

Bachelor of Social Work



Adult Studies Program Information Packet



UNION UNIVERSITY
School of Social Work

From the desk of the BSW Adult Study Director

We are excited that you are looking at the School of Social Work at Union University. Our Christian commitment allows us to offer an integration of faith and social work practice. Students, faculty, and staff work collaboratively in a positive and supportive learning environment. An ecological and justice perspective exposes learners to a holistic approach in working with vulnerable populations.

Throughout your time with us, you will have access to a supportive community of faculty, instructors, staff and fellow students who share your dedication to lifelong learning. Our faculty members bring a variety of professional experiences and expertise to the classroom setting and a challenging curriculum encourages students to engage with peers and professors.

Our program is designed with adult learners in mind—flexible, practical, and focused on real-world application. The School of Social Work meets the needs of adult learners by offering Online evening classes, one night a week to allow for employment and internships during the day.

This program will provide you with the knowledge and hands-on experience needed to pursue a rewarding career. Students learn best practices, professional competencies, and ethical decision-making skills that further enhance work with clients whether at a micro, mezzo, or macro level.

The faculty and staff in the School of Social Work would be honored to work with you on your goal of obtaining your Bachelor of Social Work degree.

Please let us know how we can be of further service.

*Karen E. Dotson, LCSW, MBA
Director of the BSW Adult Program
Associate Professor, School of Social Work*





About Union University

A private, Christian, four-year, coeducational, liberal arts-based university offering bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.

Founded in 1823, Union is the oldest institution affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Located in Jackson, Tennessee, Union is approximately 80 miles east of Memphis and 120 miles west of Nashville. Union also has extension campuses in Memphis and Hendersonville, Tennessee.

Our Mission: Union University provides Christ-centered education that promotes excellence and character development in service to Church and society.

About the School of Social Work

Social Work is about helping people-children, families, older adults, and whole communities.

The social work program prepares students for leadership as professional social workers in a diverse range of public and private settings, including child advocacy and welfare, children and youth counseling, marriage and family therapy, school social work, medical social work, church social work, missions, foster care and adoptions, criminal justice, geriatric social work, and mental health.

The program prepares students to empower people, particularly those who are vulnerable, to achieve a better "fit" with their world and to help the world to be more responsive to the needs of people. The program emphasizes the importance of a liberal arts foundation and of Christian and social work values that promote social and economic justice.

The mission of the Union University Bachelor of Social Work program is to prepare competent and effective professionals for leadership in advanced practice. In a context of Christian higher education, **the program fosters compassionate service, promotes social and economic justice, and equips students for excellence in social work practice.**



Accreditation

The Bachelor of Social Work program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Union University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

**Social workers are
the leading
providers of mental
health care.**

Social Work Frequently Asked Questions

What can I do with a degree in social work?

A degree in social work provides a foundation for a wide variety of careers. Social workers can find their place in a variety of settings including hospitals, schools, non-profit organizations, and churches. Those with a degree in social work can go on to be therapists, educators, and leaders in government and non-profit organizations. The social work degree opens doors to many career paths.

What can I expect from my social work classes?

Our social work classes are taught by faculty members with a wide variety of practice experience. The faculty set high expectations for students as they prepare them to go into the field of social work when they graduate. Students will engage in role-plays, simulations, and group projects that help them develop their social work skills.

Are their GPA requirements in the social work program?

In order to go into the field placement during their senior year, students must have a 2.5 social work GPA and a 2.5 cumulative GPA.

Do students have to apply for the BSW program?

Yes. Students will submit an application for the BSW program prior to starting their practice classes. This application gives students an opportunity to explain their interest in social work to the faculty. Applications are reviewed by the BSW Program Director for official acceptance into the BSW program.

Will I have an advisor from the School of Social Work?

Yes. Every student who has declared social work as their major will have a faculty advisor who will help them register for classes, discuss long-term goals, and ensure that they are prepared for graduation.

Will I have to complete an internship as part of the program?

Yes. Students complete a 424 hour field placement during the spring of their senior year in the social work program. More details can be found about the field placement on the Field FAQs page of this packet.

Social Work Certification & Masters Degree

Students can also pursue the **School Social Work license** in the State of Tennessee. In order to obtain this license, students must take the elective course, SW340: Social Work Services in Schools, complete their field placement within a setting with child and families (preferably in a school) and submit an application to the State of Tennessee upon graduation.

Students who successfully complete the BSW program with a GPA of 3.0 or higher are eligible for the Advanced Standing **Masters of Social Work (MSW)** program. The MSW program can be completed in as little as one year. Students who do not have a 3.0 GPA or that graduate with a degree other than Social Work can complete the Traditional MSW Program.

**BSWs can
earn an MSW
in 1 year.***

*Must have a BSW from a CSWE accredited school and at least a 3.0 GPA.

Admissions Requirements

BSW Adult Study Program

- Applicants must be at least 22 years old
- Applicants must have 57-60 hours of college credit from an accredited institution

If prospective students need more credit hours, Union offers an Associates of Human Services with concentration in Social Work that allows students to earn the necessary credits.

Application Requirements

- Complete the online application process. This can be found at www.uu.edu/adultbsw.

The application process includes:

- 2 Recommendations (all recommendations complete an online form):
 - *One recommendation must be from an employer.
- Rationale Statement (follow instructions outlined in application)
- Payment of \$25 application fee
- Submit your official transcripts from any university that you graduated from.

Send via postal mail to:

Union University School of Social Work
UU 1868
1050 Union University Drive
Jackson, TN 38305

Send via email to chall@uu.edu (Jackson)

Complete Interview with the BSW Adult Program Director after finishing the application process.



Alumni Perspective

“The Union slogan – Excellence Driven, Christ-Centered, People Focused, Future Directed, could not have proven to be truer. From the atmosphere on campus to the professors in the classroom, I found my experience at Union to be rich in each of those ideals. My professors cared about me as a person; they pointed me to Christ and encouraged me to walk in faith toward the future God had for me in the profession of social work.”

Debbi Bellinghause ('19)

Course Requirements

The BSW degree can be completed in as little as two years.

Students need a minimum of 9 hours in the fall and spring semesters and 6 hours in the summer semester in order to qualify for federal financial aid. Classes are taught one night a week (from 6-9:15 pm) online. A total of 72 hours is allowed to transfer from a community college.

For those who still need core classes, students will collaborate with their advisor to coordinate taking those courses at the same time as their other required BSW course work.

BSW ADULT STUDY COURSES SEQUENCE

A = asynchronous online class S = synchronous online class

1st Fall

SW 200: Intro to Social Work (A)***

SW 300: Human Behavior in the Social Environment I (A)

SW 310: Social & Economic Justice (S)

SW 330: Social Work Practice with Individuals & Families (S)

1st Spring

SW 301: Human Behavior in the Social Environment II (A)

SW 440: Social Work Practice with Groups (S)

SW 335: Social Welfare Policy (A)

SW 409: Field Seminar I (A/S)

Summer

SW 305: Psychopathology (A)

SW 421: Research & Statistics in Social Work (A)

2nd Fall

SW 420: Social Work Practice in Macro Settings (S)

SW 410: Field Seminar II (S)

SW 490: Field Practicum**

2nd Spring

SW 423: Senior Seminar (S)

SW 490: Field Practicum**

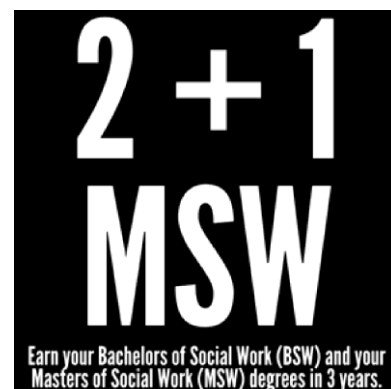
**Students doing a concurrent placement register for 3 hours in the Fall & 3 hours in the Spring. Students doing a block placement register for 6 hours in the Spring.

***SW 200 is usually taken before the first semester, but it can be taken during the first semester.

Looking Ahead:

What is the 2+1 option for students interested in the MSW Program?

Students who successfully complete the BSW program with a GPA of 3.0 or higher is eligible for the Advanced Standing MSW program. **The MSW program can be completed in as little as a year. So with it taking as little as 2 years to complete the BSW degree for Adult Studies students, the BSW & MSW can both be earned in as little as 3 years.** Graduates with less than a 3.0 GPA can apply for the Traditional MSW program.





Alumni Perspective

“The Union School of Social Work has blessed me with a deep understanding of the true meaning of empathy. They have taught me the importance of accepting people and meeting them where they are. Under their instruction, I am prepared with a treasure trove of knowledge and adeptness. They have ingrained in me that just like a client has skills to gain from a social worker, a social worker has wisdom to gain from their client.”

Ana Rosa Henderson ('22)

Financial Aid:

The School of Social Work does not offer scholarships for the BSW Adult Study Program. Students primarily fund the program through federal financial aid and student loans.

Union University Financial Aid Phone Number: (731) 661-6582

To find more information about financial aid, go to www.uu.edu/financialaid/adultstudies.

To apply for financial aid, follow these steps:

Step 1: Complete your Program of Study application for admission (Students must be officially accepted in their Program of Study before any aid can be processed).

Step 2: Complete the FAFSA. Here's where to find more information on the FAFSA and Union:

<https://www.uu.edu/fafsa/>

Step 3: Submit Required Documents.

Step 4: If you will be receiving aid from outside sources, you must complete the Documentation of Outside Assistance

Step 5: Receive your Award Letter.

Step 6: Explore additional sources of grants and loans. Some employers offer tuition assistance as well.

Step 7: Manage your awards.

Field Placement Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Field Placement?

A Field Placement is an opportunity for students to take the knowledge and skills they have gained in the classroom and put it into practice. Field is a required course in the BSW Program.

When do Adult BSW students complete the field placement?

For students in the BSW Adult Study program, the field experience is completed during the students' final year in the program. Students can start the placement in early September and complete the placement during late April. Students are in their placement for 16 hours per week.

What types of field placement agencies has the School of Social Work established partnerships with?

We have over 100 field placement partnerships that cover a wide range of social work services. Some examples of our partnerships include many non-profit organizations, counseling offices, Jackson-Madison Co. General Hospital, the Jackson-Madison Co. School System, the Department of Children's Services, the City of Jackson Mayor's Office, and the United Way of West Tennessee.

Do students have to set up their field placement?

No. Students will meet with the BSW Field Director before starting their field placement to determine where the student will complete their internship. The Field Director will determine which agencies might be a good fit for the student and contact those agencies directly. The goal is to find an internship that suits the student's long-term goals while also stretching them outside of their comfort zone to learn new skills.

Are there field placement agencies that provide stipends to students?

It is uncommon for stipends to be provided to students by agencies, as the primary focus is educationally-based. Some agencies will provide stipends. This can be discussed with the BSW Field Director when reviewing placement options.



Contact Us

BSW Program office hours are from 8:00-4:30 (CST) Monday-Friday.



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School of Social Work Faculty and Staff

Check out our website at www.uu.edu/adultbsw. | Facebook: Union University School of Social Work | Instagram: @uusocialwork



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