

SOCIAL WORK



“Why do you have to be in poverty before you can receive help?”

– Mike Robinson,
BSW student, '16

Social workers help people to help themselves. Continuously accredited by the Council on Social Work Education since 1981, the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work degree at Millersville University is the premier social work program in Central Pennsylvania. Students develop a generalist professional skill set that will distinguish them from others and prepare them for practice in a variety of areas.

DEGREES/CONCENTRATIONS

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK

A degree in social work educates students to be competent, effective social work professionals who embrace core social work values, enhance human and community well-being, and promote social and economic justice through generalist social work practice. Students are afforded a learning environment that prepares them to work in an increasingly diverse society and to meet contemporary social, cultural, economic, political and global challenges. It is an accredited program that will render graduates eligible to apply for state licensure and apply for advanced standing in accredited Master's of Social Work graduate programs. Students participate in a minimum of three field experiences prior to graduation, with over 500 hours of field experience.

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES OPTIONS IN SOCIAL WORK

Gerontology – The program's objectives include increasing knowledge, examining values and improving skills to help prepare students for a career of working with aging people. The program also is designed to improve the understanding and competence of students already working within this specialized area.

The undergraduate social work program at Millersville University participates in a variety of interdisciplinary activities. Offering several Diversity, Perspectives and G3 (Social Science) courses, both majors and nonmajors have vast opportunities to learn, experience and collaborate across disciplines. Several social work courses are components of multi- or interdisciplinary degrees/minors, including Women and Gender Studies, African-American Studies, International Studies, and Applied Disability Studies.

ABOUT SOCIAL WORK

Social workers enhance and restore social functioning of individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities and society as a whole. Through direct service, counseling, education, advocacy, policy work, leadership and more, we transform lives by challenging injustice and changing the world.

The National Association of social workers (NASW) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS 2014) report that Social Work is among one of the fastest-growing professions and has experienced an approximately 22 percent increase in employment between 2006 and 2014. This is much greater than most other professions. That growth is expected to continue.





CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

The **Social Work Organization** is an active organization on campus and within the community. Its mission is to connect the educational community to the broader community with needed service. Students have coordinated food and clothing drives, cooked meals for individuals residing in local shelters, hosted a cookie-decorating event for area children and organized collection of items needed for domestic and international communities following a natural disaster.

In collaboration with the School of Social Work, the Social Work Organization coordinates the annual Legislative Advocacy Day, where students participate in lobbying at the state capitol.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to student organizations, the School of Social Work offers international field placements or internships in Cape Town, South Africa; London, England; or Dublin, Ireland, as well as a broad array of internships in social service agencies across south central Pennsylvania.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Civic engagement, scholarship, field practice, service learning and volunteerism locally, nationally and globally
- Continuing education through ongoing training opportunities offered by the Learning Institute: Global Well-Being and Social Change
- Legislative Advocacy Day—lobby at state capitol
- Departmental honors thesis and faculty/student research
- 3 + 1 program—students can complete their degree in 3 years and, if they meet the criteria, obtain their MSW in 1 year post graduation

FACILITIES

The social work classes and faculty offices are in Stayer Hall. The classroom environment lends itself to a variety of teaching formats and styles, including lecture, practice simulations and audiovisual presentations.

FACULTY

Faculty in the School of Social Work have an array of diverse professional and practice experiences and are recognized leaders in the field. Accessible, approachable and knowledgeable, our faculty are well-rounded scholars, educators, practitioners, leaders, humanitarians and researchers.

ABOUT OUR GRADUATES

Students graduating with a degree in social work will possess knowledge, skills and values necessary to promote social justice and change in any social work practice area, including:

- Children and families
- Mental health
- Aging
- Homelessness
- Individuals with disabilities
- Poverty
- Policy advocacy
- Community organizing
- School social work
- Substance abuse
- Youth at risk
- Immigration/refugee
- International
- Disaster relief
- Domestic/intimate partner violence

