

**NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA  
SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT**

**December 2021 PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT:**

The mission of the Northwestern State University BSW Program is, within the scope of the University's mission and liberal arts foundation, to graduate competent and ethical generalist social work professionals prepared to meet the needs of diverse populations at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels, locally to globally. Our teaching, advising, and student engagement focus on a responsive student-centered approach, both on campus and online, that encourages and develops life-long learners and critical thinkers. Students and faculty engage in service and leadership that enhances human well-being, embraces human diversity, promotes human rights, and advances social and economic justice. The program's foundational perspectives include person-in-environment, strengths, research-informed practice, scientific inquiry and the values and ethics of the social work profession.

**PROGRAM GOALS:**

1. To prepare students for lifelong learning as generalist social work practitioners at the BSW professional level, including preparation for state licensure and/or graduate studies.
2. To provide a foundational base of knowledge, values, skills, and perspectives that is transferable among settings, populations, client systems, and problem types.
3. To provide a responsive, student centered approach by modeling professionalism, values of the social work profession, and service to the community, with special attention to being an inclusive, trauma-informed program.
4. To support human service agencies by providing new social work practitioners and collaborating on services such as training/continuing education and research/evaluation.
5. To provide accessible and affordable social work education, in online and face to face formats, to students from diverse backgrounds and geographical locations.