University of Illinois Transfer Handbook
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
School of Social Work

Social Work: http://www.socialwork.illinois.edu/

The purpose of undergraduate social work education at the School of Social Work is to provide a comprehensive educational experience for students that is grounded in a liberal arts tradition and prepares graduates for excellence in the areas of social work practice, policy, social engagement and leadership. Graduates will be prepared for entry into three potential tracks upon degree completion, including (but not limited to): generalist social work practice, advanced standing in graduate social work education and career opportunities and graduate education in the areas such as communications, corrections, education, government, health care, human resources, law, non-profit organizations, religious studies and public service. The focus of undergraduate curriculum delivery is through a student-centered, strengths-based educational model that fosters student understanding by providing a challenging, yet supportive environment of high expectations that encourages the development of well-informed and engaged citizens.

Transfer Information
The Bachelor of Social Work program is not large in the number of students admitted and the program is highly structured. If there is intent to substitute transfer coursework, please consult the following website: https://www.transferology.com, for transfer course information and also with the School of Social Work contact listed below to determine if the substitute coursework might be acceptable. If equivalent courses or course substitutions are not available, intended transfer students may need to extend the time to degree completion to satisfy the BSW degree requirements.

Transfer students are accepted for both fall and spring transfer at any level, regardless of academic status. Admission to the School of Social Work requires a minimum GPA of 2.5 (A = 4.0), evidence of a sufficient number of hours of volunteer or paid work experience in a social service agency, nominally 50 hours, (refer to the footnote for more information) prior to beginning of the program, evidence of strong communication and interpersonal skills, evidence of personal attributes that are suitable for the profession of social work and completion of the School of Social Work BSW Application*.

Please note: The School of Social Work will utilize a holistic review process which will assess the entire student, i.e., academic record, work and service experience, leadership ability, demonstrated analytical and critical thinking skills, grade point average and the quality of the personal and professional information offered in all of the included essays. An interview with the applicant may be requested. Ultimately, the criteria for transfer admission will be determined by the quality of the applicant pool.

*Applicants must complete a School of Social Work BSW Program Application that can be found at http://www.socialwork.illinois.edu/.

General Education Requirements
All SOCW students must fulfill the University of Illinois’ campus-wide General Education requirements prior to graduation. Courses which satisfy these categories are constantly being added to or deleted from this list of courses and the current list is maintained on the Internet and is located at the following link: https://courses.illinois.edu/gened/2016/fall.

Language Requirement: The School of Social Work requires completion through the third level of one language other than English, either in high school or college, to be graduated from the college. It is strongly recommended that transfer applicants complete this graduation requirement prior to the term of enrollment at the University of Illinois. Early completion of this graduation requirement will allow

CONTACT INFORMATION: Office of Academic Programs, University of Illinois, School of Social Work, 1010 W. Nevada, Urbana, IL, 61801; Phone: 217/244-5246; Fax: 217/244-5220; Email: undergradsocialwork@illinois.edu
time to complete other degree requirements, e.g., General Education coursework. Length of time to 
graduation may increase if the Language Requirement for graduation is not completed prior to enrollment. 
Spanish is strongly recommended; approved ASL (American Sign Language) coursework is also acceptable.

1 Information about volunteer opportunities can be found at the Office of Volunteer Programs website: 
www.union.illinois.edu/ovp.

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