DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

Christine Fulmer, B.S., M.S.W.
Social Work Lead Chair and Program Director
Associate Professor of Social Work

Cheryl Nitz, B.S., M.S.W.
Social Work Chair of Field Education
Associate Professor of Social Work

Joshua Turner, B.S., M.A.
Social Work Chair of Online Education
Assistant Professor of Social Work

Programs

- Social Work Major (B.S.)

Courses

SOWK 101 Introduction to Social Work 3 Credit Hour(s)
Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare is a course that gives an overview of the field of social work practice. Topics regarding the ecclesiastical beginnings of the profession, additional historical components, the integration of faith and practice, as well as social work values and ethics will be explored.
Offered: Resident and Online

SOWK 120 Social Work Field Exploration 2 Credit Hour(s)
Prerequisite: ENGL 102
Social Work Field Exploration is the study of social work practice and settings of practice. Topics in the course are centered on social work practice in places such as child welfare, schools, domestic violence shelters, hospice, hospitals, mental health clinics, assisted living facilities, and early intervention programs.
Offered: Resident

SOWK 135 Social Work Field Exploration and Observation 3 Credit Hour(s)
Online Prerequisite: ENGL 102
Social Work Field Exploration and Observation is the study of social work practice and settings of practice. Topics in the course are centered on social work practice in places such as child welfare, schools, domestic violence shelters, hospice, hospitals, mental health clinics, assisted living facilities, and early intervention programs. Participatory observation of a professional social worker for a full work week is also included in this course.
Offered: Online

SOWK 150 Intensive Social Work Observation 1 Credit Hour(s)
Intensive Social Work Observation is the study of social work practice within one particular setting of practice. The topic of this course centers on the participatory observation of a professional social worker for a full work week. Settings may include, but are not limited to places such as child welfare agencies, schools, domestic violence shelters, hospice facilities, hospitals, mental health clinics, assisted living facilities, and early intervention programs.
Offered: Resident and Online

SOWK 200 Introduction to Social Work and Human Services 3 Credit Hour(s)
An introduction to the field of Social Work and Human Services. Consideration will be given to such topics as the history and current development of social welfare programs, methods of influencing social change, professional values and ethics, the particular needs of at-risk populations, theories of human behavior, and family, group, community and organizational functioning.
Offered: Resident

SOWK 250 Health of the Social Worker 3 Credit Hour(s)
This course emphasizes the personal health and self-care of the social worker.
Offered: Resident and Online

SOWK 260 Chemical Dependency 3 Credit Hour(s)
Prerequisite: ENGL 102
Chemical Dependency is a course that presents an overview of the concepts associated with the use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs. Topics in the course are the various perspectives on treatment and prevention options; each topic is evaluated through a biblical worldview.
Offered: Resident and Online

SOWK 270 Ethics in Professional Helping 3 Credit Hour(s)
Prerequisite: (SOWK 101 or PSYC 101 or SOCI 200) and ENGL 102
Ethics in Professional Helping is the study of values and principles of ethical decision making. Topics in the course are ethical dilemmas, critical thinking, professional code of ethics, and common morality. Each topic is evaluated through a biblical worldview.
Offered: Resident and Online

SOWK 294 BSSW GATE 1 & Approval Process 0 Credit Hour(s)
Prerequisite: SOWK 101 and (PSYC 101 (may be taken concurrently) and (SOWK 294 (may be taken concurrently)) and (SOWK 250 (may be taken concurrently)) and (SOWK 260 (may be taken concurrently)) and (SOWK 270 (may be taken concurrently)) and ENGL 102 (may be taken concurrently)
The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) requires that all social work programs have a gatekeeping process to ensure that students have a thorough understanding of the profession of social work and will be a good fit for the program and profession. The BSSW program at Liberty University includes 4 gates. All students must apply for and be approved through all 4 gates to be eligible to graduate from the Social Work Program. This SOWK 294 course includes the application process for GATE 1 of the Social Work Program. This course is 0 credits and is Pass/Fail. Approval through GATE 1 indicates official acceptance into the Social Work Program to pursue
Offered: Resident and Online

SOWK 300 Human Behavior and the Social Environment 3 Credit Hour(s)
Prerequisite: SOWK 101 and ENGL 102
Human Behavior and the Social Environment is a course that utilizes life course perspective and additional theoretical perspectives as tools for understanding human behavior and its development across the life span. Particular focus is places on the inter-relatedness of the biological, psychological, social, and spiritual aspects with a 'person in the environment' framework.
Offered: Resident and Online
SOWK 325  Social Welfare and Policy  3 Credit Hour(s)
Prerequisite: SOWK 101 and ENGL 102
This course studies the historical and contemporary issues surrounding social welfare and policy in the U.S. Particular focus is placed on analyzing, formulating, and advocating for policies that advance social well-being.
Offered: Resident and Online

SOWK 350  Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families  3 Credit Hour(s)
Prerequisite: (SOWK 294 or Social Work Gate 1 with a score of 3) and SOWK 300 (may be taken concurrently)
Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families is the study of practice from a generalist social work point of view. Particular emphasis is placed on the practice behaviors associated with engagement, assessment, and intervention.
Offered: Resident and Online

SOWK 355  Social Work Practice with Groups  3 Credit Hour(s)
Prerequisite: SOWK 101
This course provides the student with the opportunity to develop an understanding of theories, methods and skills in relation to generalist practice with social work groups. This course also provides the forum for students to gain an understanding of cultural values of individuals and the impact of those values on the group process. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of being a culturally sensitive group leader.
Offered: Resident and Online

SOWK 365  BSSW GATE 2 & Junior Field Enrollment  0 Credit Hour(s)
Prerequisite: (PSYC 255 (may be taken concurrently) and (SOWK 294 or Social Work Gate 1 with a score of 3) and (GLST 220 (may be taken concurrently) and SOWK 300 (may be taken concurrently) and SOWK 355 (may be taken concurrently)) and (MATH 115 (may be taken concurrently) or MATH 116 (may be taken concurrently) or MATH 117 (may be taken concurrently) or MATH 121 (may be taken concurrently) or MATH 122 (may be taken concurrently) or MATH 125 (may be taken concurrently) or MATH 126 (may be taken concurrently) or MATH 128 (may be taken concurrently) or MATH 130 (may be taken concurrently) or MATH 131 (may be taken concurrently) or MATH 201 (may be taken concurrently) or MATH 217 (may be taken concurrently))
The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) requires that all social work programs have a gatekeeping process to ensure that students have a thorough understanding of the profession of social work and will be a good fit for the program and profession. The BSSW program at Liberty University includes 4 gates. All students must apply for and be approved through all 4 gates to be eligible to graduate from the Social Work Program. This SOWK 365 course includes the application process for GATE 2 and Field Enrollment Process of the Social Work Program. This course is 0 credits and is Pass/Fail. Approval through GATE 2 and completion of the Field Enrollment process indicates approval to begin Junior Field Placement (SOWK 370).
Offered: Resident and Online

SOWK 370  Junior Field Experience and Seminar  3-4 Credit Hour(s)
Resident Prerequisite: SOWK 101 and SOWK 120 and SOWK 150 and SOWK 270 and SOWK 355
Online Prerequisite: SOWK 101 and SOWK 135 and SOWK 270 and SOWK 355
Junior field experience provides students with the opportunity to perform in the role of a social work practitioner under the supervision of an experienced social worker. In one semester, students will have experienced a minimum of 100 field hours in a setting, which employs social workers. Students will meet for one hour weekly to discuss the theoretical and conceptual concepts learned in the classroom with the practical experiences in field placement.
Offered: Resident and Online

SOWK 375  Junior Field Seminar  1 Credit Hour(s)
Junior Field Seminar is taken in conjunction with Junior Field Experience. Students will meet for one hour weekly to discuss the theoretical and conceptual concepts learned in the classroom with the practical experiences in field placement.
Registration Restrictions: Provisional acceptance into the Social Work program
Offered: Resident and Online

SOWK 410  Social Work Macro Practice  3 Credit Hour(s)
Resident Prerequisite: (RSCH 201 or Inquiry Research with a score of 80 or Research with a score of 80 or Research (prior to 2017-2018) with a score of 80) and (SOWK 294 or Social Work Gate 1 with a score of 3) and SOWK 325 (may be taken concurrently)
Online Prerequisite: (SOWK 294 or Social Work Gate 1 with a score of 3) and SOWK 325 (may be taken concurrently)
This course provides a generalist social work perspective of social work with communities and organizations. Topics include engagement, assessment, intervention, and evaluation as well as advocacy in regards to social and economic justice.
Offered: Resident and Online

SOWK 425  International Social Work  3 Credit Hour(s)
Online Prerequisite: SOWK 101 and SOWK 270 and GLST 220
This course is designed to introduce students to the theoretical perspectives, values, and skills associated with contemporary international social work. Social, political, cultural, economic, organizational, religious, and technological advances that affect societal dynamics in various regions of the world will be explored.
Offered: Online

SOWK 431  Social Work in Mental Health  3 Credit Hour(s)
Online Prerequisite: SOWK 101 and SOWK 270
This course is designed to introduce students to the knowledge, values, and skills necessary for social work practice in mental health settings. Topics will include roles and functions of social workers, diagnoses, and assessment.
Offered: Online

SOWK 432  Geriatric Social Work  3 Credit Hour(s)
Online Prerequisite: SOWK 101 and SOWK 270
This course is designed to introduce students to the knowledge, values, and skills associated with working with an older population of clients. Topics will include the effects of aging on physical, mental, and emotional processes as well as socio-cultural, spiritual, and environmental considerations.
Offered: Online
SOWK 435  Social Work in the Military  3 Credit Hour(s)
**Online Prerequisite:** SOWK 101 and SOWK 270
This course is designed to introduce students to the knowledge, values, and skills associated with working with individuals, families, and communities impacted by military operations. Topics will include the effects of multiple deployments, experiencing traumatic events, and military culture.

**Offered:** Online

SOWK 439  International Social Work Field Experience  3 Credit Hour(s)
International Social Work Field Experience provides students with the opportunity to participate in international social work practice under the supervision of an experienced social worker.

**Registration Restrictions:** Instructor approval

**Offered:** Resident and Online

SOWK 450  Social Work Practice with Diverse Populations  3 Credit Hour(s)
**Prerequisite:** GLST 220 and (SOWK 294 or Social Work Gate 1 with a score of 3)
This course provides the student with the opportunity to develop an understanding of theories, knowledge, values, and skills in relation to generalist practice with diverse populations. This course also provides the forum for students to gain an understanding of cultural values of individuals and the impact of those values on human relationships. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of respecting and valuing diversity.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

SOWK 465  BSSW GATE 3 & Senior Field Enrollment  0 Credit Hour(s)
**Prerequisite:** (PSYC 354 (may be taken concurrently) and SOWK 325 (may be taken concurrently) and SOWK 350 (may be taken concurrently) and SOWK 370 (may be taken concurrently)) and (SOWK 294 or Social Work Gate 1 with a score of 3 and SOWK 365 or Social Work Gate 2 with a score of 3)
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**Offered:** Resident and Online

SOWK 470  Senior Field Experience and Seminar  9-11 Credit Hour(s)
**Prerequisite:** SOWK 370
Senior Field Experience provides students with the opportunity to perform in the role of a social work practitioner under the supervision of an experienced master’s level social worker. In one semester, students will have experienced a minimum of 400 field hours in a setting, which employs social workers. Students will meet for two hours weekly to discuss the theoretical and conceptual concepts learned in the classroom with the practical experiences in field placement.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

SOWK 475  Senior Field Seminar  6-9 Credit Hour(s)
**Online Prerequisite:** SOWK 370
Senior Field Seminar is taken in conjunction with Senior Field Experience. Students will meet for two hours weekly to discuss the theoretical and conceptual concepts learned in the classroom with the practical experiences in field placement.

**Offered:** Online

SOWK 477  Senior Field Experience and Seminar B  3-4 Credit Hour(s)
**Online Prerequisite:** SOWK 370
Senior Field Experience provides students with the opportunity to perform in the role of a social work practitioner under the supervision of an experienced master’s level social worker. In one semester, students will have experienced a minimum of 100 field hours in a setting, which employs social workers. Students will meet for one hour weekly to discuss the theoretical and conceptual concepts learned in the classroom with the practical experiences in field placement.

**Offered:** Online

SOWK 494  BSSW GATE 4 & Comprehensive Exam  0 Credit Hour(s)
**Prerequisite:** (SOWK 465 or Social Work Gate 3 with a score of 3 and SOWK 294 or Social Work Gate 1 with a score of 3 and SOWK 365 or Social Work Gate 2 with a score of 3) and (SOWK 475 (may be taken concurrently) and SOWK 477 (may be taken concurrently) or SOWK 470 (may be taken concurrently)) and (SOWK 410 (may be taken concurrently) and SOWK 450 (may be taken concurrently))
The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) requires that all social work programs have a gatekeeping process to ensure that students have a thorough understanding of the profession of social work and will be a good fit for the program and profession. The BSSW program at Liberty University includes 4 gates. All students must apply for and be approved through all 4 gates to be eligible to graduate from the Social Work Program. This SOWK 494 course includes the application process for GATE 4 of the Social Work Program. This course is 0 credits and is Pass/Fail. Approval through GATE 4 and successful completion of the comprehensive exam indicates readiness to graduate out of the Social Work Program with a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Social Work (BSSW).

**Offered:** Resident and Online

SOWK 495  Directed Social Work Research  3 Credit Hour(s)
An independent study agreed upon between the instructor and the student regarding an area of specific research.

**Offered:** Resident and Online

SOWK 497  Special Topics in Social Work  3 Credit Hour(s)
An in depth study of a specific aspect of social work practice.

**Registration Restrictions:** Instructor approval

**Offered:** Resident