

Department of Social Work

The ways we are based in the liberal arts and prepare students for leadership and service:

Social work majors must complete the college's general education and graduation skills requirements, and to be admitted to the MSW program, graduate students must have a BA or BS degree and must have completed course work in the social sciences, humanities, biology, and statistics. The liberal arts perspective provides an understanding of one's cultural heritage in the context of other cultures and the methods, strengths and limitations of various systems of inquiry. It encompasses the knowledge, attitudes, ways of thinking and various means of communication that are characteristic of a broadly educated person. Students learn to think critically about society, about people and their problems, and about expressions of culture such as art, literature, science, history and philosophy. Students gain knowledge about social, psychological and biological determinants of human behavior and of diverse cultures, social conditions and social problems.

Social work majors' practicum meets the requirements of the *Augsburg Experience*. The required social work course SWK 490 The Social Worker as Professional meets the requirements for the general education *Keystone* course, and SWK 257 Exploring Human Services has been approved as an *Engaging Minneapolis* course and its service-learning assignment can be one way of meeting the requirements of the *Augsburg Experience*. The sequence of SOC 265 Gender, Race, and Ethnicity and SWK 280 Diversity and Inequality in Professional Practice provides a means of infusing learning about human diversity, and the social work semester in Mexico (see below) or other opportunities through the college's Center for Global Education provide opportunities for social work majors to expand their global awareness. College faculty have established benchmark learning outcomes for personal, relational, cultural, and contextual competencies in cognitive, affective, and behavioral domains that the general education program and each major, including social work, plan to meet. (See the working draft of Diversity and Global Awareness Outcomes. Social work faculty member Professor Nancy Rodenborg served on the committee that established these outcome goals.) In addition, the Social Work Department offers all five skill areas in upper division courses as follows:

2 required writing skills: SWK 316 Social Work Practice II: with Families, and SWK 490 The Social Worker as a Professional.

1 required quantitative reasoning skill: SWK 403 Research: Practice and Program Evaluation.

1 required critical thinking skill: SWK 301 History and Analysis of Social Policy.

1 required speaking skill: SWK 306 Social Work Practice I: With Individuals.

The MSW program builds on the liberal arts foundation of the College and integrates a liberal arts perspective in all aspects of the curriculum. Students are required to have a liberal arts base when entering the program, and they continue to blend this emphasis with their professional and practical education. The Augsburg College MSW Program provides advanced-level social work education in order to prepare students to face the social challenges of our times in a thoughtful and ethical manner.

The ways we are Lutheran (read, "grounded in faith and values"):

Students, staff, faculty, alumni, Regents, etc., all share a "passion for justice" -- I love the quotation from Darrell Joduck: "When asked once what I would most desire for every graduate of a college related to the Lutheran Church....., my answer was 'a passion for justice.'"

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The ways we are in and of the city:

No walls, students in practicum and service learning placements, neighborhood resource people meeting on campus, trying to build a sustainable campus environment.

The ways we are diverse are:

We infuse diversity throughout both BSW and MSW curriculums. The social work department benefits from the work being done by the *Diversity and Global Awareness Collaboration*, and as work progresses in this committee, the department is poised to take continued advantage of opportunities for horizontal integration across the liberal arts curriculum. See also the Social Work Department's Focus on Diversity statement adopted in 1993 and included in official documents and student manuals ever since.