

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, community 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, business, 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 welcomes transfer students from many majors and areas of interest. The program is highly structured in the junior and senior years, and provides course sequencing to support academic success in the profession.

For transfer course information, prospective transfer students should consult the Transferology website (<https://www.transferology.com>), as well as communicate directly with the Undergraduate Affairs Coordinator at the School of Social Work to determine if the substitute coursework is 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 at the University of Illinois.

Transfer students are accepted **for both fall and spring semesters**. Admission to the School of Social Work requires the following:

- A **minimum GPA of 2.50 (A = 4.00)**,
- Evidence of at least 50 hours of volunteer or paid work experience in a social service agency¹, **prior to beginning the program** (please refer to the footnote for additional information),
- 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*.

All prospective transfer applicants **must complete a **School of Social Work BSW Program Application**. This can be found online at: <http://socialwork.illinois.edu/academics/bachelor-of-social-work/admissions-information/>.*

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¹ Information about volunteer opportunities can be found by working with the Community Learning Lab at the School of Social Work (<http://socialwork.illinois.edu/ctl/>) and/or with the Office of Volunteer Programs (<http://www.union.illinois.edu/ovp>).

CONTACT INFORMATION: Office of Academic Programs, University of Illinois, School of Social Work, 1010 W. Nevada St., Urbana, IL, 61801; Phone: (217) 244-5246; Fax: (217) 244-5220; Email: socialwork@illinois.edu

Please note: The School of Social Work utilizes a holistic review process which assesses the entire student, i.e., academic record, work and service experience, leadership experience and ability, demonstrated analytical and critical thinking skills, grade point average, and the quality of the personal and professional information offered in all the included essays (for both the University and School of Social Work applications). Ultimately, the criteria for transfer admission to the School of Social Work will be determined by the quality of the application and applicant pool at the time of submission.

General Education Requirements

All School of Social Work students must fulfill the University of Illinois' campus-wide General Education requirements prior to graduation. Courses that 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>.

Note on the 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 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.

James Scholar Requirements

Students interested and eligible in the James Scholar Program must have at least a 3.5 GPA at their current institution. Students will be able to attend a James Scholar meeting at the beginning of the semester. This information will be distributed via email from the Academic Advisor at the School of Social Work.