

**MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

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January 21, 2008

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Dr. Douglas Estry, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education  
and Dean of Undergraduate Studies

**FROM:** Dr. Linda O. Stanford, Associate Provost for Academic Services

**RE:** Request to Require a Grade-Point of 2.0 in Selected Courses within the  
Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work

For Transmittal to the University Committee on Academic Policy (UCAP)

The request referenced above is being sent to you for action by the University Committee on Academic Policy (UCAP).

UCAP Response Requested:

Please ask the UCAP to consider the request referenced above at its meeting on February 7, 2008. Please mail the related materials referenced under the heading Attachments at the end of this memorandum to the members of the UCAP.

The academic program and course requests referenced above will be included on the agenda for the February 21, 2008 meeting of Subcommittee B, University Committee on Curriculum (UCC). Requests that are approved by Subcommittee B on February 21 will be before the Full Committee, UCC, for action on February 28, 2008. Requests that are approved by the Full Committee on February 28 will be included in the March 25, 2008, Report of the UCC to the Academic Council.

If you have any questions about this memorandum or the attached materials, please call me at 5-8420.

Thank you for your help.

Attachments:

1. Request for Changes in an Academic Program form dated September 27, 2007 for the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work and attachments.



**UNIVERSITY  
CURRICULUM  
and CATALOG**

Michigan State University  
176 Administration Building  
East Lansing, Michigan  
48824-1046

PH: 517/355-8420  
FAX: 517/353-1935

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## **UCAP: Programmatic Change Questions**

The following is a summary of the background required for the UCAP review of changes to an MSU undergraduate and graduate-professional program.

1. Please provide a brief description of the program under consideration, including a summary of the number of students in the program, and any relevant history, admissions policies, or accreditation issues.
2. Please provide a brief description of the proposed changes and the rationale for these modifications.
3. Please describe how the change will be implemented, including its effect on current and future students: in particular, how many students will be affected?
4. If the change will reduce the number of students in the program, or restrict access to the program in any way, please describe – in light of MSU's tradition as an open-access, land-grant institution – why this is necessary.

August 30, 2007

**Minimum Grade Requirement for BA in Social Work Core Courses**  
**Sub Committee B Questions**

1. *Please provide a brief description of the program under consideration, including a summary of the number of students in the program, and any relevant history, admissions policies, or accreditation issues.*

The BASW program is an integral part of the School of Social Work program offerings. It is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. The program has grown over the past several years from 35 to 75 students in each Junior and Senior class. Students submit applications in Feb. for admission to fall semester that include transcripts, personal statement, and letters of reference.

2. *Please provide a brief description of the proposed changes and the rationale for these modifications.*

**PROPOSED CHANGE:** A grade of 2.0 or higher must be achieved in each of these courses: SW 310 (3 credits), SW 320 (3 credits), SW 340 (3 credits), SW 420 (3 credits), SW 430 (4 credits), SW 440 (3 credits), and SW 441 (3 credits). Students with a grade of below 2.0 in any of these courses will be given the option of repeating the course, provided they have not exceeded the university repeat credit allowance. Students who do not attain a grade of 2.0 or higher in each of these courses will not be awarded the BASW degree. They may transfer to another major to attain a bachelor's degree.

**RATIONALE:** Social Work became a licensed profession in Michigan in 2005. Bachelor's level students can be licensed if they complete a Council on Social Work Education-accredited program in good standing. Licensure is designed to protect the public from incompetent practitioners. The content in the required 300/400 level courses in the BASW program are based on what the Social Work accrediting body, the Council on Social Work Education, deems the necessary curriculum for competent social work practice. Graduating in good standing requires students achieve an minimum passing grade (2.0) in every required class. This reflects their attainment of a level of competency in the course content. Each class in the program is a building block for the next. If students demonstrate below average work in any content area, they are not prepared to be licensed social workers. While the student can use a grade under a 2.0 for university credit, the student should not be able to progress to the next sequential course or be able to state that competency has been achieved. Students with a grade below 2.0 in a required course will be given the option of repeating the course, provided they have not exceeded the university repeat credit allowance.

3. *Please describe how the change will be implemented, including its effect on current and future students: in particular, how many students will be affected?*

The change will only affect students who struggle with mastering the core course content. Given the extensive review applicants receive prior to being admitted to the BASW program, the number of students who actually fall into this category is quite small. However, the School feels that it is obligated to prepare students for professional social work practice and that mastery of core course content is crucial to their preparation for successfully passing the licensure examination and subsequent professional practice. One to two student per class fall into this category each year.

4. *If the change will reduce the number of students in the program, or restrict access to the program in any way, please describe – in light of MSU's tradition as an open-access, land-grant institution – why this is necessary.*

The School has determined that this change does not conflict with the University's land grant mission because it does not restrict access to qualified students.

## COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

1. Request to change the requirements for the **Bachelor of Arts** degree in **Social Work** in the School of Social Work as published on page 485 and 486 of the *2007-2009 Academic Programs* catalog. The University Committee on Academic Policy (UCAP) will consider this request at its February 7, 2008 meeting.
  - a. Under the heading **Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work** make the following changes:
    - (1) In item 3. a. add the following statement:

A grade of 2.0 must be earned in each of the following courses: Social Work 310, 320, 420, 430, 431, 440, and 441.
    - (2) In item 3. b. (2) delete the following course:

PSL	101	Current Issues in Physiology	2
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Effective Fall 2008.

## View a Program

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Joy Speas, RO

Thursday, 9/27/2007

Program Name: Social Work Degree Name: BA Sequence Number: 2

Effective Dates: Fall 2008 - Open Status: Interim Initial Action: Change

Requested Date: 4/19/2007 11:50:30 AM

**1. Department/School/College:**

38782 .... School of Social Work

**2. Name of Program:**

Social Work

**3. Name of Degree:**

BA

**4. Type of Program:**

Major

**5. Effective Start Semester:**

Fall 2008

**6. Target student audience for the program:****7. Enrollment:**

What is the expected enrollment per year:

75

What is the minimum enrollment acceptable:

55

**8. Source of budget for the program:****9. Projected Costs as compared to other programs in unit:**

Same

**10. Staff requirement:**

How many additional staff will be required:

0

Who will provide the primary instruction. Describe any external linkages(industry, government, etc.):

**11. Will additional equipment be required:****Approximate cost:**

0

Source of funding:

**12. Will additional library materials be required:**

Approximate cost:

0

Source of funding:

**13. Will additional space be required:****Type:**

Approximate amount:

**14. If the program requirements contain a named concentration, do you wish for the concentration to be noted on the student's transcript?:**

No

**15. Detailed Description:****Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Degree  
in Social Work**

1. The University requirements for bachelor's degrees as described in the *Undergraduate Education* section of this catalog; 120 credits, including general elective credits, are required for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work.

The University's Tier II writing requirement for the Social Work major is met by completing Social Work 440. That course is referenced in item 3. a. below.

2. The requirements of the College of Social Science for the Bachelor of Arts degree. The completion of any three of the courses referenced in item 3.b.(1) below satisfies the College requirement of a minimum of three courses totaling at least 9 credits in the following departments: Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.

The completion of Physiology 101 or 250 or Zoology 341 referenced in item 3.b.(2) below partially satisfies the College requirement of a minimum of two courses in the College of Natural Science.

3. The following required major courses:

**CREDITS**

a. All of the following Social Work courses: . . . . .	38
SW 200 Introduction to Social Work . . . . .	3
SW 310 Human Behavior and Social Environment. . . . .	3
SW 320 Social Work and Social Policy I. . . . .	3
SW 340 Foundations of Social Work Practice . . . . .	3
SW 420 Social Work and Social Policy II . . . . .	3
SW 430 Research Methods in Social Work I . . . . .	4
SW 431 Research Methods in Social Work II . . . . .	3
SW 440 Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families, and Groups (W) . . . . .	3
SW 441 Social Work Practice with Task Groups, Organizations and Communities . . . . .	3
SW 494A Social Work Field Education: Foundation I . . . . .	5
SW 494B Social Work Field Education: Foundation II . . . . .	5
b. The following courses in related areas . . . . .	25 to 27
(1) All of the following courses (14 credits):	
CSE 101 Computing Concepts and Competencies . . . . .	3
PLS 100 Introduction to American National Government. . . . .	3
PSY 101 Introductory Psychology . . . . .	4
SOC 100 Introduction to Sociology. . . . .	4
Students who pass a waiver examination will not be required to complete Computer Science and Engineering 101.	
(2) One of the following courses (2 to 4 credits):	
PSL 101 Current Issues in Physiology. . . . .	2
PSL 250 Introductory Physiology. . . . .	4
PSY 209 Brain and Behavior . . . . .	3
ZOL 341 Fundamental Genetics . . . . .	4
Integrative Studies in Biological Science 204 may be used to satisfy requirement 3. b. (2).	
(3) One of the following courses (3 credits):	
ANP 201 Sociocultural Diversity. . . . .	3
FCE 442 Ethnic Minority Families in America . . . . .	3
SOC 215 Race and Ethnicity . . . . .	3
SOC 216 Sex and Gender . . . . .	3

(4) One of the following courses (3 credits):

EC 201 Introduction to Microeconomics. . . . . 3  
 EC 202 Introduction to Macroeconomics . . . . . 3

(5) One of the following courses (3 credits):

PSY 200 Cognitive Psychology . . . . . 3  
 PSY 235 Social Psychology . . . . . 3  
 PSY 236 Personality. . . . . 3  
 PSY 239 Psychology of Women . . . . . 3  
 PSY 244 Developmental Psychology: Infancy  
 Through Childhood . . . . . 3  
 PSY 270 Community Psychology. . . . . 3  
 PSY 280 Abnormal Psychology . . . . . 3

**ADD the Following to these Requirements---**

*Minimum grades are required in the following Social Work courses:*

*A grade of 2.0 or higher must be achieved in each of these courses: SW 310 (3 credits), SW 320 (3 credits), SW 420 (3 credits), SW 430 (4 credits), SW 431 (3 credits), SW 440 (3 credits), and SW 441 (3 credits). Students with a grade below 2.0 in any of these courses will be given the option of repeating the course, provided they have not exceeded the university repeat allowance. Students who do not attain a grade of 2.0 or higher in each of these courses will not be awarded the BASW degree. They may transfer to another major to attain a bachelor's degree.*

**16. Type(s) of change(s):**

Require minimum of 2.0 in 300/400 level required social work courses

**17. Students who will be affected by the proposed changes:**

**18. Will the proposed change(s) have a negative impact on students? If so, which ones?:**

**Describe impact and explain what accommodations will be made:**

**19. Reason(s) for change(s):**

Social Work is a licensed profession. Licensure protects the public from incompetent practitioners.

**DEPARTMENT LEVEL APPROVAL STATUS**

Approved by: School of Social Work  
 4/19/2007 12:25:57 PM by Joan Ilardo for Gary R. Anderson, Chairperson

Comments: Form would not allow input of Q17 responses. Students who do not earn a 2.0 in a 300/400 level required course will be effected. They will be allowed to repeat the course(s) within University repeat limitation parameters.

**COLLEGE LEVEL APPROVAL STATUS**

Approved by: College of Social Science  
 9/26/2007 9:17:56 AM by Vicki Shaver for Brendan Mullen, Associate Dean

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## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

The program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in social work is designed to prepare graduates for entry level positions in social work practice. The undergraduate program is grounded in the liberal arts and social sciences and is structured around courses in social work practice, social welfare policy, human behavior and the social environment, research, and a practicum experience. The rich resources of the University are used to create programs that are designed to prepare students for general social work practice and for graduate study. The program has been accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

The faculty of the School of Social Work has adopted diversity and its relationship to social justice as the signature theme of the undergraduate program. Information about diverse populations is incorporated into classroom and field work assignments. The school encourages its majors to study abroad in order to learn more about diverse populations.

The demands of the undergraduate program are substantial, and students with an interest in the field of social work are encouraged to seek academic advising and career counseling as early in their college careers as possible. Freshmen and sophomores who declare social work as their major preference receive academic advising in the school and may enroll in Social Work 200.

### Admission as a Junior

The number of students who can be admitted as juniors to the bachelor's degree program in social work is limited. Applications are accepted and reviewed **only** during the Spring semester of each year.

All persons who are interested in applying for admission as juniors to the bachelor's degree program in social work must request a special application form and detailed information regarding admission requirements and procedures from the School of Social Work, Room 254 Baker Hall.

Students who are enrolled in colleges and universities other than Michigan State University should contact MSU's Office of Admissions and the School of Social Work regarding admission to the bachelor's degree program in social work as transfer students.

To be considered for admission as a junior to the bachelor's degree program in social work, a student must have:

1. Submitted a completed application form by the deadline specified by the school.
2. Completed Social Work 200, which is a prerequisite for the 300–400 level courses required for the bachelor's degree.
3. Completed the courses in related areas referenced in items 3. b. (1) and 3. b. (2) under the heading *Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work*, with the exception of Computer Science and Engineering 101.

Admission to the bachelor's degree program in social work is competitive, and there is no guarantee that students with a major preference in social work will be admitted to the bachelor's degree program as juniors. In making admissions decisions, the faculty considers the relative qualifications of applicants, their suitability for the program, and the enrollment capacity of the program. Factors such as the diversity of the student body may also be considered in the selection process.

A student who has been admitted to the bachelor's degree program in social work for a given semester, but then decides not to enroll for that semester, would need to reapply for admission to the program. There is no guarantee that the student would be admitted to the program again.

### Honors Study

Students interested in honors study in social work should consult with academic advisers in the school.



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 in Social Work**

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PLS 100 Introduction to American National Government .....	3
PSY 101 Introductory Psychology .....	4
SOC 100 Introduction to Sociology .....	4
Students who pass a waiver examination will not be required to complete Computer Science and Engineering 101.	
(2) One of the following courses (2 to 4 credits):	2 or 3 cr
<del>PSL 401 Current Issues in Physiology .....</del>	<del>2</del>
PSL 250 Introductory Physiology .....	4
PSY 209 Brain and Behavior .....	3
ZOL 341 Fundamental Genetics .....	4
Integrative Studies in Biological Science 204 may be used to satisfy requirement 3. b. (2).	
(3) One of the following courses (3 credits):	
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FCE 442 Ethnic Minority Families in America .....	3
SOC 215 Race and Ethnicity .....	3
SOC 216 Sex and Gender .....	3
(4) One of the following courses (3 credits):	
EC 201 Introduction to Microeconomics .....	3
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(5) One of the following courses (3 credits):	
PSY 200 Cognitive Psychology .....	3
PSY 235 Social Psychology .....	3
PSY 236 Personality .....	3
PSY 239 Psychology of Women .....	3
PSY 244 Developmental Psychology: Infancy Through Childhood .....	3
PSY 270 Community Psychology .....	3
PSY 280 Abnormal Psychology .....	3

Insert ①

Insert (1)

A grade of 2.0 must be earned in each of the following courses: Social Work 310, 320, 420, 430, 431, 440, and 441