School of Social Work

The main objective of the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree is to provide graduates with a generic practice framework so that they are prepared to deliver services to various client constituencies at a level of competence suitable for beginning practice. The School of Social Work at St. Thomas places major emphasis on understanding the structural roots of social problems in Canadian society. The cause of much of the suffering and inequality in society is seen to be rooted in our social and economic order, and not in the individual, the family, or the subculture. All interventions are seen within the context of this understanding and, although much of social work practice is concerned with the immediate needs of individuals, the resolution of social problems is seen as necessarily involving interventions in our major social institutions.

A. Admission To Bachelor of Social Work – Post-Degree

Prerequisites

1. A bachelor's degree with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, or a minimum GPA of 3.0 on the most recent 60 credit hours*. Normally students currently in 4th year of a bachelor's degree program who will have completed 120 credit hours or more by the end of April of the year of application, are eligible to apply and may be given provisional acceptance pending completion of degree requirements by May 15 of the year of application. Students who will complete their degree requirements beyond May 15th may be considered on an individual basis.

   **An applicant with a bachelor' s degree who does not meet the grade point average requirement may be considered for admission two years after graduation if the applicant has earned a grade point average of at least 3.0 based on university course work completed after graduation (a minimum of 15 credit hours). Normally, these courses will be chosen from the Social Sciences and Humanities, and will be taken at the second-year level or higher, and must be completed prior to application. Applicants must meet all other requirements.*

2. A minimum of 60 credit hours in liberal arts.

Note: Applicants who do not satisfy these minimum academic requirements are not considered further in the selection process.

3. An empirical research methods course, acceptable to the School of Social Work. Applicants are advised to check the "Research Course Requirement" published on the St. Thomas University Website. Applicants without an appropriate research methods course may be accepted to the School of Social Work on the condition that they successfully complete an approved course before beginning the program and no later than August 1.
4. A critical awareness of the interaction among the individual and the social, political, and economic aspects of society and a demonstrated recognition that for structural social workers the main focus for change is the structure of society rather than the individual.
5. Evidence of familiarity with, and commitment to, the profession of social work, as well

as the capacity to learn from experience.

Practicum Conditions

The BSW program includes two field placements for a minimum total of 700 field hours. The first practicum will begin at the end of March until the end of June in a block format five days a week. During the practicum, students will normally be expected to meet for three field integration workshops. It may be possible for students to complete their practica in communities other than Fredericton. Efforts will be made to accommodate students' needs and personal circumstances.

Application Deadline

January 31 of each year. All application materials and supporting documents must be received by the Admissions Office on or before the deadline.

Educational Equity Admissions Policy

The School of Social Work has adopted an Educational Equity Admissions Policy for those applicants who have been disadvantaged and/or marginalized by some form of oppression. The policy recognizes that some students may have experienced structural barriers due to identification with a specific group, or because of labels imposed upon them by society.

Students wishing to be considered under the Educational Equity Admission Policy must indicate their request on the application form and by identifying which form of oppression has impacted their life through marginalisation or barriers that have limited their access to social institutions.

Admission Criteria

Criteria	Weight
CGPA on program or on most recent 60 credit hours (minimum 3.0)	30%
Personal statement	20%
Social problem analysis	10%
Interview	20%
Experience (work, volunteer, life and learning from experience)	20%
	100%

Application Procedures

Application kits become available in October each year and can be obtained from the Admissions Office. The deadline for applications is January 31. Applications are submitted to the Admissions Office. A completed application includes:

1. a completed general application form for admission to St. Thomas;
2. the supplementary Post-Degree BSW application form;
3. a personal statement (guidelines are in the application kit);
4. a personal résumé;
5. three references (from diverse sources such as academic, professional, personal). It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the completed reference forms are received by the Admissions Office;
6. official transcripts of marks from all post-secondary institutions attended. If currently enrolled in university courses, official transcripts of final grades for the first semester, together with a list of second-semester courses, if applicable, by the January 31 dead-

line. In all cases, final transcripts or official confirmation that graduation requirements have been satisfied, by May 15;

7. Students wishing to be considered under the Educational Equity Admission Policy must indicate their request in the designated section of the application form.
8. the $35 application fee.

All eligible applicants will participate in a group interview conducted by representatives of the School of Social Work. These interviews will be conducted either in person on campus, or via telephone conference calls. In these interviews, which are scheduled in March, participants will be evaluated on self-awareness, ability to relate to others, problem-solving ability, and social/political awareness.

In conjunction with the interview process, applicants will complete a brief test involving an analysis of a social problem. This test will be written in Fredericton at the time of the group interview. Applicants participating in a telephone interview will be asked to arrange to have the test written and monitored at a local educational institution. Applicants will be presented with a current or enduring social problem and will be asked why it is seen to be a social problem, what the causes of the problem might be, what the impact or consequences of the problem are on people and on society, and how they think the problem might be resolved or reduced.

B. Bachelor of Social Work Requirements

The post-degree BSW is designed for university graduates whose undergraduate programs include a substantial liberal arts component, and who are familiar with, and committed to, a career in social work. Limited in enrolment, the post-degree BSW is an intensive, 60-credit hour, 15-month program. It builds on your previous undergraduate education and leads to the professional BSW credential.

The post-degree BSW is limited in enrolment to 45 students. Admission is highly competitive and possession of minimum requirements does not guarantee admission. Candidates are assessed on the basis of academic preparation and professional suitability.

Post-Degree BSW Degree Requirements

The Post-Degree program is designed to provide students with 60 credit hours (ch) in social work courses over a period of four semesters (15 months). The following is a description of the program design and courses to be taken in each semester. Prior to acceptance, applicants will have completed an empirical research methods course which provides familiarity with a broad range of qualitative and quantitative research methods as well as research ethics. This course will be reviewed by the admission committee.

Semester I - Fall (September to December)

SCWK 5013	Group Work Theory and Design (Module I & II)	(3.0 ch)
SCWK 5023	Profession of Social Work in Context	(3.0 ch)
SCWK 5036	Theory for Social Work Practice I	(6.0 ch)
SCWK 5116	Generalist Social Work Practice Skills	(6.0 ch)
SCWK 5213	Fundamentals of Community Organizing	(3.0 ch)

Semester II - Winter (January to March)

SCWK 5006	Preparation for Professional Social Work Practice (cont.)	(6.0 ch)
SCWK 5046	Theory for Social Work Practice II	(6.0 ch)