

SOCIAL WORK

Experience Map



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University
of Windsor

SOCIAL WORK

SOCIAL WORK AND DISABILITY STUDIES

SOCIAL WORK AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

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SOCIAL WORK

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE OF SOCIAL WORK GRADUATES

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Social Work** – By combining social work courses with courses in disability studies, psychology, sociology, women’s and gender studies, or such other disciplines as political science, and communication, media and film, our pre-professional program will prepare you for registration in the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers and elsewhere.
- **Social Work and Disability Studies** – This program combines training in both social work and disability studies to focus on social justice and the social model of disability.
- **Social Work and Women’s Studies** – Unique in North America, the program addresses social justice in its broadest sense. Learn how race, social class, religion, and sexuality shape gender and society, and the specialized knowledge and skills needed to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

FUNCTIONAL KNOWLEDGE

- Understanding human behaviour, communication, and interaction as shaped by social/cultural contexts
- Assess, evaluating, and understand individual, family and group behaviours to implement best diagnostic and interventive practices
- Appreciating contemporary social, community and ethical issues and related public policy
- Implementing and understanding social work interventions for individuals, families, and other groups
- Understanding and applying behavioural components of sociological theory
- Critically understanding the histories, functions, and limitations of important social welfare organizations

CURRICULUM

Courses of study specific to each program



CO-CURRICULAR

Activities and experiences that complement coursework
(Outstanding Scholars, STEPS workshops, peer mentoring, VIP)

EXTRACURRICULAR

Activities falling outside of the scope of set curriculum
(Part-time job, clubs, volunteering, athletics)

BUILD YOUR SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Your UWindsor experience is more than attending classes. It is a combination of academics, co-curricular activities, and extracurricular involvement. By making the most of all three elements of your university experience, you will maximize your opportunities to build your skills, broaden your personal network, and clarify your long term academic and career goals.

CAREER PLANNING GUIDE

Intentional career planning will help you prepare for your next step after graduation. It is a fluid, dynamic, and continuous process, meaning you can move on or return to an earlier stage at any time. You can even work through simultaneous cycles, like one for your long-term dream job and another for a summer job.



Experience Map

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is meant to help you explore various opportunities throughout the course of your UWindsor experience. It is intended to help you link academics, co-curricular, extra-curricular and career planning activities by suggesting some of the options available to you. This is to help you see what you can do, rather than what you are required to do!

Academics



First Year

- Take required courses including Introduction to Psychology I and II, Meeting Human Needs Through Social Welfare and Meeting Human Needs Through Social Work
- Review degree course requirements and process for applying to professional years of the program
- Enrol in a variety of social science courses to determine your core interests regarding social work
- Consider combining degree with Disability Studies or Women's Studies
- Meet with an academic advisor for support, academic counselling, or degree outlook
- Receive peer mentorship from members of the Social Work Student Association

Experience



- Volunteer with a local non-profit or social justice organization
- Apply for a co-curricular experience such as the Volunteer Internship Program (VIP)*
- Investigate research opportunities as part of the Outstanding Scholars program*
- Research student exchange opportunities for middle years*
- Join a student association such as the Social Work Student Association, Disability Studies Student Association, or Women's and Gender Studies Student Association

Career



- Create a list of things that you enjoy, areas in which you excel, and your skills
- Meet with Career & Employment Services (CES) to develop a plan for your future years
- Consider taking an interest assessment to help you identify possible career paths
- Attend a CES workshop to learn how to find a summer or part-time job
- Become familiar with the mySuccess online job search tool
- Attend a CES resumé and cover letter workshop to get your resumé critiqued

Middle Years

- Take required courses and check in with academic advisor to make sure you are on the right path
- Apply for professional years of Social Work during second year of study
- Consider completing a research project in final year★
- Seek out internships and courses that offer field experience★
- Start taking courses required as pre-requisites for graduate/professional school
- Consider declaring a minor and/or specialization

Final Year

- Meet with faculty and academic advisor to review degree requirements
- Complete all required courses to fulfill degree audit
- Apply to graduate through MyUWindsor Portal
- Work with a faculty member on a research project or publication★
- Focus your studying on specializations such as mental health, gerontology, poverty reduction and child welfare
- Take required field placement courses to culminate your senior experience★

- Join a professional association such as the Ontario Association of Social Workers
- Participate in the UWill Discover undergraduate research conference★
- Become a research assistant to help advance the field of social work★
- Apply for student exchange★
- Expand your skills by taking on a summer, part-time or volunteer position
- Look for a leadership role in a club or society

- Attend a UWindsor Social Work Town Hall Meeting to discuss topics and concerns in the field of social work
- Conduct field research with a faculty member★
- Become a tutor for Students Offering Support (SOS)
- Complete field placements at the micro (individual), meso (organization), and macro (policy/research) level★
- Meet industry professionals through guest speaker series and field placements

- Research career fields and occupations
- Explore opportunities and meet employers through a job fair or employer information session
- Attend the Graduate and Professional Schools Fair to explore further educational opportunities
- Analyze the requirements for graduate or professional schools
- Make an appointment with Career & Employment Services to explore career options
- Create a LinkedIn profile and have it critiqued
- Take part in informational interviews through sources such as Ten Thousand Coffees

- Consider applying to graduate or professional school and be aware of early application deadlines
- Meet with Career & Employment Services to prepare such application documents as a resumé, cover letter, CV or personal statement
- Attend an Interview Skills Workshop and Job Search Tips Workshop
- Set up a mock interview for professional school or job applications
- Meet employers at the annual job fair in January
- Compose a portfolio of relevant academic and work experience

★ High-Impact Practice: educational practices that include experiential learning as a basis for student engagement and successful scholarship

SOCIAL WORK

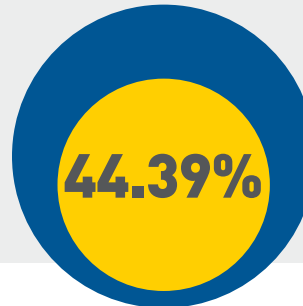
LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

2016



Number of University of Windsor graduates from Social Work programs in 2016.

2013



Percentage of Canadian university social and behavioural sciences graduates who continued their studies post-bachelor degree. (National Graduates Study 2013)



COMMON INDUSTRIES FOR SOCIAL WORK GRADUATES

- Academia: Advanced social research
- Business: Research and analysis, human resources
- Education: Advising, counselling, corporate training
- Government: Research and policy development
- Healthcare: Administration, counselling
- Law and law enforcement
- Immigration and community integration
- Social research agencies
- Social service and community agencies

CAREER TRACKS*

Addictions counsellor
Bereavement specialist
Business advisor
Case worker
Child and youth worker
Child welfare worker
Community developer

Community support worker
Consultant
Development officer
Family service worker
Health and safety manager
Health educator
Human resources manager

Human rights officer
Intake supervisor
Journalist
Law enforcement officer
Lawyer
Legal consultant
Operations director

Policy analyst
Professor
Project manager
Public relations
Research co-ordinator
Social worker
Teacher

* Additional education and/or training required for some of the above careers.

CAREER-READINESS COMPETENCIES



Critical Thinking and Problem Solving: Using strategic and creative thinking to make decisions and evaluate solutions

- Understanding subtle layers of meaning in the social world
- Critically analyzing problems, thinking creatively, and making appropriately reasoned decisions
- Seeing issues from a variety of vantage points to understand the root of problem



Professionalism and Work Ethic: Demonstrating personal management practices and a high level of integrity and ethical behaviour

- Empathizing and sympathizing with and intuitively understanding the mental states of others
- Prioritizing and concentrating on relevant resources when presented with a wealth of sources of information
- Managing time, data, and resources to meet deadlines



Teamwork and Collaboration: Working as a productive member of a group and collaborating with others to achieve set goals

- Leading and interacting with colleagues who reflect different backgrounds, learning styles, and approaches
- Working effectively in groups; engaging in decision making
- Overseeing contributions to a project, determining outcomes, planning details, delegating, and completing tasks



Communication: Appropriate and effective articulation of ideas and information to a range of audiences

- Preparing and delivering data-driven oral and written presentations and reports using technological aids
- Engaging diverse audiences and clients
- Communicating effectively and efficiently in writing to convey the message of a broader piece of work



CAMPUS RESOURCES

- Visit **Leddy Library** and the **Writing Support Desk** on the main floor for help with academic assignments
- Improve study skills through the **Skills To Enhance Personal Success (STEPS)** program
- Discover ways to get involved on campus through the **Student Success and Leadership Centre**
- Explore mentorship opportunities through the **Connecting4Success (C4S)** and **Bounce Back** programs
- Apply to the **Volunteer Internship Program (VIP)** to get involved in the community
- Look into the **Work Study** program for on-campus employment opportunities
- Broaden your cultural awareness through the **International Student Centre** and **Student Exchange Office**
- Get assistance developing your career plan and job search skills from **Career & Employment Services**
- Consult with the **EPICentre** if you are interested in starting your own business
- Seek out assistance with academic accommodation from **Student Accessibility Services**
- Tend to your health and wellness with support from **Student Health Services, Lancer Recreation** and the **Student Counselling Centre**

Recruitment Office

Phone: 519-973-7014
Toll-Free: 1-800-864-2860
Email: info@uwindsor.ca

School of Social Work

Phone: 519-253-3000, Ext. 3064
Email: socwork@uwindsor.ca

Career and Employment Services

Phone: 519-253-3000, Ext. 3895
Email: careerservices@uwindsor.ca
experience.uwindsor.ca



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