PREPARE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Professional social workers provide valuable services and assistance to people in many different practice settings. Their skills and training enable them to positively influence lives by working in agencies, programs, facilities or in private practice.

Career opportunities exist in child welfare, youth services, hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, schools, mental health services, foster care and adoption services, community development programs, homeless shelters, domestic violence programs, family service agencies, public administration, income maintenance programs, legal services agencies, alcohol and substance abuse programs, international social work agencies, criminal justice and corrections, serving people with disabilities, and providing individual and family counseling – to name just a few of the options.

SIU can prepare you for a life-changing career as a social worker.

YOU CAN SPECIALIZE

If you are passionate about applying your expertise in a school setting, we also offer coursework through the Teacher Education Program to prepare you to obtain the Illinois Professional Educator License with Endorsement in School Social Work.

DUAL POSSIBILITIES

Depending upon a few qualifications, including your educational background and preparation, you can choose from two program curriculums. Our regular two-year program incorporates 60 credit hours of advanced study over a two-year period.

However, students who have already earned a bachelor’s degree in social work from an accredited institution and who complete our nine-credit-hour summer sequence with a “B” or better grade point average can seek admission to the Advanced Standing Program and earn their MSW by completing the summer sequence and the second year of the regular program.

ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE

SIU provides additional ways our students can enhance their knowledge and involvement. You can get involved in a variety of registered student organizations, enabling you to expand your understanding of social work, act as social service advocates and network with other graduate and undergraduate students, mentors and professionals in the field. In addition to the many university and college organizations, SIU hosts the Social Work Student Alliance along with the SIU chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

We also offer international study abroad opportunities, giving you the chance to enhance your knowledge via coursework in Germany or other countries.
OPPORTUNITY AWAITS

Social workers make up the largest percentage of clinically trained mental health practitioners providing services in the United States.

Social work is one of the country’s fastest-growing professions, according to the United States Department of Labor’s U.S. Bureau of Statistics. Projections estimate a 19 percent increase in social work jobs for the decade ending in 2022.

TOP-NOTCH

SIU’s Master of Social Work program meets the highest standards AND has achieved national acclaim for its quality.

We have earned a spot in U.S. News & World Report’s top 100 rankings for the entire country. In addition, our master’s degree program, as well as our undergraduate program, is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, the only national social work accrediting agency.

Many social work careers require a graduate degree from an accredited program, so this accreditation gives our graduates an edge in the job market. It’s also excellent preparation for advanced doctoral degree study.

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

We know that experience is a valuable teacher, so our program melds excellent classroom instruction with hands-on educational opportunities. You can participate in valuable research as well.

Through connections with about 140 area groups and organizations, our students gain practical experience working with children, youth, families, the aging population, and in health, mental health and school settings. Our partners include the Department of Children and Family Services, private child welfare agencies, legal services, hospitals, hospice, adoption centers, substance-abuse treatment programs, mental health centers, nursing homes, prisons, counseling centers and many others.

Our students graduate with the knowledge, training and practical experience they need to effectively deliver social services in urban and rural settings.

ENGAGE WITH EXPERT FACULTY

Our experienced and highly qualified faculty members all hold doctoral or master’s degrees in social work or related fields. They have extensive practical experience in the field and research relevant topics, including child welfare, aging, mental health, substance abuse, cross-cultural counseling, race and ethnicity in social work practice, human rights and civil rights law. They provide students with a learning experience incorporating classroom activities, practical learning and the ability to assist them with relevant research.
HELP IS AVAILABLE
Various forms of financial assistance are available for our students. You can apply for graduate assistantships, graduate tuition scholarships, Master’s Fellowships, Graduate Dean’s Fellowships for educationally disadvantaged students, work-study posts and needs-based awards such as loans. Visit gradschool.siu.edu for additional financial aid information.

APPLY NOW!
Find out more about how SIU can help you make your dreams of an advanced career in social work come true. Master’s of Social Work students will need to be admitted to both the graduate school and the program in order to proceed.

Visit us online at ehs.siu.edu/socialwork/graduate, give us a call at 618/453-2243 or email swgradprogram@siu.edu for more information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
School of Social Work
College of Education and Human Services
Pulliam Hall – Mail Code 4329
Southern Illinois University
475 Clocktower Drive
Carbondale, IL 62901

Phone: 618/453-2243
Email swgradprogram@siu.edu

ehs.siu.edu/socialwork

Southern Illinois University
Carbondale

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