

Departmental Honors proposal  
Bachelors of Science in Social Work  
November 17, 2005

Purpose

The purpose of an honors award in the BSW program is to acknowledge superior student achievement as both a generalist social worker and scholar.

Eligibility

Students may apply to graduate with Departmental Honors with a cumulative GPA of 3.3 overall and a cumulative GPA of 3.6<sup>1</sup> in all social work classes at the 300 levels and above. The student will have completed all practice classes at Augsburg College. A successful application will include a copy of the student's academic resumé, honors project proposal, and the official support of a project mentor. The project mentor must be a tenured or tenure track Augsburg professor.

Proposal criteria

The project requires the student to apply and evaluate knowledge, values and skills gained from the BSW program.

1. The student has referenced course content and literature related to the project from social work and other professions, clearly distinguishing a social work perspective.
2. The student will demonstrate the potential benefit to a population at risk such as enhanced well being or social justice.
3. The results will have important implications for social work practice, policy and future research.
4. The student reflects both an understanding of the project's strengths and limitations and insight into the student's potential learning through the project.

Partial list of honors project

The honors project may be one of several tasks. The student may consider

- conducting original research independently or in collaboration with a social work professor,
- conducting a professional quality evaluation of practice or program at a field agency,
- designing a program level intervention,
- presenting a colloquium to social work majors,
- planning and directing a service project independent of your field practicum responsibilities.

Each honors project must include a type written report, demonstrating how the student has applied and evaluated relevant social work knowledge and skills. The report must be formatted in American Psychological Association style, and must include a bibliography that gives evidence of independent and scholarly work. Exceptions to a written report will be considered by the BSW director on an individual basis.

Pass/No pass

Students wishing to earn departmental honors in Social Work can take up to 2 courses as P/N (in addition to the integrative field seminars, which are graded P/N) and must complete a minimum of 14 traditionally graded Augsburg courses.

Where to begin?

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<sup>1</sup> Latin Honors begin at 3.6

Begin your application process with an initial interview with your faculty advisor. In consultation with your advisor, you can explore your topic and consider potential project mentors. The second reader can be selected in consultation with your project mentor. A completed application must include a note from the project mentor indicating that he/she is supporting the project. The completed application will be presented to the BSW program director for final review.

#### Application due dates and timeline

A complete application, signed by the project mentor, will be presented to the BSW program director no later than September 30. The student and mentor will determine if the honors project requires an IRB approval. Once the project has been cleared through institutional review, the student may proceed with the project. A final draft of the report must be presented to the project mentor and second reader at least two weeks prior to the final due date of the project. The final draft due date can be no later than February 15 of the student's senior year. The student, the project mentor, the second reader and the BSW program director will meet on or before March 15 to evaluate the student's efforts.

#### Evaluation

The student applying for Honors will be required to maintain a 3.6 GPA in the 300 and 400 level social work curriculum. They will also be required to successfully complete their senior field practicum. A progress report to the BSW program director is due by February 1. The project mentor and a second reader will evaluate the project. Both the mentor and second reader must certify that this honors project "achieves highest standard of excellence" (the College's determination of 4.0 work). The final evaluation must be completed by March 15. The project outcome can be either a pass with honors or no pass. The BSW program director will be present to verify a successful review process.