FAQ about the University of North Florida BSW Program

Q: What is the difference between the BSW and the Social Welfare degree?
A: The Bachelor of Social Work Program is a limited-access program, to which a maximum of 40 students are accepted each fall. The program is designed to prepare students for generalist social work practice in accordance with the accreditation standards of the Council on Social Work Education. To this end, students are required to complete a full-time, two-year professional program of study. Like Social Work students, Social Welfare students have an opportunity to learn about social welfare policy, basic principles of social service provision, and the unique experiences and needs of diverse populations. The Social Welfare concentration and minor, however, are less structured and less focused on professional preparedness. Social Welfare students have greater choice and flexibility in selecting from a variety of courses that best suit their academic interests and career aspirations. Social Welfare students are not required to work in the field; whereas, Social Work students must complete 450 hours of field education. Social Welfare students may still complete a practicum, but would do so by working independently with a faculty sponsor rather than as part of a required course.

Q: Is your BSW accredited by CSWE?
A: Yes. Our program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

Q: How do I apply to the BSW Program?
A: If you are a UNF student, you will need to meet with your advisor or Katherine Kamback, the COAS Advising Liaison for Social Work, to submit a change of major request. Submitting this request will generate an electronic application for the Admissions Committee to review.

If you are a transfer student, you will need to select Social Work as your intended major when you submit your electronic application to UNF. Selecting Social Work will generate an electronic application for the Admissions Committee to review.

You can find additional information about the application process on our webpage at http://www.unf.edu/coas/sasw/Social_Work_Program.aspx. The application deadline for the 2018-2019 academic year is February 2nd. Your application must be complete and include all transcripts by this date.

Q: What are the admission requirements?
A: The admissions requirements are described in detail on our webpage at http://www.unf.edu/coas/sasw/Social_Work_Program.aspx. In short, students must have a minimum GPA of 2.5, have an AA or 60 credit hours, and 15 credit hours of pre-requisites. Students must also participate successfully in a panel interview with UNF faculty and perform adequately on a writing assessment administered in a computer lab.

Q: How do I know whether the classes I’ve taken satisfy the pre-requisites?
A: BSW students throughout Florida are required to complete introductory courses in Political Science, Biology, Economics, Psychology, and Sociology. The UNF courses that satisfy
these pre-requisites are listed on our webpage at http://www.unf.edu/coas/sasw/Social_Work_Program.aspx. It is also acceptable for students to complete equivalent courses with different course numbers and names at different institutions. The approved course pre-fixes in each discipline are as follows:

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<th>Biology:</th>
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Other courses, particularly those that are more advanced, may be approved as substitutions. It may be necessary for students to submit a syllabus for review by Dr. Spaulding-Givens, the BSW Program Director.

**Q:** Is it okay for me to apply to the program before completing all five of the pre-requisites?

**A:** Yes, it is okay, because we only accept applications in the spring. It is okay for you to be currently enrolled in one or two pre-requisites when you apply to the program. It also may be possible for you to complete any outstanding pre-requisites during the summer semester prior to enrollment in the BSW program. However, we recommend that you complete as many pre-requisites as possible before applying to strengthen your application.

**Q:** What are the interview and writing assessment like?

**A:** Interviews with six or seven students are conducted by two department faculty members and/or community partners. The interviewers will ask the group of students a series of questions about their interest in and suitability to the study and practice of social work. Each student will be rated individually by each interviewer using a standard rubric. The two interview scores will be averaged to determine the student’s final interview score.

The writing assessment is administered in a computer lab. Students will have one hour to write a minimum of two paragraphs on an assigned topic. Each student’s essay will be rated using a standard rubric by two faculty members. The two writing assessment scores will be averaged to determine the student’s final writing assessment score.

**Q:** I don’t live in the area. Is it possible for me to complete the interview and writing assessment from a distance?

**A:** Yes. If you do not live in the area and are unable to travel to campus for the interview and writing assessment, arrangements can be made to complete your interview by phone. Your writing assessment can be completed by email. You will have one hour to complete the assessment and return it by email. Please note that these accommodations can only be made in exceptional circumstances, such as when traveling for the interview or assessment would prevent students from being able to apply. If you know that you will need to make special arrangements, let the BSW Program Director know as soon as possible after you have applied.
Q: I have a disability. Can you make accommodations for me for the interview and/or writing assessment?
A: Of course. Please register with the UNF Disability Resource Center and provide any requested documentation. We will work with the DRC to provide any necessary accommodations.

Q: When can I start the BSW Program?
A: Students may only begin the BSW program during the fall semester. This is because we utilize a cohort model in which all students take courses at the same time and in the same sequence. We believe this model best prepares students with the knowledge and skills they need to be prepared for field education during their second year.

Q: Are there classes I can take that will count toward my BSW Program of Study, while I'm waiting to start the BSW Program in the fall?
A: You may take free electives, major electives, and diversity courses. We recommend meeting with your advisor to confirm that you are taking classes that will count toward the BSW Program and/or your back-up major, if you are not admitted to the program. Enrollment in required Social Work courses is limited to students who have been accepted to the BSW program.

Q: Do I have to do an internship to earn my BSW degree?
A: Yes. All BSW students are required to complete 450 hours of field education in an approved local social services agency. This typically entails 15 hours per week during the fall and spring semesters of a student’s senior year.

Q: Does UNF offer a Master of Social Work (MSW) Program?
A: Yes. We are now offering a MSW program. We just launched the program in fall 2017. Please check our webpage at http://www.unf.edu/coas/sasw/Master_of_Social_Work_Program.aspx regularly for updates.

Q: Does UNF offer graduate social work courses that I can take to satisfy Florida licensure requirements?
A: Yes. UNF does currently offer graduate level social work courses. However, we require students to apply to the Graduate School and obtain acceptance to our MSW program.

Q: I was in a Social Work program at another University. Can I transfer those courses to UNF’s BSW program?
A: The UNF BSW Program adheres to all University and College level policies regarding transfer of credits. Only two courses in the major (6 credit hours) may be transferred, unless the Department Chair grants an exception. Students must consult with the University’s professional advisors and the BSW Program Director to ensure that courses taken at other CSWE-accredited institutions are equivalent (this requires a review of the transcript and course syllabi). UNF’s BSW program will not accept Social Work courses from non-CSWE-Accredited programs. It is the policy of the UNF BSW program to deny transfer of practicum or internship credits.
Q: Can I complete the UNF BSW online or at night?
A: No. UNF BSW courses are primarily offered during the day in the face-to-face setting. Some electives are offered at night and online.

Q: Is it possible to complete the UNF BSW program as a part-time student?
A: Yes. Our part-time program of study takes three years to complete. Students should expect to attend classes on campus during the day. It is not possible to complete the part-time program online or at night.