

## Sociology/Social Work

### Overview:

Social Workers help individuals and families cope with mental illness and problems such as inadequate housing, unemployment, lack of job skills, financial mismanagement, serious illness, disability, substance abuse, unwanted pregnancy, or antisocial behavior. They also work with families who have serious conflicts, including those involving child or spousal abuse.

UW-Richland offers a variety of course appropriate to those planning a major in social work such as social science courses. During your freshman and sophomore years, you'll take also courses in math, English, science, humanities, fine arts, and others. Your junior and senior years will be increasingly devoted to specialized course work in your social work major.

Your studies will help you develop skills needed in the field of social work, such as planning projects, recruiting/coordinating research subjects, writing grant proposals, evaluating/maintaining records, developing project designs, interviewing, understanding group dynamics, observing human interactions, recognizing cultural differences/similarities, surveying and sampling, identifying value systems, gathering and organizing data, examining data, conducting field studies, applying non-intrusive methods, reaching new conclusions through comparative study, and using statistical applications.

### Career Opportunities:

Approximately 600,000 social workers are employed in the U.S. with nearly 40 percent of those jobs in state, county, or municipal government agencies, primarily in departments of human resources, social services, child welfare, mental health, health, housing, education, and corrections. Most in the private sector are in voluntary social service agencies, community and religious organizations, hospitals, nursing homes, or home health agencies.

A bachelor's degree is the minimum requirement for most positions. Besides the bachelor's in Social Work (BSW), undergraduate majors in psychology, sociology, and related fields satisfy hiring requirements in some agencies, especially small community agencies. A master's degree in Social Work (MSW) is generally necessary for positions in health and mental health clinics and some private agencies. Employment of social workers is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2005.

### Websites you may want to visit:

National Association of Social Workers

<http://www.naswdc.org>

American Network of Home Health Care Social Workers:

[www.homehealthsocialwork.org](http://www.homehealthsocialwork.org)

American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy:

[www.aamft.org](http://www.aamft.org)

Clinical Social Work Federation:

[www.webcom.com/nfscsw/](http://www.webcom.com/nfscsw/)

### Suggested course of study for a social work/sociology major:

University of Wisconsin-Richland can offer you the freshman/sophomore curriculum needed to begin a sociology/social work major. The four-semester program outlined below is to be used as a guide. Additional information and transfer planning sheets for specific majors and universities are available in the Student Services Office. UW-Richland offers the freshman/sophomore curriculum appropriate to a social work or sociology major and includes required general education courses. Consult your academic advisor for individualized program planning assistance.

#### First Year

##### Semester I

English*	3 credits
Mathematics*	3 - 5 credits
Natural Science	3 credits
Psychology 202	3 credits
Sociology 101	3 credits

##### Semester II

English*	3 credits
Natural Science	4-5 credits
Fine arts	3 credits
Sociology 234	3 credits
Elective	1-2 credits

#### Second Year

##### Semester III

Psychology 210 or Math 117	3 credits
Humanities	3 credits
Social Science	3 credits
Sociology 250	3 credits
Interdisciplinary studies	3 credits

##### Semester IV

Sociology 231	3 credits
Social Science	3 credits
Fine arts or humanities	3 credits
Psychology 309	3 credits
Physical Education 127	2 credits
Elective	1 credit

Courses in world language are recommended. Placement in English and mathematics will be determined on the basis of placement tests; see \*. Students completing the requirements for the Associate of Arts & Science Degree must include in their course of study an interdisciplinary studies component.

Explore career possibilities by visiting The Resource Center, located in the Student Services area of Melvill Hall. There you'll find career information, self-assessment videos and career assessment testing. Interactive computer programs are available to help you identify your work-related interests, skills and values. Knowing these characteristics can help you discover compatible occupations. The programs also provide information about educational requirements, potential salary, and employment outlooks for occupations in Wisconsin and nationwide.

For more information on majors in the UW System, go to: <http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/majormania> .

For more information or assistance, contact:

Office of Student Services  
University of Wisconsin - Richland  
1200 Highway 14 West  
Richland Center, WI 53581-1399

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