BSW Program

The BSW degree is offered at both the Hattiesburg and Gulf Coast campuses. Students gain a basic knowledge of the social work profession, social welfare systems, human behavior, policy, research and the values and skills necessary for beginning social work practice. Students enter the program at the pre-social work level, and after successfully completing two years of general education requirements, including 9 hours of core social work courses, they apply to the BSW program. A minimum of 124 hours are required for graduation.

The Pre-Social Work Program

If a student expresses interest in the BSW program at Southern Miss, it is important that they follow the advisement degree plan (see plan on our website). Students will enter the University as Pre-Social Work majors until prerequisites have been completed and they have been admitted to the BSW program (see the undergraduate bulletin).

Requirements for the BSW Program

In order to become a BSW (undergraduate social work) major, students must meet the following requirements:

1. Earn a cumulative USM GPA of at least 2.5 or above
2. Have only 6-9 hours of prerequisite courses remaining from the USM and Social Work Core (see the Advisement Degree Plan used during advisement for a list of all required courses)
3. Complete the three Pre-Social Work courses: (a) SWK 301 which requires a 40 hour volunteer field placement at a social service agency that is arranged with the help of their instructor, (b) SWK 300 and (c) SWK 315
4. Complete the Human Growth and Development/Developmental Psychology course (PSY 275) and the Human Sexuality Requirement (DPH 430)
5. Earn a grade of “C” or better in each course that counts toward the BSW degree
6. Complete MAT 100 or higher

Applying to the BSW Program

Once prerequisites have been met, a student can apply to the BSW Program. The process consists of an online application that includes a personal statement, letters of recommendation from a non-relative and the social worker who supervises the 40hr. volunteer experience as part of the SWK 301 course. Finally, the student is scheduled for an interview with the BSW Admissions Committee. The applicant will be required to respond to a case vignette where they must assume the perspective of a social worker and assess the situation.

Applications for the fall semester in Hattiesburg are submitted during the preceding spring semester. Applications for the spring semester are submitted during the preceding fall semester. Applications for the Gulf Park BSW program are submitted during the spring and summer semesters and a new cohort of BSWs are only launched in the fall of each academic year. After a student is accepted into the BSW program, they will progress through the curriculum with a cohort. The curriculum is relatively rigid and predefined.

Making it Personal

We want to meet and get to know you. Feel free to contact Delories Williams, BSW Program Coordinator at 601-266-5915 or delories.williams@usm.edu to get more information, ask questions, or schedule a visit to one of our campuses.

We can also arrange for you to meet with current students.