

# School of Social Work

The School of Social Work is committed to a politicized social work practice grounded in a structural approach. This fosters greater awareness of the broad and intersecting injustices caused by oppressive structures while preparing students to be effective and ethical practitioners.

Our goal is that graduates are able to integrate vision, knowledge, and skills for practice that may lead to social transformation toward a more equitable and just society. While seeking to develop and teach a politicized social work practice, we strive to remain open to new ideas, analyses, and realities that challenge and inform our ongoing efforts.

The School of Social Work, which offers the only English master and bachelor of social work degrees in New Brunswick, began as a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Social Science in 1976, followed by the addition of a Certificate of Social Work, and a Bachelor of Social Work in 1980.

In 1983, the Union of New Brunswick Indians and New Brunswick Indian Committee requested development of a social work program for Indigenous students. This began with a Certificate in Social Work and has evolved to the Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqey Bachelor of Social Work program which provides accredited professional social work education to Indigenous students in a flexible and culturally relevant framework.

The Master of Social Work Program, which focuses on advanced structural direct practice, was launched in 2021. It provides students with advanced theory and practice skills in professional leadership, social work supervision, and direct practice skills development.

## A. Bachelor of Social Work Program

The Bachelor of Social Work four-year degree provides graduates with the theoretical knowledge and skills they need to work with individuals, families and communities. A balance of general liberal arts education in the first two years, followed by a professional social work education in the final two years, through both courses and practical field placements, provides the knowledge and skills for a generalist social work practice.

Students apply to the program after their second year of a Bachelor of Arts having earned 60 credit hours. The courses in the liberal arts are significantly strengthened in the subsequent two years by a series of core courses essential to a social work practice; critical social work theory, anti-oppressive social work practice, group work, mental health issues, addiction, child welfare, trauma, and family law. The field practicums supplement these courses, with one focusing on social action at the community/organization level, and a second in a clinical setting with local social agencies, supported by experienced field instructors. In addition, a research methods course helps students keep pace with the changing landscape of social work scholarship and prepares them for professional practice.

### **Practicums**

The Bachelor of Social Work includes a minimum of 700 hours of field practice, as required by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education Standards for Accreditation. The first practicum commences during the Winter Semester of the third year (250 hours). The second

practicum occurs during the Winter Semester of the fourth year (450 hours) in a block format, four days a week.

## Admission To Bachelor of Social Work (Four-Year BSW)

### Prerequisites

1. A minimum of 60 credit hours in liberal arts with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, or a minimum GPA of 3.0 on the most recent 30 credit hours.
1. A minimum grade of "B" in SCWK 2013 Introduction to Social Welfare and a minimum grade of "B" in SCWK 2023 Introduction to Social Work\*.

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

2. 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.
3. Evidence of familiarity with, and commitment to, the profession of social work, as well as the capacity to learn from experience.

*\*Students without the mandatory social work courses will be required to participate in an interview process weighted at 30% (replacing the weight given to the grades of two mandatory courses).*

### Practicum Conditions

The BSW Program includes a minimum of 700 hours of field practice, as required by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education Standards for Accreditation. The first practicum commences during the Winter Semester of the 3rd year (250 hours). The second practicum occurs during the Winter Semester of 4th year (450 hours) in a block format, five days a week.

### Application Deadline

April 30 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 recognizes that some applicants may experience structural barriers to education opportunities due to identification with a specific group, including stereotypical assumptions and structural disadvantages that privilege some groups over others. St. Thomas University and the School of Social Work are committed to the principles and practices supporting educational equity. The School affirms the principle that individuals from all marginalized groups should have the opportunity to learn and contribute to a more inclusive profession of social work that better reflects the diversity of Canadian society.

For the purpose of this policy, persons eligible to apply using the Equity Policy include:

- Canadian Indigenous Peoples including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit.
- Visible minority persons other than Canadian Indigenous Peoples, who because of their colour are a visible minority in Canada.

- Immigrants who are Permanent Residents and who do not record Canadian Citizenship by birth.
- Refugees that have been accepted for residence in Canada, and that left their country of origin because of persecution for belonging in a particular social, cultural, religious and/or national group or for holding particular political beliefs.
- Persons with disabilities who consider themselves as disadvantaged by reason of any physical, mental, intellectual, sensory or learning impairment.
- 2SLGBTQ+ persons that self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender/transsexual, two-spirited, queer or intersex.

Applicants must meet the minimum academic requirements and self-identify in the online application. Each applicant is considered individually on the basis of their qualifications, rather than in relation to other applicants.

### Admission Criteria

CGPA on program or most recent 30 credit hours (minimum 3.0)	15%
*SCWK 2013 Grade	15%
*SCWK 2023 Grade	15%
Personal Statement	15%
Experience (work, volunteer, life and learning from experience)	20%
Two references	20%

*\*Students without the prerequisite second year social work courses will be required to participate in an interview process weighted at 30% (replacing the weight given to the grades of two mandatory courses).*

### Application Procedures

The deadline for applications is April 30. The application, including supporting documents, must be received by the Admissions Office on or before the April 30 deadline. The required application and documents include the following:

1. a completed general application form for admission found at [stu.ca/ApplyNow](http://stu.ca/ApplyNow)
2. non-refundable application fee of \$55 (\$40 for applicants from New Brunswick)
3. personal statement in which you discuss your interest in becoming a social worker; experiences (personal, volunteer, professional, employment) that have influenced both your understanding of Social Work and your decision to apply; insights, knowledge, and skills that you have gained from these experiences and that have relevance to social work; and your professional/learning goals as well as any relevant vocational plans
4. a detailed résumé including volunteer and paid employment
5. two reference letters which assess your readiness for the Social Work profession; one academic and a second related to community experience, volunteer work, or paid employment.
6. official transcripts of marks from all post-secondary institutions you have attended. Please note, if you have a STU transcript, you will not need to submit it, as our Admissions Office has access to it.