Program Mission Statement

The mission of the University of North Florida (UNF) Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program is to prepare students with the generalist knowledge, values, and skills to provide effective social work services to diverse client systems (e.g., individuals, families, organizations, communities) in a variety of practice settings (e.g., schools, hospitals, not-for-profits, government agencies). Our curriculum is designed to enhance students' understanding of and sensitivity to economic and social inequalities and foster commitment to serving and advocating for the well-being of those who are vulnerable, marginalized, and oppressed. To this end, all students are required to complete 450 hours of field education in which they work in a local human service agency under the supervision of one of the program's community partners. This field education is critical to students' preparation for generalist social work practice and reflects the program's overall commitment to community-based learning and service. BSW faculty are actively engaged in service and scholarship to improve social work service delivery to the impoverished and marginalized individuals and groups with whom our students will work.

Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

Content/Discipline-Specific Knowledge/Skills

- Knows the history of social welfare and the role of social workers in the development and provision of social welfare services
- Attends to professional roles and boundaries
- Practices personal reflection and self-correction to assure continual professional development
- Recognizes the extent to which a culture’s structures and values may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create or enhance privilege and power
- Demonstrates sufficient self-awareness to eliminate the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse groups
- Understands the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination
- Advocates for and engages in practices that advance human rights and social and economic justice
- Uses practice experience to inform scientific inquiry
- Uses research evidence to inform practice
- Utilizes conceptual frameworks to guide the processes of assessment, intervention, and evaluation
- Analyzes, formulates, and advocates for policies that advance social well-being
- Collaborates with colleagues and clients for effective policy action
- Discovers, appraises, and attends to changing locales, populations, scientific and technological developments, and emerging societal trends to provide relevant services
- Provides leadership in promoting sustainable changes in service delivery and practice to improve the quality of social services
- Collects, organizes, and interprets client data
- Assesses client strengths and limitations
- Develops mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives
- Selects appropriate intervention strategies
- Initiates actions to achieve organizational goals
- Helps clients resolve problems and enhance their capacities
- Negotiates, mediates, and advocates for clients
- Facilitates transitions and endings
Communication Skills

- Critically analyzes, monitors, and evaluates interventions
- Demonstrates professional demeanor in behavior, appearance, and communication
- Demonstrates effective oral and written communication in working with individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities, and colleagues
- Uses empathy and other interpersonal skills to build rapport and engage clients in the service delivery system

Critical Thinking Skills

- Applies strategies of ethical reasoning to arrive at principled decisions, which are consistent with the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics
- Distinguishes, appraises, and integrates multiple sources of knowledge, including research-based knowledge, and practice wisdom

Assessment Approaches

In accordance with the accreditation requirements of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the BSW Program prepares students for generalist social work practice through the mastery of ten core competencies. Our assessment entails a three-pronged approach designed to collect data regarding the mastery of these competencies from the perspectives of the Agency Field Instructors, the students, and the BSW faculty. To this end, we utilize three assessment measures, including a Field Student Evaluation, a Student Self-Evaluation, and an objective exit exam.