# School of Social Work

**Mary Helen Hayden,** *Director*
**Jennifer Abeloff,** *Clinical Instructor and Associate Director*
**Richard Beaulaurier,** *Associate Professor and Ph.D. Program Coordinator*
**Shanna Burke,** *Assistant Professor*
**Shimon Cohen,** *Visiting Clinical Instructor and BSSW Coordinator of Field Education*
**Mario De La Rosa,** *Professor and Director, Center for Research on U.S. Latinos HIV/AIDS and Drug Abuse*
**Beatrice Farnsworth,** *Clinical Instructor and Assistant Supervisor of Social Work, Neighborhood HELP™*
**Nicole Fava,** *Assistant Professor*
**Andres Gil,** *Professor and Vice President for Research*
**Natalia Giordano,** *Visiting Clinical Instructor and Child Welfare Title IV-E Coordinator*
**Victoria Gray,** *Clinical Instructor*
**Hui Huang,** *Assistant Professor*
**Rosa Jones,** *Founding Professor and Vice President for Student Affairs Emeritus*
**Elise Linder,** *Clinical Instructor and M.S.W. Coordinator of Field Education*
**Mark Macgowan,** *Professor and Interim Associate Dean, Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work*
**Lourdes Martin,** *Clinical Instructor and Supervisor of Social Work, Neighborhood HELP™*
**Welker Mitchell,** *Clinical Instructor*
**Miriam Potocky,** *Professor*
**Paul Stuart,** *Professor*
**Barbara Thomlison,** *Professor*
**Ray Thomlison,** *Professor*
**Eric F. Wagner,** *Professor and Director, FIU-Banyan Research Institute on Dissemination, Grants and Evaluation*
**Stephen Wong,** *Associate Professor*

Social Work offers graduate and undergraduate studies leading to the Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Social Work. The School also offers a Ph.D. in Social Welfare.

This profession requires a high degree of knowledge, skill, and dedication; a desire and ability to work effectively with people and to help solve social problems; a scientific understanding of society and human behavior; skills of social work practice; and identification with values of the profession.

**Note:** The programs, policies, requirements, and regulations listed in this catalog are continually subject to review in order to serve the needs of the University's, College's and School's regulatory and accrediting agencies. Changes may be made without advance notice. The curricula described in this catalog are continually subject to review in order to respond to the mandates of the Florida Department of Education, Board of Governors, the Legislature, the Council on Education for Public Health and the Council on Social Work Education. The School makes every effort to minimize the impact of curriculum changes on currently enrolled students by stipulating that students complete the requirements of their degree program in effect at the time of admission or readmission to the program. In the event that this is not possible due to accreditation standards or the deletion of courses, students may be required to complete alternative degree requirements in order to graduate.

## Bachelor of Science in Social Work

### Degree Program Hours: 120

The program offers an integrated educational experience that combines the theoretical and the practical. It is designed to prepare the student for generalist practice as a beginning professional social worker, for entrance into a graduate school of social work, and for participation in society as an informed citizen. The curriculum applies a bio-psychosocial model within the context of a social systems framework to understand client systems, address problems and develop intervention. The program is grounded in the core competencies set forth by the Council on Social Work Education. Students are expected to meet all core competencies by the end of their studies. Students are also provided grounding in public health core knowledge.

The program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

The four semester program includes a sequence of academic courses as well as field education under qualified supervision in social service agencies in South Florida. Students are able to engage in practice behaviors that integrate their knowledge from the classroom into their practice in the field. As part of field education, social work students may also participate with students from the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine and the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences in the Green Family Foundation Neighborhood HELP™, an inter-professional team approach in Miami-Dade communities.

Field agencies require the disclosure of conviction records for misdemeanors and/or felonies, current screenings for drug use, and health screenings. Therefore, students are often required to submit state and federal background checks, drug screening tests, and health screenings prior to the initiation of the practicum. Findings in the background checks and/or drug screenings tests may affect a student's ability to participate in field internship and, thus, complete the social work program. Students are further advised that Florida and most other states may restrict or deny social work licensure for persons with a felony conviction and some misdemeanors convictions. **Students with a criminal background must consult with the BSSW Program Coordinator before continuing in the program.**

Due to the unique nature of evening and weekend placements, at the BSSW level, no evening or weekend placements are available. **The School of Social Work is under no obligation to provide such placements. In addition, students cannot complete their field placements at an agency at which they are employed.**

### Common Prerequisite Courses and Equivalencies

| FIU Course(s) | Equivalent Course(s) |
|---|---|
| POS 2041 | POSX041 or POSX042 or PUPX099 |
| BSC 2023 or PCB 2099 | BSCX005 or BSCX085 or BSCX010 or PCBX099 |
| ECO 2013 or ECO 2023 | ECOX000 or ECOX023 |
| DEP 2000 or PSY 2012 | PSYX012 or PSYX020 |
| SYG 2000 or SYG 2010 | SYGX000 or SYGX010 |

Courses which form part of the statewide articulation between the State University System and the Florida College System will fulfill the Lower Division Common Prerequisites.

For generic course substitutions/equivalencies for Common Program Prerequisites offered at community colleges, state colleges, or state universities, visit: **http://www.flvc.org**, See Common Prerequisite Manual.

### Common Prerequisites

| | |
|---|---|
| POS 2041 | American Government |
| BSC 2023 | Human Biology |
| | **or** |
| PCB 2099 | Foundations of Human Physiology |
| ECO 2013 | Macroprinciples |
| | **or** |
| ECO 2023 | Microprinciples |
| DEP 2000 | Human Growth and Development |
| | **or** |
| PSY 2012 | Introduction to Psychology |
| SYG 2000 | Introduction to Sociology – *GL* |
| | **or** |
| SYG 2010 | Social Problems – *GL* |

***Course required for the degree:***

| | |
|---|---|
| STA 1013 | Statistics for Social Services |

### Program Requirements

Prior to enrollment in the upper division in the social work program, students must have:

1. Completed 60 semester hours of course work or have completed the Associate in Arts degree or its equivalent;
2. Satisfied general University requirements for admission including the University's Core Curriculum requirements;
3. Met the University's lower division requirements;
4. Completed all of the pre-requisite courses or their equivalent with a grade of "C" or higher. These courses include: college-level courses in biology (including coverage of human biology) and statistics, 12 semester hours in the social and behavioral sciences which must include one course each in sociology, psychology, economics and American government.
5. Achieved a minimum grade point average of 2.75 or higher.

For additional information regarding the undergraduate social work program of study and degree program requirements, contact the School directly.

### Upper Division Program: (60 credits)

### Required Courses: (54 credits)

**Block I**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| SOW 3113 | The Social Environment and Human Behavior I | 3 |
| SOW 3232 | Social Welfare Policy and Services I | 3 |
| SOW 3203 | Introduction to Social Work | 3 |
| SOW 3403 | Social Work Research | 3 |
| PHC 3101 | Introduction to Public Health | 3 |

**Block II**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| SOW 3100 | The Social Environment and Human Behavior II | 3 |
| SOW 3233 | Social Welfare Policy and Services II – *GL* | 3 |
| SOW 3313 | Social Work Practice with Families and Individuals | 3 |
| SOW 3620 | Social Work and Human Diversity – *GL* | 3 |
| SOW 3350 | Interviewing Techniques Lab | 3 |

**Block III**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| SOW 4322 | Social Work Practice with Groups | 3 |
| SOW 4511L | Practicum I | 7 |
| SOW 4522 | Field Seminar I | 2 |
| Upper Division Elective | | 3 |

**Block IV**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| SOW 4332 | Social Work Practice with Communities and Organizations | 3 |
| SOW 4512L | Practicum II | 7 |
| SOW 4523 | Field Seminar II | 2 |
| Upper Division Elective | | 3 |

*For planning your program of study, please meet with your academic advisor. Additional information regarding admission requirements for the BSSW program as well as major maps can be found at* ***http://mymajor.fiu.edu/browse/470SOCWKBS****.*

*Remarks:* Students should be aware that courses in this program are sequenced. Students must check with their advisors for pre and corequisite courses. Prerequisite course requirements will be enforced. Students will be administratively dropped from courses when they lack the required prerequisite course or courses. A grade of 'C' or higher (a grade of 'C-' is not acceptable) in all courses required for the major is necessary for graduation. A passing grade in field courses is required for continuation in the program. Field courses cannot be repeated.

Students in the BSSW program who fail a required social work course (a 'C-' or lower) three (3) times may not take the course again and will automatically dismissed from the program.

### Transfer Credits

Criteria for considering upper-level transfer credit include: a review of the prior educational institution's catalog description and syllabi of courses put forth for evaluation, status of the prior institutions with CSWE, and date when the course was taken. Courses that were taken six (6) or more years from the time of admission will not be considered eligible for transfer credit.

A "C" grade is required for a course to be considered eligible for transfer credit; and up to 15 credit hours normally can be transferred toward the degree at the discretion of the BSSW Coordinator. More than 15 upper level transfer credits may be awarded by the BSSW Coordinator to those applicants who present a record of previous study in accredited programs acceptable for substitution.

## Minor in Social Welfare

A five-course minor in social welfare is available to baccalaureate degree-seeking students who are interested in careers in the human services field or who wish to study how common human needs are addressed within social welfare programs. The courses that comprise the minor will provide students with the opportunity to relate to the special concerns of our region, including poverty, crime and delinquency, child abuse and neglect, and family instability. The minor is available at Modesto A. Maidique Campus. A 2.75 GPA is required for admission into the

minor. Prerequisites may be required for some of the courses listed. Students must earn a "C" or higher in the five (5) courses in order to obtain the minor.

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|---|---|---|
| SOW 3113 | The Social Environment and Human Behavior I | 3 |
| SOW 3100 | The Social Environment and Human Behavior II | 3 |
| SOW 3232 | Social Welfare Policy and Services I | 3 |
| SOW 3233 | Social Welfare Policy and Services II – *GL* | 3 |
| SOW 3203 | Introduction to Social Work[1] | 3 |
| SOW 3801 | Self-Awareness and Self-Modification for Practice | 3 |
| SOW 4272 | Comparative Social Welfare Policy | 3 |
| SOW 4341 | Behavioral Approaches to Social Work Practice | 3 |
| SOW 4654 | Child Welfare: Policy and Practice | 3 |
| SOW 4658 | Interventions in Child Maltreatments | 3 |

[1]This course is required for the minor in social welfare. The remaining 12 semester hours are to be selected from the social work courses listed above.

## Certificate in Child Welfare Services

This certificate is intended to provide specialized training for students working in the arena of child protection and services. This certificate program is open to degree-seeking students only.

### Requirements: (24 Credits)

Admission into Social Work (BSSW) program.

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|---|---|---|
| SOW 4658 | Interventions in Child Maltreatments | 3 |
| SOW 4654 | Child Welfare: Policy and Practice | 3 |
| SOW 4511L | Field Practicum I (in a Child Welfare Setting) | 7 |
| SOW 4512L | Field Practicum II (in a Child Welfare Setting) | 7 |
| SOW 4522 | Field Seminar I | 2 |
| SOW 4523 | Field Seminar II | 2 |

For additional and updated information about degrees offered, entrance requirements, and services, please visit our website: **http://rscphsw.fiu.edu/Social_Work/index.html**.