



## Western Connecticut State University Department of Social Work

### Social Work Program Requirements

1. A student must have earned at least a "C+" in courses which fulfill the 53 semester hours of major requirements as well as PSY 100, and at least a "C" grade in these required general education courses: writing intensive course (W); COM 160, 161 or 162; PSY 202, 210, 211, 215, or 222.
2. A student who receives a grade lower than a "C+" or "C" in any one of the courses detailed in item 1 above prior to admission to junior year standing may retake the course ONCE and seek admission, providing, in the judgment of the social work faculty, that the student meets all other criteria for admission.
3. A student who receives a grade lower than a "C+" or "C" in any one of the courses detailed in item 1 above prior to admission to the senior year may retake the course ONCE, and has to do so during the spring semester or summer term preceding the beginning of the fall semester of the senior year. Otherwise the student's admission to the senior year will be deferred until the fall semester of the next academic year.
4. Admission to Junior Year Standing:

Completion of an application during the fall semester of junior year is required for admission to junior year standing. Criteria for acceptance are that the applicant:

- a. Be a matriculated student with a minimum overall cumulative University grade point average of 2.5.
- b. On time submission of complete application for junior standing; no late or incomplete applications will be accepted; due date set each Fall semester in coordination with the University Calendar.
- c. Has completed all the prerequisites and required first year and sophomore year courses without any outstanding incompletes.
- d. Has successfully completed SOC 100, SW 200, & PSY 100 and at least two other social work major requirement courses that begin with SW (e.g., SW 210, 215, 220, 300) with a grade of "C+" or better.
- e. Will complete foundation courses concurrently with jr. practice and field courses.
- f. Has attained a minimum of a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 in the social work major requirements with no grade lower than a "C+".
- g. Has completed a personal interview with the Department Chair or designee.
- h. Has demonstrated continued evidence of communication skills, through the application process and in course work.
- i. Has demonstrated evidence of meeting behavioral expectations (see SW Dept. Student Handbook) and a commitment to the profession of social work.
- j. TRANSFER STUDENTS:
  1. Transfer students who are social work majors must enroll early enough in the spring semester prior to junior year to meet the requirements for junior standing generally, and to secure enrollment in those courses specified in section 4.d above specifically.
  2. Transfer students—grades from your previous colleges or universities that serve as equivalents for SW major requirement will be calculated when determining the GPA for Social Work major requirements.
  3. Transfer students are required to interview with the Department Chair to arrange for meeting the above criteria.
- k. NOTE: The junior standing class is limited to 36 social work majors. In the event that applications that meet minimum requirements exceed 36 majors, the 36 students with the top GPAs in Social Work Major Requirements will be given first preference, with University GPA serving as Social Work GPA tiebreaker.

5. Admission to Senior Year Standing:

Completion of an application during the spring semester of junior year is required for admission to senior year standing. Criteria for acceptance are that the applicant:

- a. Is a matriculated student with a minimum overall cumulative University grade point average of 2.5
  - b. On time submission of complete application for senior standing; no late or incomplete applications will be accepted; due date set each Spring semester in coordination with the University Calendar.
  - c. Has completed the required foundation and junior year practice and field-related courses, PS 102, ECO 100 or 207, and has no outstanding incompletes.
  - d. Has attained a minimum of a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 in the major requirements, with no grade lower than a "C+."
  - e. Has completed a personal interview with a Department Chair or designee.
  - f. Has demonstrated continued evidence of communication skills, of meeting the program's learning objectives and behavioral expectations, and shows a commitment to the social work profession (See SW Dept. Student Handbook).
6. Students must maintain all of the above standards to continue into spring semester senior year.
7. A student who does not receive a "C+" or better in a required major course in fall semester senior year will not be permitted to begin spring semester senior year.
8. No credit is given for life experience at any level of the program.
9. Students must have sufficient weekday hours free (9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.) to meet the requirements of each of the two field experiences:

SW 305 Social Work Field Practicum--104 hrs over 13 weeks (8 hrs per wk);

SW 320-321 Social Work Field Practicum and Seminar--208 hrs each semester (16 hrs per week)

The SW 305 and SW 320-321 field practica are on Tuesday and Thursdays.