



EXPERIENCE MAP

Social Work



**FUTURE FULL
OF PROMISE.**



University
of Windsor

SOCIAL WORK

SOCIAL WORK AND DISABILITY STUDIES

SOCIAL WORK AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

EXPERIENCE.UWINDSOR.CA

Skills and Knowledge of Social Work Graduates

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Social Work – By combining social work courses with courses in disability studies, psychology, sociology, women’s and gender studies, or such other disciplines as political science, and communication, media and film, our professional program will prepare you for registration in the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers and elsewhere.

Social Work and Disability Studies – This program combines education in both social work and disability studies to focus on social justice and the social model of disability.

Social Work and Women’s Studies – Unique in North America, the program addresses social justice in its broadest sense. Learn how race, social class, religion, and sexuality shape gender and society, and the specialized knowledge and skills needed to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

FUNCTIONAL KNOWLEDGE

- Understand human behaviour, communication, and interaction as shaped by social/cultural contexts
- Assess, evaluate, and understand individual, family and group behaviours to implement best assessment and interventive practices
- Appreciate contemporary social, community and ethical issues and related public policy
- Implement and understand social work interventions for individuals, families, and other groups
- Critically understand the histories, functions, and limitations of important social welfare organizations

Degree Title / Program	Minimum Average	Admission Requirements
SOCIAL WORK	70%	ENG. required. Social Work students re-apply for admission to Year 3.



- Courses of study specific to each program
- Activities and experiences that complement coursework (Outstanding Scholars, peer mentoring, VIP)
- Activities falling outside of the scope of set curriculum (Part-time job, clubs, volunteering, athletics)

Build your Skills and Experience

Your UWindsor experience is more than attending classes. It is a combination of academics, co-curricular activities, and extracurricular involvement. By making the most of all three elements of your university experience, you will maximize your opportunities to build your skills, broaden your personal network, and clarify your long term academic and career goals.

Career Planning Guide

Intentional career planning will help you prepare for your next step after graduation. It is a fluid, dynamic, and continuous process, meaning you can move on or return to an earlier stage at any time. You can even work through simultaneous cycles, like one for your long-term dream job and another for a summer job.



Explore Opportunities Using This Guide

Explore a selection of opportunities recommended for students in your program. This chart shows some of your many options – you don’t have to do everything on it or limit yourself to it. Engage in opportunities from each of the three categories to set yourself up for success:

- **Academics**
 - Your coursework
- **Experience**
 - Ways to get involved
- **Career**
 - Plan ahead for what’s next

HIP

High-Impact Practice (HIP)

A HIP is an enriching educational experience that can be life-changing and often includes learning outside of the classroom while encouraging meaningful interaction and collaboration, such as:

- Co-op, internship or field experiences
- Research with faculty
- Culminating senior experience
- Capstone courses
- Service-learning
- Learning communities
- Study abroad

	First Year	Middle Years	Final Year
Academics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take required courses including Meeting Human Needs Through Social Welfare and Meeting Human Needs Through Social Work• Review degree course requirements and process for applying to professional years of the program• Enrol in a variety of social science courses to determine your core interests regarding social work• Consider combining degree with Disability Studies or Women’s Studies• Meet with an academic advisor for support, academic counselling, or degree outlook• Receive peer mentorship from members of the Social Work Student Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take required courses and check in with academic advisor to make sure you are on the right path• Apply for professional years of Social Work during second year of study• Seek out internships and courses that offer field experience HIP• Continue taking courses required as pre-requisites for graduate/professional school• Declare a minor and/or specialization• Practice your social work skills in the skills lab HIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet with an academic advisor to go over degree requirements• Complete all required courses for your degree• Apply to graduate through MyUWindsor Portal• Work with a faculty member on a research project or publication HIP• Focus your studying on specializations such as mental health, gerontology, poverty reduction and child welfare• Take required field placement courses to culminate your senior experience HIP
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Volunteer with a local non-profit or social justice organization• Apply for a co-curricular experience such as VIP HIP• Investigate research opportunities as part of the Outstanding Scholars program HIP• Apply for student exchange opportunity HIP• Join a student association such as the Social Work Student Association, Disability Studies Student Association, or Women’s and Gender Studies Student Association• Participate in the Bystander Initiative workshop to gain skills that will help you be an effective and supportive ally to prevent sexual assault on campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Join a professional association such as the Ontario Association of Social Workers• Participate in the UWill Discover undergraduate research conference HIP• Become a research assistant to help advance the field of social work HIP• Expand your skills by taking on a summer, part-time or volunteer position• Look for a leadership role in a club or society	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend a UWindsor Social Work Town Hall Meeting to discuss topics and concerns in the field of social work• Conduct field research with a faculty member HIP• Become a tutor for Students Offering Support (SOS) HIP• Complete field placements at the micro (individual), meso (organization), and macro (policy/research) level HIP• Meet field professionals through guest speaker series and field placements HIP• Volunteer with the Peer Support Centre
Career	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a list of things that you enjoy, areas in which you excel, and your skills• Meet with a career advisor in Career Development and Experiential Learning (CDEL) for help developing a plan for your future years• Consider a career assessment workshop or appointment to help you identify possible career paths• Get involved with a part-time job, volunteer opportunity, campus group, or research assistantship• Attend CDEL workshops to learn how to find a summer or part-time job and write a resumé and cover letter• Drop in to meet with one of CDEL’s peer advisors to get answers to your career and job search questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research career fields and occupations with the help of a CDEL career advisor• Explore opportunities and meet employers through job fairs and employer networking events• Explore further educational opportunities by attending the Graduate and Professional Schools Fair and researching admission requirements for programs you are interested in• Attend CDEL’s Using Social Media to Leverage Your Career workshop• Create a LinkedIn profile and have it critiqued• Take part in informational interviews and use sources like LinkedIn and Ten Thousand Coffees to meet people in your targeted profession• Search job postings to learn what skills, knowledge, and credentials you will need for potential careers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you are considering applying to graduate or professional school, be aware of early application deadlines• Meet with CDEL to prepare application documents like a resumé, cover letter, CV, or personal statement for jobs and education programs you are applying to• Attend an Interview Skills Workshop and Job Search Tips Workshop• Use InterviewStream to practice your interview skills online• Set up an in-person mock interview with a career advisor for professional school or job applications• Meet employers at the annual job fair in January• Compose a portfolio of relevant academic and work experience

Social Work

Life After Graduation

95.7%

Employment rate of graduates
2 years following degree
completion *(OUGS Social Sciences, 2014)*

83

Number of Social
Work Graduates (2017)



COMMON INDUSTRIES FOR SOCIAL WORK GRADUATES

- **Academia:** Advanced social research
- **Business:** Research and analysis, human resources
- **Education:** Advising, counselling, corporate training
- **Government:** Research and policy development
- **Healthcare:** Administration, counselling
- **Law and law enforcement**
- **Immigration and community integration**
- **Social research agencies**
- **Social service and community agencies**

CAREER TRACKS*

Addictions counsellor
Bereavement specialist
Business advisor
Case worker
Child and youth worker
Child welfare worker
Community developer

Community support worker
Consultant
Counsellor
Development officer
Family service worker
Health and safety manager
Health educator

Human resources manager
Human rights officer
Intake supervisor
Journalist
Law enforcement officer
Lawyer
Legal consultant

Operations director
Policy analyst
Project manager
Public relations
Research co-ordinator
Settlement worker
Social worker

* Additional education and/or training required for some of the above careers.

CAREER-READINESS COMPETENCIES



Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

Using strategic and creative thinking to make decisions and evaluate solutions



Teamwork and Collaboration

Working as a productive member of a group and collaborating with others to achieve set goals



Professionalism and Work Ethic

Demonstrating personal management practices and a high level of integrity and ethical behaviour



Communication

Appropriate and effective articulation of ideas and information to a range of audiences



Campus Resources

- Research scholarships and bursaries through the **Student Awards and Financial Aid Office**
- Visit **Leddy Library** and the **Writing Support Desk** for help with academic assignments
- Explore mentorship opportunities through the **Connecting4Success (C4S)** and **Bounce Back** programs
- Improve study skills through the **Skills to Enhance Personal Success (STEPS)** program
- Get advice and support about your academic status by making an appointment with **Academic Advising**
- Seek out assistance with academic accommodation from **Student Accessibility Services**
- Discover ways to get involved on campus through the **Student Success and Leadership Centre**
- Look into the **Ignite: Work Study** program for on-campus employment opportunities
- Apply to **VIP** to get involved in a community service learning experience
- Get assistance developing your career plan and job search skills from **Career Development and Experiential Learning**
- Consult with the **EPICentre** if you are interested in starting your own business
- Broaden your cultural awareness through the **International Student Centre** and **Student Exchange Office**
- Find support for Indigenous learners and broaden your understanding of Indigenous culture by visiting **Turtle Island**
- Tend to your health and wellness with support from **Student Health Services** and **Lancer Recreation**
- Receive confidential mental health counselling delivered by trained professionals at the **Student Counselling Centre**
- Seek personal support or learn more about sexual violence education through the **Sexual Misconduct Response and Prevention Office**

Student Recruitment

Phone: 519-973-7014
Toll-Free: 1-800-864-2860
Email: info@uwindsor.ca

School of Social Work

Phone: 519-253-3000, Ext. 3064
Email: socwork@uwindsor.ca

Career Development and Experiential Learning

Phone: 519-253-3000, Ext. 3895
Email: careerservices@uwindsor.ca
experience.uwindsor.ca



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