on learning experience where students are able to establish a personal relationship with their professors. This fosters a very intimate and interactive learning environment. Algoma University's Bachelor of Social Work program prepares students for generalist social work practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities, and societies. Given Algoma University's location in Northern Ontario in Sault Ste. Marie, and our special mission to cultivate cross-cultural learning between aboriginal communities and other communities, our social work program has a specific focus on multi-cultural social work in and with northern, rural, remote, Indigenous, and Franco-Ontarian communities. Graduates of our program will be prepared to practice anti-oppressive social work at the entry level with diverse populations in a Canadian context.

## 4th Year Field Practicum

In the fourth year of the social work program, students will participate in a field practicum. Students will perform a social work role at an organization for a total of 700 hours. The field practicum allows students the opportunity to put their lessons into practice, and to enhance and refine their social work skills.

## COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

Students enrolled in our program will examine a variety of topics and will understand how northern communities significantly differ from other urban communities in regard to health services, family and child welfare, and the social welfare system. Our graduates will understand crisis intervention and how to deal with victims of abuse, including those who were affected by the residential school system in Canada. Unlike any other Ontario university, Algoma University is situated on the Shingwauk Indian Residential School Site and offers special lectures and guest presentations from residential school Survivors. Many fellow classmates may in fact

be Survivors. This provides our students with a unique learning experience, and the opportunity for students to better understand First Nations' oppression, colonization, and self-determination.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Arrive at professional judgements and actions.
- Practice social work (including community development).
- Demonstrate a strong awareness of Anishinaabe history.
- Demonstrate a self-awareness.
- Promote social work practice in the context of grassroots community resiliency.
- Communicate effectively.
- Understand the current state of knowledge in the humanities and relevant behavioural and social sciences.
- Understand social work's origin, purposes and practices.
- Understand and support social service development and sustainability in Northern Ontario.
- Understand and utilize research methods in all facets of social work knowledge and practice.
- Describe multiple theoretical and conceptual bases of social work knowledge and practice.
- Demonstrate a detailed understanding of structural, Anishinaabe, and feminist approaches to social work and social welfare.



## WHY STUDY AT ALGOMA U IN SAULT STE. MARIE?

Algoma U is located in Sault Ste. Marie, a city of 75,000 people in Northern Ontario. "The Soo", as locals call it, has all the amenities of a big city – shopping, entertainment, sports teams, festivals, and cultural activities – but without the hassle of traffic. We're lucky enough to live in a city surrounded by the great outdoors. With Lake Superior and the St. Mary's River literally just steps from our front door, there's always something to do. You can catch some sun at the beach or walk our beautiful boardwalk. With the highest elevation in Ontario, Searchmont Resort is a popular winter destination for our students, offering great alpine skiing and snowboarding.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

ENG4U. Minimum 70%.  
Applying to Algoma U is simple. We're ready to help answer all of your questions and more. Before you know it, you'll be walking across campus to your first class.

[algomau.ca/apply](http://algomau.ca/apply)

## GAIN. EXPERIENCE.

Experiential Learning is "learning by doing." There are many experiential learning opportunities in the classroom and in the community. Students in the Social Work program have participated in case studies, physical practice and practicums. A full inventory of Social Work experiential learning opportunities is listed in this Experience Map.

## SKILLS EMPLOYERS ARE SEEKING

With over 2,000 business leaders surveyed, the top skills they would like to see in their employees include:

1. Leadership
2. Communication
3. Collaboration
4. Time Management
5. Understanding the impact of technology
6. Consistent global training

## USING THIS EXPERIENCE MAP

Making a plan in first year will lead to your success. We're ready to assist you with your plan.

This Experience Map offers suggestions, which is a guide to explore many options. Understanding where you want to be will help you make the correct decisions to get you there.

We're also here to help you with your physical and mental well-being. We want you to succeed in all aspects of your life. For further assistance, visit Student Success Central, in NW307.

Questions?  
[info@algomau.ca](mailto:info@algomau.ca)



[algomau.ca/social-work](http://algomau.ca/social-work)



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**1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR**

**2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR**

**3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR**

**4<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OR FINAL YEAR**



SWRK1006\*/ SWRK1007\* or ANIS1007\*  
\*Minimum grade of 70% required  
Electives:  
18 credits (from any group)  
Consider taking: ANIS1007, CESD1006/1007, COSC1701, JURI1106/1107, ENGL1801/1802, PSYC1106/1107  
  
Meet with your Academic Advisor to select courses.

Make an appointment with your Faculty Advisor by the end of the fall term to develop your academic plan. \*This is highly recommended for transfer students.  
  
Questions about rules and regulations in your program? See your Academic Advisor in Student Success Central.  
  
Want to enhance your degree? Consider a **minor or certificate**. Consider taking SWRK courses during the Spring semester.

As you enter the professional year of the program, continue to meet with your Faculty Advisor to ensure you are meeting program requirements and academic goals.  
  
This is a good time to investigate a Master's Degree, Post-graduate Diploma or Bachelor of Education. Please make an appointment in Student Success Central for full details.

Complete degree requirements and ensure you've met all deadlines for post-graduate options.  
  
**Apply to graduate.**



Check your **Student Portal** for job postings.  
Visit the **Experiential Learning (EL) HUB** to learn about exciting opportunities! Start connecting to career opportunities in your first year by joining the **Career Link Program**. Read the BSW Handbook to give you further guidance on the Social Work program.  
  
**Courses with EL component.**

Continue to keep an eye out for **Job Opportunities** on your **Student Portal**. Listings include general employment, local/ non-local co-op opportunities, on-campus employment and volunteer opportunities.  
  
**Courses with EL component.**

Review the HBSW Field Education Manual to gain knowledge to use during your field placement next year.  
  
**Courses with EL component.**

Complete your field practicum to allow you to put your lessons into practice and enhance and refine your social work skills.  
Take advantage of the New Graduate Transition Program!  
  
**Courses with EL component.**



Get involved with volunteer opportunities on campus with the **Food Bank**, the **Thunder Street Team** or apply to be an **Orientation Week Leader**. Come support our **Varsity Thunderbird** athletic teams and participate in **Intramurals** at the GLC.  
  
Consider joining one of the many **clubs** through AUSU, such as the BSWC.  
  
Be sure to sign up for one of our historical campus tours.

Volunteer off campus. Reach out to local organizations such as: **Victim Services of Algoma**, **Breton House**, **Children's Aid Society of Algoma**, **Pauline's Place**, **Algoma Public Health** or the **Sault Area Hospital**. For more volunteer opportunities visit **Volunteer Sault Ste. Marie**.  
  
Think about running for a position with the **Algoma University Students' Union**.

Update your **LinkedIn** profile and connect virtually with alumni, classmates, faculty and professionals in the Social Work field.  
  
Networking is the most important technique to get jobs in today's society – over 75% of jobs come from networking.

Think about joining professional associations such as the **Canadian Association of Social Workers**.  
  
Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Social Work, of social workers, and social service workers.



Attend a **Study Abroad** info session and consider studying in China, Spain, South Korea, Mexico, France, Austria or Japan and see which places appeal to YOU.  
  
Gather information on the various global opportunities. Algoma U is proud to offer **Study Abroad** and the Student Work Abroad Program.  
  
Attend the BBA Student Orientation Session.

Are you interested in doing a study exchange? Check out **Study Abroad** and attend an information session to get the info you need and to ensure your application is submitted by the deadline.  
  
Your next adventure is waiting!

Improve your language skills through some of our Modern Language courses or take elective courses, such as Geography and Anishinaabe Studies.  
  
Consider doing a **Short-Term Summer Study Abroad** opportunity gain experience, knowledge and have the opportunity to tour a new country while working!

If you are an international student looking to stay in Canada to work, talk to a **Student Success Academic Advisor**.  
  
To learn more about working in Canada, volunteer at **Discover the Sault** through the Economic Development Centre.



Check out **Career Cruising** (login: algomauc password: saultstemarie) to determine potential career paths that you can pursue in the future.  
  
Bring your resume to the next level! **Optimal Resume** is an excellent resource to develop your resume and cover letter. Visit **Career Services** in the **Experiential Learning HUB** for assistance.

**Lynda.com** is available to help you learn the skills you need to achieve your full potential. Once you complete a learning path it will automatically be displayed as an accomplishment on your **LinkedIn** profile.  
  
Use **Optimal Resume** to improve your resume and cover letter as well as practice your interview skills.

Start focusing on areas of interest and research education requirements for your career path.  
  
Reachout to your **Academic Advisor**, **Student Success Central** or your faculty advisor to assist you in applying to a Master's Degree, Post-graduate Diploma or Bachelor of Education.  
  
Take some time to create or update your resume and **LinkedIn** profile.

Use the resources available in **Career Services** to learn about the many job opportunities available to you upon graduation.  
  
Attend the Career Conference to get some professional advice from the **Sault Community Career Centre** on your resume, job searching strategies and interview tips.

**AFTER GRAD?**

After completing a degree in Social Work, students are open to an array of career paths and opportunities.  
  
Many of our students pursue graduate programs and go on to pursue exciting careers in many areas.  
  
Graduates can and have pursued:

- Aging
- Mental Health
- Child Welfare
- Nursing Homes
- Social Planning
- Community Planning
- Disabilities
- Rehabilitations
- Women's Issues
- Poverty -- Community Work
- Crisis Management
- Violence/Sexual Assault
- Health Care
- Case Management
- Administration



Always remember to put your health first! Hit the **GLC** for some calming Yoga or an intense workout or take walks around campus to clear your mind.  
If you're feeling depressed, anxious or upset don't worry YOU ARE NOT ALONE. – Download the **I.M. Well App** or call 1-877-234-5327 for 24/7 free counselling or book an appointment with an on-campus counsellor by emailing [healthservices@algomau.ca](mailto:healthservices@algomau.ca). We're here for you. Visit the Learning Centre for information on free tutoring and learning strategies.