

NSU BSW Frequently Asked Questions

Thanks for your interest in our program! You will find the NSU BSW social work faculty to be experienced, dedicated, and knowledgeable. We are all very passionate and energized about social work! We are also very approachable and are interested in your success. We want to graduate competent, ethical, professional social workers who will serve their clients well and make a contribution to the profession, and to the world! We are a CSWE accredited program, which has many advantages, including eligibility for Advanced Standing in a MSW program. Below are the questions we get asked most frequently. If your question is not covered here, make sure to contact us at socialwork@nsula.edu. If you are an online-only student, please contact Dr. MaryAnne Candley at candleym@nsula.edu.

Is the social work program at NSU an accredited program?

Yes. We are nationally accredited which means that graduates from our program can apply to any CSWE accredited MSW program. With a high enough GPA, our graduates may apply for Advanced Standing with a MSW program. Unfortunately, Massachusetts residents are not eligible to enroll in our program. Our BSW degree will also be accepted by all state licensing boards that license or credential social workers at the baccalaureate level.

Do I ever have to come to campus to earn my degree?

We offer face-to-face and online, or a combination of both, options for degree completion. Although Natchitoches is quite lovely, especially during the month of May when commencements are held, no, you do not have to ever set foot on our campus to earn a degree with us. However, we would love to meet you, maybe in May or December, for our commencement ceremonies. Although all classes are offered in online formats, some assignments require face to face interaction in your own community. Possible examples include volunteer hours in an agency in SOWK 3120, observation of a group at work in your community in SOWK 3130, a cultural immersion experience in SOWK 3090, and a community project in SOWK 3140. In the required internship, which is at the very end of the program, you will select, with our guidance, an approved agency in your area, with which we will sign an agreement. The internship (SOWK 4190) consists of 432 clock hours, and is either taken all in one semester, or split into two. Your internship will need to take place during the social agency's normal operating hours.

What courses are required to obtain the BSW degree?

A curriculum sheet will inform you of the required courses for graduation. Catalog descriptions explain the content of each course. You may request both, and you may have already received them. Please pay close attention to page 2 of the Curriculum Sheet.

What is the semester format at NSU?

Semesters are 16 weeks long in the fall and spring semesters. There is an 8-week A term and an 8-week B term during both the fall and spring semesters, but upper-level social work courses are taught in the

16- week format. Some social work electives are taught in the A and B terms. There is no winter term semester offered at NSU. The summer term is an 8-week condensed semester. Additionally, each summer term has a first 4-week term (typically the month of June) and a second 4-week term (typically the month of July). Although you will find University Core courses offered in the summer, upper-level required social work courses are not typically offered in the summer. However, the three social work courses with 2000 level numbers are all offered every summer, along with social work electives. All summer courses are in online formats.

How am I admitted into the Social Work Professional Program?

Students admitted into NSU can declare Social Work as a major at any time. They must be admitted into the Professional Program before taking upper-level practice courses.

Students who are ready to begin the practice series starting with SOWK 3120, Generalist Practice I, must complete an application for admittance to the Professional Program. This application is typically submitted after students have completed all University Core courses or if they are within 12 hours of doing so (within one semester). The application is on our program's website.

How long does this degree take?

While this is one of the most common questions, it is probably the most difficult one to answer. The simple answer is "it depends". Variables that will determine matriculation include the number of transferrable credits a student has, the number of hours a student plans to take each semester, enrolling in summer school or A/B term courses & the field placement option the student chooses. As you can see, our degree is completely adaptable for you!

Will my credits transfer?

Many undergraduate credits will transfer. Send us a copy of all your unofficial transcripts and we can give you an idea of how your previous coursework might fit within our program. On the curriculum sheet, you will see where any courses that you have taken in other colleges (if you have attended elsewhere; same for high school AP and dual enrollment) fit into our program. Most college-level English and Math courses can come straight across. We can substitute physical sciences and biological sciences for ours. We require American History, where some students might have taken World Civilization, and that is one that does not substitute. We have several hours of "free" electives, where some courses that otherwise do not fit could be used.

Do tests need to be proctored?

Professors use a variety of means to maintain academic integrity. One method is proctoring. Sites such as ProctorU are approved and are scheduled at the student's cost. Students may also schedule proctoring at their local college or university testing centers or may schedule proctoring from an outside

source. All proctors must be approved prior to scheduling. Students local to one of our campuses may schedule proctoring there at no charge.

What kind of job can I get with a BSW?

There are many opportunities in lots of different fields. Social workers can be found in all the following fields of practice:

Aging	Mental Health & Illness
Income Maintenance	Communities & Neighborhoods
Alcohol & Substance Abuse	Occupational & Industrial Work
Medical and Health Care	Corrections & Criminal Justice
Child Welfare	Schools
Schools	Military
Physical & Mental Disabilities	Gerontology
Social Policy	Healthcare
Family Services	Environment
Youth Services	

Do you offer an accredited MSW program?

We have started the process to establish an MSW program. We cannot predict the outcome at this time.

Can I get a BSW with a criminal history?

We do ask one question about criminal history in the professional program application. The reasoning is two-fold. Many of our internship agencies require criminal background checks and we need to be prepared for this when making field placement decisions. The second reason is that students come from varying states that have licensure requirements and a criminal background check is required. This may not prevent you from becoming licensed or from being accepted for field placement. However, it does give you a chance to counsel with your advisor about possible barriers. At this time, our program does not require a criminal background check.