

## University at Albany

# SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WELFARE

### Dean

Katharine Briar-Lawson, Ph.D.  
University of California, Berkeley

### Associate Deans

Anne E. Fortune, Ph.D.  
University of Chicago  
Janet D. Perloff, Ph.D.  
University of Chicago

### Director, Undergraduate Program

Barry Loneck, Ph.D.  
Case Western Reserve University

### Assistant Director, Undergraduate Program

Barbara Rio, M.S.W.  
Columbia University

### Distinguished Service Professor

Shirley J. Jones, D.S.W. (Collins Fellow)  
Columbia University  
Susan R. Sherman, Ph.D. (Collins Fellow)  
University of California, Berkeley

### Distinguished Teaching Professor

Jan L. Hagen, Ph.D.  
University of Minnesota

### Professors Emeritae/i

Julie S. Abramson, Ph.D.  
Bryn Mawr College  
Neil J. Cervera, Ph.D.  
New York University  
Donald L. Cohen, M.S.W.  
Columbia University  
Maureen Didier, Ph.D.  
Smith College  
Burton Gummer, Ph.D.  
Bryn Mawr College  
Steven Pflanczer, Ph.D.  
Loyola University  
Aaron Rosenblatt, D.S.W.  
Columbia University  
Edmund Sherman, Ph.D.  
Bryn Mawr College  
Max Siporin, D.S.W.  
University of Pittsburgh  
Sheldon S. Tobin, Ph.D.  
University of Chicago

### Professors

Katharine Briar-Lawson, Ph.D.  
University of California, Berkeley  
Bonnie E. Carlson, Ph.D.  
University of Michigan  
Anne E. Fortune, Ph.D.  
University of Chicago  
Hal Lawson, Ph.D.  
University of Michigan  
Janet D. Perloff, Ph.D.  
University of Chicago  
Theodore J. Stein, D.S.W.  
University of California, Berkeley  
Ronald W. Toseland, Ph.D.  
University of Wisconsin  
Lynn Videka, Ph.D.,  
(Collins Fellow)  
University of Chicago

### Associate Professors

Barry M. Loneck, Ph.D.  
Case Western Reserve University  
Phillip McCallion, Ph.D.  
University at Albany  
William D. Roth, Ph.D.  
University of California, Berkeley  
Carolyn Smith, Ph.D.  
University at Albany

### Assistant Professors

Sandra Austin, Ed.D.  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Nancy Claiborne, Ph.D.  
University of Houston  
Zvi Gellis, Ph.D.  
University of Toronto  
Eric Hardiman, Ph.D.  
University of California, Berkeley  
Lani Jones, Ph.D.  
Boston College  
Robert Miller, Ph.D.  
Columbia University  
Blanca Ramos, Ph.D.  
University at Albany  
Brenda Smith, Ph.D.  
University of Chicago  
Starr Wood, Ph.D.  
Smith College

### Lecturers

Mary L. McCarthy, M.S.W.  
University at Albany  
**Public Service Professors**  
Laura Bronstein, Ph.D.  
Barry University  
Matthew Janicki, Ph.D.  
University at Buffalo, SUNY  
Ed Kramer, M.A.  
New York University  
William Reynolds, D.D.S.  
University of Michigan  
Daniel Tobin, M.D.  
Albany Medical College  
Evelyn Williams, M.S.W.  
State University of New York at Stony Brook

### Affiliated Faculty

Deborah Doolittle, M.A.  
John Hopkins University  
Linda Mertz, M.S.W.  
Boston College  
David Pettie, M.S.W.  
University at Albany  
Barbara Rio, M.S.W.  
Hunter College  
Victoria Rizzo, Ph.D.  
University at Albany  
Crystal Rogers, M.S.W.  
University at Albany  
Bonita W. Sanchez, M.S.W.  
University at Albany  
Tamara Smith, B.A.  
University at Albany

### Adjuncts (estimated): 2

### Teaching Assistants (estimated): 1

The objective of the undergraduate social work major (B.S.) is to prepare students for beginning social work. The program serves the liberal education needs for students interested in the social sciences and human services professions. Part-time study is possible. The B.S. in social work qualifies graduates for advanced standing in some M.S.W. programs.

The Master in Social Welfare (M.S.W.) prepares students for advanced social work practice. These positions generally require advanced theoretical, practice, research, management and/or policy analysis skills.

The School of Social Welfare offers programs leading to a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in social welfare, a Master of Social Welfare (M.S.W.) degree, and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree. The School of Social Welfare also sponsors the Institute of Gerontology, Social Work Education Consortium, The Center for Human Services Research, The Community and Public Service Program, and the Technology Education Consultation for Human Services (TECH Center).

Both the B.S. and M.S.W. degree programs are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, the national accrediting body for all schools of social work.

## Degree Requirements for the Major in Social Welfare

General Program B.S.: A combined major and minor sequence consisting of a minimum of 62 credits as follows:

Of the 62 credits: (a) 15–16 credits represent the elementary base; (b) 15 credits represent the advanced base; (c) the remaining 32 credits constitute the core requirements for a major in social welfare.

In addition, it is recommended that prospective social welfare majors elect R Ssw 290 (Community Service) in their sophomore year.

### ELEMENTARY BASE:

Human Biology (one course from):

General Biology: A Bio 110F

General Biological Sciences: N A Bio 102N

The Human Organism: A Bio 209N

The City & Human Health: A Ant 119N

Demographic Anthropology: A Ant

Physical Growth & Development: A Ant 319

Human Population Biology: A Ant

Human Population Genetics: A Ant

Medical Anthropology: A Ant 450

Introduction to Psychology: A Psy 101M

Introduction to Sociology: A Soc 115M

American Politics: R Pos 101M

American Social Welfare System: R Ssw 210

**ADVANCED BASE:**

Elementary Statistics: A Mat 108 (or A Psy 210, A Soc 221, B Msi 220, R Crj 281)

Social Psychology: A Psy 270 or A Soc 260

Abnormal Psychology: A Psy 338

Social Problems: A Soc 180M

**ELECTIVE AS ADVISED:**

Students select a course of personal interest that specifically addresses issues facing a gender, ethnic, racial or religious group that is different from the student's own background. (A Aas 219, 331, 333, 370, 400, 432, 435; A Ant 240M; A Eas 180; A Eco 130; A Eng 240; A Fre 208, 281; A Gog 125, 240; A His 300Z; A Jst 150, 155, 221, 254, 260, 270, 344Z, 351Z; A Lcs 201, 269; A Phi 214; A Rel 100L; A Soc 262M 375; U Uni 230; A Wss 101, 202, 210, 262M, 308). Students are also encouraged to review the Undergraduate Bulletin and discuss with their adviser other courses of personal interest that may satisfy this required elective.

**CORE REQUIREMENTS: (32 CREDITS):**

R Ssw 301, 305, 306, 322, 400, 405Z, 406, 408, 409, 410. **A grade of C (S) or higher in all core courses is required (see Termination Policies below).**

**Admission Requirements**

Students interested in the social welfare major must complete an application process. Admission to the program is competitive. Applications are accepted in the Spring semester of the student's sophomore year for entrance into the Fall semester of the junior year. Transfer students who will have completed 56 credits should apply during the Spring of the year for which they are seeking Fall admission.

It is strongly recommended that those wishing to enter the major complete as much of the required elementary base as possible prior to entrance into the program in the junior year. Admissions decisions are based on the following criteria:

Adequacy of the liberal arts base

Application essay

Progress toward completion of elementary base requirements or their equivalents

Grade point average

Personal/professional references

Social welfare/human service experience

The relative merit of any one criterion is considered in light of all others when admissions decisions are made. The overall quality of the application will provide the basis for admissions.

**Termination Policies**

Social welfare majors cannot repeat a core social welfare course more than once and cannot repeat more than a total of two courses within the major. The core courses are R Ssw 301, 305, 306, 322, 400, 405Z, 406, 408, 409 and 410.

A student who receives a grade of C- or lower in a core course will be given a warning by the Dean of the School of Social Welfare that a second such grade in that course will result in termination from the program.

If a student receives a grade of C- or lower in two different core courses, the student will receive a warning from the Dean of the School of Social Welfare that any additional grade lower than a C in a core course will result in termination from the major.

The letter will specify the policy that is the reason for the termination from the program. It will also outline the student's option to use the School grievance process (spelled out in the *Undergraduate Student Handbook*) to appeal their grade in a course. If they are successful in receiving a grade change to a C or better, they will be reinstated to the major.

Students also may petition for reinstatement in the major after a period of one semester; their petition will go to a Committee on Readmissions which makes a recommendation to the Dean who makes the final decision whether to reinstate the student.

**Field Instruction**

This course is an integral part of the total educational process. It offers a student the opportunity to develop, apply and integrate the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes for work in social welfare settings. During the senior year each student is provided field instruction by a qualified instructor in an agency designated by the school. Placements are selected by the school for the students on the basis of their educational needs and, wherever possible, their area of interest. The field placements represent a variety of settings under public and private auspices and are located throughout the Capital District. Students are responsible for the expenses involved in placement.

**TYPICAL PROGRAM  
OF CORE COURSES FOR  
JUNIOR AND SENIOR  
SOCIAL WELFARE  
MAJORS**

JUNIOR YEAR	
<i>FALL</i>	<i>SPRING</i>
<b>R Ssw 301</b>	<b>R Ssw 306</b>
<b>R Ssw 305</b>	<b>R Ssw 322</b>
(6 credits)	(6 credits)
SENIOR YEAR	
<i>FALL</i>	<i>SPRING</i>
<b>R Ssw 400</b>	<b>R Ssw 406</b>
<b>R Ssw 405Z</b>	<b>R Ssw 409</b>
<b>R Ssw 408</b>	<b>R Ssw 410</b>
(10 credits)	(10 credits)

The following undergraduate courses offered by the school are considered liberal arts and sciences courses for the purpose of requirements for the B.A. and B.S. degrees:

R Ssw 200, 210, 220, 301, 322, 408, 409, 450, 499.

All courses listed in this section are understood to be preceded by the school's letter R.

# University at Albany

## Courses

### R Ssw 200 The Functioning of American Social Systems (3)

Students are provided with an overview of the functions and relationships of various systems within contemporary American society. The configuration of values underlying system activities is examined, including methods of changing human systems. A social systems perspective is used as the theoretical framework for the course.

### R Ssw 210 Social Welfare in the United States (3)

Within the context of societal responsiveness to human needs, this course examines U.S. social welfare policies and programs as influenced by economic, political and social changes. Addresses current public and private social welfare efforts and underlying value issues. Examines the role of professional social work within social welfare. Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors only.

### R Ssw 220 Value Issues in Social Welfare (3)

The course considers implicit and explicit values of societal responses to human needs. From an examination of selected topics in social welfare, the course considers social, economic, ethical, religious, and/or personal values as they affect and are affected by social welfare. May not be offered in 2004-2005. [DP]

### R Ssw 290 Community and Public Service Program (3)

This course requires a minimum of 100 hours per semester (about 7 1/2 hours per week) of volunteer work in public or private agencies which provide service to the community. A supervised evaluation and seminars are required. Prerequisite(s): at least sophomore standing and permission of instructor. *S/U* graded.

### R Ssw 291 Human Service in the Community (2)

This course requires a minimum of 60 hours a quarter volunteer work in public or private agencies that provide service to the community. A supervised evaluation and seminars are required. Prerequisite(s): permission of instructor. *S/U* graded.

### R Ssw 301 Human Behavior and The Social Environment (3)

Knowledge of human behavior and the social environment as a basis for generalist practice with individuals, families, groups and communities. Includes theoretical and empirical knowledge about the range of normal bio-psycho-social development and the nature and impact of oppression and discrimination on individuals and families throughout the life course. Prerequisite(s): permission of instructor. For majors only.

### R Ssw 305 Social Work Practice I (3)

Introduction to social work practice. Overview of generalist social work practice; history, values and ethics of social work; role of social work; the helping process in a systems framework; self-awareness and professional use of self; introduction to basic communication skills and social work practice skills with diverse clients; effects of oppression and social injustice. For majors only.

### R Ssw 306 Social Work Practice II (3)

This course is a continuation of RSSW 305: Social Work Practice I. Students will be introduced to the generalist helping processes of engagement and assessment with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities; basic social work and professional skills in engagement and assessment with diverse clients; the effects of oppression and injustice in engaging and assessing populations at risk. Pre

requisite(s): Grades of C or higher in 301 and 305.

### R Ssw 322 Introductory Research Methods in Social Welfare (3)

Introduction to quantitative and qualitative research methods in social work, including content on: defining social work research problems, developing and testing hypotheses, the logic of causal inference, sampling, measurement (including reliability and validity), basic skills in data analysis and research utilization, the ethics of research, and research issues concerning human diversity and power. Emphasizes methods and content relevant to social work practice and the problems of social welfare. Prerequisite(s): permission of instructor. For majors only.

### R Ssw 390 Community and Public Service Program (3)

This course involves volunteer work in public or private agencies involving service to the community. A minimum of 100 hours per semester (about 7 1/2 hours per week) must be spent in the agency, together with seminars examining some aspects of voluntarism and roles of participating agencies. Prerequisite(s): RSSW 290 and permission of instructor. *S/U* graded.

### R Ssw 400 Field Instruction in Social Welfare I (4)

Internship in an approved social welfare agency and attendance at a weekly seminar to discuss professional and practice issues. Students are in field 16 hours per week supervised by approved field instructors. Course is graded Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory (S/U). Prerequisite(s): Grades of C or higher in R Ssw 301, 305, 306, 322; concurrent with 405Z.

### R Ssw 405Z Social Work Practice III (3)

Continuation of R Ssw 306. The generalist helping processes of contracting and basic intervention with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities; special social work and professional skills in contracting and intervention with diverse clients; application of theory and research to practice in contracting and basic interventions; effects of oppression and injustice in contracting and intervening with populations at risk. Includes development of written and *oral* communication skills: course meets general education upper level writing and oral discourse requirements. Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in RSSW 306. Concurrent with R Ssw 400. For majors only.

### R Ssw 406 Social Work Practice IV (3)

This course is a continuation of R Ssw 405. The focus of this course is the generalist helping process of advanced intervention, evaluation and termination with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities; specialized social work and professional skills in intervention, evaluation, and termination with diverse clients; application of theory and research to practice in advanced intervention, evaluation, and termination in concurrent field placement; effects of oppression and injustice in intervening, evaluating and terminating with populations at risk. Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in RSSW 405z. Concurrent with RSSW 410. For majors only. [OD]

### R Ssw 408 Organizational and Community Theory (3)

An introduction to social work practice at the organizational and community levels, with emphasis on oppressed populations. Includes the history of communities, organizations and macro-practice in social work; major approaches to organizational behavior and community dynamics; the nature of non-clinical social work; the organizational and community contexts for the provision of social services; and skills for working in organizations and communities.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of instructor, RSsw 210 and 301. For majors only.

### R Ssw 409 Introduction to Social Policy Analysis (3)

Within an historical context, current social welfare policies and programs will be examined in terms of their rationale, implementation, and effectiveness. The strengths, limitations and alternatives to governmental intervention in social welfare. Emphasis on concepts and frameworks for analyzing social welfare policies and programs, with special attention to their differential impact on at-risk and oppressed populations. Prerequisite(s): permission of instructor, R Ssw 408. For majors only.

### R Ssw 410 Field Instruction in Social Welfare II (4)

Continuation of RSSW 400. Internship in an approved social welfare agency. Hours per week are set to meet acceptable professional standards. Must be taken concurrently with R Ssw 406. Course is graded Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory (S/U). Pre-requisite(s): Grade of C or higher in 405z and 408, Grade of S in 400.

### R Ssw 450 Independent Study in Social Welfare (1-3)

Independent reading or research on a selected experimental, theoretical or applied problem is planned under the direction of a faculty member. Prerequisite(s): written permission of instructor and chair of undergraduate program. May be repeated with different content.

### R Ssw 499 Special Areas of Social Welfare (3)

Consideration of a topic or issue in the field of social work knowledge or practice is selected on the basis of faculty and student interest. May be repeated when topic differs. Prerequisite(s): permission of instructor.