

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
BSW STUDENT HANDBOOK

Introduction

The School of Social Work is an autonomous academic unit administered within the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs at Boise State University. The School of Social Work offers two professional degrees: the Baccalaureate and the Master of Social Work.

The Baccalaureate Program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and has been accredited continuously since 1974. The MSW program was inaugurated in 1991 and was granted accreditation by CSWE in 1995. In addition, in 1996 the Idaho Department of Education Professional Standards Commission and the State Board of Education accredited the School of Social Work at Boise State University to prepare students for certification as school social workers in the State of Idaho.

Social work education has evolved during the course of this century to include a continuum of educational degree programs. That continuum now ranges from pre-professional social work programs that offer the Associate of Arts degree to doctoral programs that prepare experienced practitioners for leadership in research, education, teaching, and practice. Programs granting the baccalaureate degree prepare students for beginning generalist social work practice. Programs granting the MSW degree prepare students for advanced practice in a social work specialization.

A Career in Social Work

Are there jobs?

Yes. With a baccalaureate degree, 80 percent of our graduates have been employed as social workers, and they describe their preparation for their first social work position as good.

After graduation, you must obtain a license to practice social work in Idaho and all other states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. After licensure, a majority of the graduates were employed as social workers within three months.

How do I get a license?

Licensure to practice social work in Idaho is administered by the Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licenses and requires a baccalaureate degree from an accredited program of social work education, a passing score on the national licensing examination, and good moral character.

What do social workers do?

Most BSU graduates work face-to-face with people in their first job. Direct practice, together with responsibility for supervision or administration, was the primary responsibility for 93 percent.

Is it hard work?

Yes, it's hard work, and it takes training, intelligence, judgment, creativity, interpersonal skills, and tenacity to do it well.

Can I earn a living?

Social workers graduating from BSU with the baccalaureate degree in 1990 or later have full-time employment with a mean salary of \$31,500. Social workers who are bilingual or have other special skills may command higher salaries, and salaries are higher in other regions of the nation.

Is social work a good career?

They say people vote with their feet. The majority of our graduates are still employed in social work, and we have been training social workers for more than twenty years. Many social workers go back to school to advance their career. Twenty-nine percent of our alumni reported the completion of a second degree or enrollment in another degree program following the BSW. Boise State University alumni stated their undergraduate BSW study had prepared them well for additional study.

Can I move up?

Yes, but moving up can mean changing fields of practice or going back to school. Face-to-face services to people is still the primary focus of practice for nearly half of our baccalaureate alumni, but some combine direct practice with supervision (12.7%) or administration (7.9%). Other alumni report that supervision (1.6%), program administration (9.5%), or agency management (14.3%) have become the primary focus of their practice. BSU graduates who are making social work their career are practicing in the following fields:

| <u>Field</u> | <u>Percentage</u> |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Child Welfare | 22.1 |
| Disabilities | 6.3 |
| Health | 5.3 |
| Aging | 7.1 |
| Corrections | 12.6 |
| Family | 5.3 |
| Addictions | 7.4 |
| Mental Health | 25.3 |
| Public Welfare | 1.1 |

Will I get rich?

Not in dollars.

The average full-time social work salary for BSU graduates, across all years of graduation, is \$31,500. But there are other rewards that money can't buy.

Will I fit in?

A lot depends on your values. Social workers:

- ~ respect the worth and dignity of individuals and their right to be different;
- ~ have compassion for the weak, the vulnerable, and the oppressed;
- ~ advocate relentlessly for equal opportunities, for self-determination, and the achievement of social and economic justice.

Social Work Practice

Baccalaureate social work education prepares students for generalist social work practice. The generalist social work practice approach utilizes a problem solving process in conjunction with the strength perspective to empower client systems and advance social and economic justice. A basic assumption of this approach is the belief that each person has inherent power toward growth and well-being. It is also accepted that, when the positive capacities or strengths of a person are supported, the person is more likely to act on those strengths.

As a catalyst for empowerment and justice, generalist practice utilizes a model of assessment, planning, intervention, evaluation, termination, follow-up, and the evaluation of practice, which is grounded in a strengths-focused perspective. Challenges and opportunities are approached from a wide variety of perspectives and target change within micro, mezzo, and macro systems.

Generalist practice requires a foundation in professional values, ethics, knowledge, and skills guided by client self-determination and the critical thinking of practitioners informed by the state of the art. The specific knowledge base of generalist practice is grounded within a systems framework and derived from the content areas of human behavior in the social environment, social welfare policy and service, social research, and information about human diversity. The skills required of a generalist practitioner include those used in working with individuals, groups, households, families, larger organizations, and communities and involve a wide range of professional roles practiced within an organizational structure. The above knowledge and skills are integrated within a context of social work values and ethics and the professional use of self.

There is a demand for social workers who can bring skills of generalist practice to work in public agencies, private non-profit organizations, and profit making companies in the business of helping people. Social work services may be organized as the primary function of an organization like a child-protection agency, or social work may serve a supportive function through the social work department of a general hospital and other similar

institutions. One unifying factor across methods and fields of practice is that all social work is designed to enrich the quality of life by enabling individuals, families, households, groups, and communities to achieve their greatest potential development and their aspirations. Social work is a career for those who care deeply about the well-being of people.

To secure employment in social work in Idaho, and most other states, a person must be licensed. In fulfilling the requirements to be licensed as a social work in Idaho, an individual must hold a baccalaureate degree in social work or a related field from a college or university approved by the Board of Social Work Examiners. In addition, the individual must have passed an examination conducted by the board and be of good moral character.

Social Work Education

Social work education is different from education in the traditional academic disciplines. Although social work education at all levels builds upon a perspective grounded in the liberal arts and sciences, social work has a unique mission and a set of core values which guide the acquisition of knowledge and skills for ethical professional practice in a world characterized by human diversity. The discovery of knowledge is the primary mission of the traditional academic disciplines, but the primary mission of social work education is preparation for service:

The Boise State University School of Social Work educates individuals for beginning and advanced professional social work practice. The School's educational philosophy imparts to students an understanding of social and economic justice, egalitarianism, and respect for diversity through a strengths perspective.

The traditional academic disciplines realize their mission through scholarship and pedagogy. Social work integrates scholarship and pedagogy with experiential learning in the classroom and the field practicum for a holistic socialization of the student to the values, knowledge, and skills of ethical professional practice.

In addition, the School is dedicated to student success. We measure our effectiveness to the degree by which our students are successful as alumni. This translates into rigorous academic students coupled with a strong faculty and staff commitment to student service.

The BSW Program uses assigned readings, reaction papers and logs, classroom lecture and discussion, the presentation and analysis of case studies, guest lecturers from the practice community, role-playing, experiential learning, and independent investigations to prepare students for practice.

Assigned readings are used to establish a foundation of common content in the curriculum and to expand the scope of core readings and guide the student in the exploration in depth of questions and controversies that enrich practice and the profession.

Lecture and discussion serve to expand the application of theory to practice, challenging and provoking conventional wisdom as may be appropriate to give form and presence to subtle distinctions with implications for practice.

Case studies and guest lectures help deepen the connections that students make between classroom theory and practice action.

Reaction papers and logs structure the integration of values, knowledge, and skills by engendering disciplined introspection and self-knowledge through a written dialogue among feelings and thoughts, assumptions and evidence, arguments and agreements, and the diversity of perspective represented in the professional literature, the classroom, and the field.

Role-playing creates an intermediate zone of exploration and rehearsal between the insularity of the classroom and its world of ideas and immersion in the experiential world of practice and the kaleidoscope of affect and action. Role-playing in a group context makes available to students the collegial support that sustains social work in challenging settings and models the vicissitudes of process and outcomes of practice in a group context.

Independent investigations prepare students for the responsibilities of professional social work practice and the intellectual and behavioral discipline of planning, organizing, drafting, evaluating, and submitting professional work products with far-reaching implications for individuals, families, households, groups, and communities.

The bachelor's degree in social work at Boise State University is designed to prepare individuals for beginning generalist social work practice. The social work curriculum is based on an integrated, developmental approach to learning and reflects a national consensus on social work education.

In accordance with policy established by the Council on Social Work Education, the School of Social Work does not grant credit in the professional curriculum for prior work or life experience.

Social work students have an obligation to familiarize themselves with the values and ethics of the social work profession and the curriculum policy of the Council on Social Work Education.

The Social Work Curriculum

The School of Social Work offers a four-year baccalaureate program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work (BSW). Admission to the program is selective, and the overarching goal of the program is preparation for beginning generalist social work practice with individuals, families, households, groups, and communities

BSW Educational Outcomes

Utilizing a strengths perspective, graduates of the Bachelor of Arts – Social Work will:

1. *Values:*

- a. demonstrate respect for the dignity and worth of all client systems
- b. demonstrate respect for the self-determination of all client systems and the commitment to assist in clients obtaining needed resources
- c. demonstrate sensitivity to diversity through individualization, respect, and appreciation for differences
- d. promote the effective and humane operation of systems that provide people with services, resources, and opportunities
- e. identify the core values of social work and practice within the ethical code of the profession.

2. *Knowledge*

- a. understand the history of social work and the policies, structures, and programs of social welfare as a contemporary social institution
- b. demonstrate knowledge about individual growth, development, and adaptation in psychological, biological, social, and cultural spheres
- c. demonstrate an understanding of the dynamics of interactional systems
- d. demonstrate an understanding of those social and institutional factors that inhibit healthy growth and promote oppression and discrimination
- e. demonstrate an understanding of theories of change
- f. demonstrate an understanding of theories on human diversity and characteristics of populations-at-risk
- g. demonstrate a knowledge of systematic evaluation of practice and programs using both qualitative and quantitative methods
- h. demonstrate a knowledge of the planned change process

3. *Professional Skills*

- a. demonstrate skills for implementing a planned change approach with interventions across and between varying sizes of systems
- b. demonstrate ability to manage and enhance the collaborative helping relationship
- c. demonstrate the use of critical thinking skills through purposeful reasoning for the benefit of the client system
- d. demonstrate the ability to identify and evaluate multiple perspectives and develop plans for building strengths and achieving the aspirations of diverse people
- e. demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively through oral and written methods
- f. demonstrate the ability to use critical thinking

4. *Development of Professional Self*

- a. demonstrate the ability and willingness to examine personal life experiences, values, and characteristics that affect learning and practice

- b. utilize a personal and professional identity consistent with social work values, ethics, and practice
- c. demonstrate the ability to make constructive use of supervision as a beginning practitioner
- d. demonstrate the motivation for continued growth and expanding knowledge

The professional curriculum in social work education rests on a liberal arts and sciences foundation. Students must apply for admission to the baccalaureate program after completing two years of course work in the liberal arts and sciences known as the University Core. Admission to the Baccalaureate Program is the prerequisite for enrollment in the professional curriculum. Admission to the Baccalaureate Program is known as Admission to Candidacy (for the Baccalaureate Degree).

The foundation in the liberal arts and sciences is preparation for social work education. Course work in the arts and humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences and mathematics develops knowledge and skills which students use in professional education and practice. Success in professional education and practice depends upon mastery of the liberal arts and sciences foundation.

There are nine knowledge areas in the professional curriculum: (a) Values and Ethics, (b) Diversity, (c) Promotion of Social and Economic Justice, (d) Populations at-Risk, (e) Human Behavior and the Social Environment, (f) Social Welfare Policy and Services, (g) Social Research, (h) Social Work Practice, and (i) Practicum. Each course builds upon its prerequisites to develop student knowledge and skills for professional practice. The professional curriculum supports the integration and synthesis of social work values, knowledge, and skills for practice. Mastery of the four knowledge areas of the professional curriculum prepares students for the field practicum in social work practice and its companion senior seminar. The field practicum and senior seminar allow the student to demonstrate and practice the values, knowledge, and skills of the profession.

Social Work Course Descriptions

The course descriptions for the BSW Program are:

SOCWRK 101 Introduction to Social Welfare (3-0-3 (F/S) (Area II). Survey of contemporary social welfare programs, their historical development, underlying philosophy, and the need for social services in a modern society.

SOCWRK 201 Foundations of Social Work (2-3-3) (F/S). Introduction to knowledge, values, and skills of strengths-based generalist practice. Skill development in interviewing and generalist process of data collection, assessment, planning, implementation, evaluation and termination. Survey of practice in contemporary social service delivery systems. Service learning component of 45 clock hours in approved social service organization. PREREQ or COREQ SOCWRK 101

SOCWORK 301 Social Welfare Policy (3-0-3)(F/S) Explores the effects of social welfare policy by analyzing current policy within the context of historical and contemporary factors that shape it, by considering the political and organization processes used to influence policy; the process of policy formulation; and social policy analysis frameworks in light of principles of social and economic justice and evidence-based knowledge. PREREQ: Admission to BSW candidacy.

SOCWORK 321 Human Behavior in the Social Environment (3-0-3) (F/S) Presents theories and knowledge of social systems effects on human development, behavior, health, and well-being. A range of theories is critically analyzed relative to a variety of social issues, with emphasis on social and economic justice, in the context of social work values, ethics, and practice. PREREQ: Admission to BSW candidacy and Psych 309. PPREREQ/COREQ: Psych 310

SOCWRK 333 Generalist Social Work Practice I: Individuals (3-0-3) (F/S) Social work practice from a strengths-based generalist perspective integrating human behavior theories with models of practice, relationship building, ethical issues, ethnic and cultural dimensions and foundation methods of evidence-based practice with individuals. PREREQ Admission to BSW candidacy and SOCWRK 201; PREREQ/COREQ SOCWRK 301 and SOCWRK 321.

SOCWRK 380 Social Work Research Methods and Statistics (3-0-3) (F/S) Introduction to qualitative and quantitative research methodology and statistics for an understanding of a scientific, analytic, and ethical approach to building knowledge for generalist social work practice. Will prepare to develop, use, and effectively communicate empirically-based knowledge, including evidence-based interventions, for initiating change, evaluating social work practice, and providing services that improve client outcomes. PREREQ: Upper division standing and Area III math course.

SOCWRK 444 Generalist Social Work Practice II: Households, Families, and Groups (3-0-3) (F/S). Social work practice from a strengths-based generalist perspective including models of practice integrating human behavior theories and various evidence-based interventive models with households, families, and groups. PREREQ SOCWRK 333 and COREQ SOCWRK 455.

SOCWRK 455 Generalist Social Work Practice III: Organizations and Communities (3-0-3) (F/S) Social work practice from a strengths-based generalist perspective including models of practice integrating human behavior theories and various evidence-based interventive change models with organizations and communities. PREREQ SOCWRK 333 and COREQ SOCWRK 444.

SOCWRK 480 Social Work Field Practicum I (0-16-5) (F) Requires sixteen clock hours per week as a practicing generalist social worker under the teaching supervision of a licensed social worker. (Pass/Fail). PREREQ: Admission to BSW candidacy, Major GPA: 3.0, Department approval. PREREQ or COREQ: SOCWRK 444, SOCWRK 455, and SOCWRK 498.

SOCWRK 481 Social Work Field Practicum II (0-16-5) (S) Continuation of Social Work Practicum I (Pass/Fail). PREREQ: Admission to BSW candidacy, Major GPA: 3.0, Department approval, SOCWRK 480 and SOCWRK 498. COREQ: SOCWRK 499

SOCWRK 498 Senior Seminar I (1-0-1) (F) Facilitates and encourages the student's development as an entry level strengths-based generalist practitioner through the synthesis of social work theory, practice and values. COREQ: SOCWRK 480

SOCWRK 499 Senior Seminar II (1-0-1) (S) Continuation of SOCWRK 498. COREQ: SOCWRK 481

Graduation Requirements

University policy permits students to choose to graduate on the basis of any catalog of any academic year they have been registered provided said catalog was in effect not more than six academic years prior to graduation. Baccalaureate students may apply for candidacy and graduation in accordance with University policy. Students should refer to the BSU Catalog they prefer to graduate under for the correct graduation requirements.

Admission to Candidacy

The School of Social Work invites applications for admission to candidacy in the Fall and Spring semesters (see BSU Catalog for dates). Candidacy is a prerequisite for enrollment in the professional curriculum, and admission to candidacy is a selective process governed by criteria published in the University catalog.

Applications for admission to candidacy are reviewed and evaluated by a committee of the social work faculty.

The committee will make one of four recommendations: a) accepted, b) accepted with conditions, c) not accepted, or d) accepted pending available seat (wait listed). Admission to candidacy with conditions allows students to pre-enroll in the professional curriculum with the understanding that all requirements for admission will be met before those classes begin. Not accepted allows the student to reapply for admission to candidacy when admission standards have been met.

The admission process is outlined in the BSU Catalog and on the BSW program web page. You may download the application for candidacy from that same web location.

The BSW Program web address is:

<http://boisestate.edu/socwork>

The Field Practicum

The field practicum and the corequisite senior seminar are the centerpiece of social work education. The focus of the field practicum is the integration of social work values, knowledge, profession skills, and professional development of self through helping clients achieve successful outcomes. The field practicum and senior seminar contribute 12 academic credit hours toward graduation. The field practicum is completed in the Fall and Spring semesters of a student's senior year.

Each student must complete a written application for admission to the field practicum following the procedures outlined in the field practicum manual. The field practicum manual is available on line at the following web address:

<http://boisestate.edu/socwork>

Application for admission to the field practicum is made during the junior year for field work beginning the following academic year. Eligibility for field work requires the completion of all lower-division academic requirements and completion of the following social work curriculum and prerequisites: SOCWRK 101 Introduction to Social Welfare, SOCWRK 201 Foundations of Social Work Practice, SOCWRK 301 Social

Welfare Policy, SOCWRK 321 Human Behavior in the Social Environment, SOCWRK 333 Generalist Social Work Practice I, and SOCWRK 380 Social Work Research Methods and Statistics.

Applications for admission to the field practicum are evaluated by the faculty on the basis of criteria described in the field practicum manual. Students admitted to the "field" develop beginning levels of professional skill by working in an agency setting under the direct supervision of a licensed social worker. In the field practicum, students either Pass or Fail. A failing grade in the field practicum leads to dismissal from the program.

Student Advising

Students are provided opportunities for mentoring and advising by full-time faculty within the School of Social Work.

Students who designate their major as social work with the University are randomly assigned to faculty who are permanent, full-time faculty and hold a master's degree in social work. The advising goal is to meet the individual needs of each student as he/she develops his/her educational and career plans.

Faculty advising responsibilities include advising students on satisfactory progress in the program and graduation. Faculty also provide information concerning available student support services (e.g., financial aid and counseling center), career options, and the job market.

All faculty schedule six hours per week for both academic and professional/career advising of students. These hours are posted in a schedule book maintained by the front desk receptionist. Students may use the schedule book to sign up for advising meetings with faculty. Students may also contact their faculty advisor to set up meetings times other than those posted by the faculty member.

As a student becomes familiar with faculty and finds common interests, the student may change faculty advisors. Students are allowed to change faculty advisors after consultation with the BSW Program Coordinator. Students may also consult with the BSW Program Coordinator regarding curriculum, selection of field settings, scheduling, and other academic concerns.

School Ombudsman

The University's Dean of Students serves as the School's Ombudsman. The ombudsman is the first contact point for students who are experiencing difficulties with the University, the College, the School, the faculty, or other students. The ombudsman is an intervention agent and impartial person who helps students resolve academic and nonacademic concerns. The ombudsman listens to you and discusses your questions and concerns; provides you with information that answers your questions and concerns, or help you locate someone who can address your questions and concerns; explains University policies and procedures; and follows up to make certain that matters have been resolved.

The ombudsman is neither an advocate for students nor an agent of the University. Rather, the ombudsman is an advocate for fair "processes" and considers all sides of a matter in an objective and impartial manner in order to bring about a non-adversarial solution. In complex organizations such as universities, the ombudsman refers

individuals to persons/offices that are able to resolve problems or handle appeals at the lowest possible organizational level. When appropriate, the ombudsman can facilitate communication between parties who find themselves in a dispute.

The basic principles of the ombudsman are independence, impartiality, and confidentiality. The ombudsman operates as an informal and off-the-record resource. Formal "investigations" should be done by others. The ombudsman will not testify in any formal judicial or administrative hearing about the concerns brought to the ombudsman's office. When making recommendations, the ombudsman is obligated to suggest actions that will be equitable to all parties.

No person will suffer any penalty because they sought assistance from the ombudsman.

Academic Dismissal

Boise State University policy states that any student whose cumulative grade point average falls below 2.0 for two semesters will be placed on academic dismissal status by the University. (See BSU Catalog, policies on academic probation and dismissal). Any social work major admitted to candidacy and who is subsequently placed on academic dismissal status by the University must seek reinstatement through the Director of the School. The student, with the assistance of the Director, will develop a plan to alleviate academic problems, which is then approved by the Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs. The student must repeat courses which were failed and University core courses in which a grade of less than a "C" was obtained. Any social work courses which are required for the major must also be passed with a grade of "C" or higher.

Any student requesting readmission to candidacy status after academic dismissal must demonstrate the ability to successfully complete the major by meeting the requirements for admission to candidacy.

DISMISSAL FROM THE SOCIAL WORK MAJOR

A student admitted to candidacy status will be removed from candidacy status for the following reasons:

1. Failure to maintain a 3.0 grade point average in social work courses;
2. Failure to maintain a 2.5 overall grade point average;
3. Behavior which is deemed to be in violation of the NASW Code of Ethics and/or the University Code of Conduct (<http://www2.boisestate.edu/studentconduc/>);
4. Behavior which demonstrates a diminished capacity to handle stress, relate to people, or engage in ongoing self-assessment of one's knowledge, skills, and personal aptitude for a career in social work.
5. Failure to pass SOCWRK 480 Field Work I or SOCWRK 481 Field Work II.

Students who have been removed from candidacy may not enroll in upper-division social work courses. Any social work faculty member who has knowledge of a student who is a candidate for a social work degree and has information that the student's performance falls within one of the above categories must notify the Director of the School. The Director will evaluate the information and take appropriate action which might include:

1. Notification of the student's advisor of the specific difficulties and request that the advisor and the student address the issues in a written response to the Director.
2. Meeting with the student and his/her advisor to address the issues of concern.
3. Presentation of information to the Social Work faculty for a reconsideration vote on candidacy status.

A student subject to such review will be notified in writing of any actions taken by the Director and/or the Social Work faculty. A copy will also be supplied to the Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs. A student may appeal any adverse actions taken by the faculty through a written request to the Director for reevaluation by the faculty.

Students seeking reinstatement to the University and to Social Work after an academic dismissal may appeal their status to the Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs, who will refer the matter to the Director of the School for a recommendation. Students seeking reinstatement must provide information of extenuating circumstances and must show evidence of having the capacity to raise and keep their cumulative grade point average above 2.75 in subsequent general studies, and at 3.0 in social work courses.

Information of extenuating circumstances may include, but not be limited to:

1. Evidence of an intervening life crisis. This would be supported by a sudden drop in grades accompanied by information of illness, divorce, death in family, change in economic circumstance, etc.
2. Evidence of a lapse in education characterized by low grades before the lapse and above average grades after the lapse (maturation).
3. Evidence of student having been stressed due to credit overload, heavy outside work schedule, etc.

Documentation of student's ability to raise his/her grade point average may include but not be limited to:

1. Evidence that the crisis or overload situation has been alleviated.
2. Letters from faculty who can provide support for the student's academic ability.
3. Student's plan for raising the grade point average.

Students whose appeal does not adequately show extenuating circumstances and the likelihood of correcting the grade point average within a maximum of two semesters will not be recommended to the Dean for reinstatement. The burden for presenting satisfactory information is on the student. Students who meet the criteria for reinstatement presented above will be recommended to the Dean for reinstatement. Progress of students whose reinstatement is approved by the Dean will be closely followed by the student's advisor. The student must apply or reapply for candidacy when eligible.

Student Academic Grievance Procedures

The BSW Program adheres to the academic grievance procedures of the University. Students can access these policies and procedures through the following web address:

<http://diamond.boisestate.edu/%7Emargene/policies/section4/4300-d.html>

Student Organization and Involvement

The Organization of Student Social Workers was established at Boise State University in 1974. OSSW seeks to provide the undergraduate social work student with an additional opportunity for learning in such areas as leadership, organization skills, policy, and decision making, as well as providing a sense of community among students in the School of Social Work. Meetings for the OSSW are held monthly and posted in the School. The Constitution of OSSW can be found at the following web address:

<http://union.boisestate.edu/organizations/constitutions/academic/organizationofstudentsocialworkers.pdf>

Professional Organizations

Membership in professional organizations is an important benchmark of a professional social work identity. Professional organizations are perhaps the most important vehicle for the self-regulation and advancement of the profession, and membership is a source of access to collaboration and consultation with colleagues, continuing education, the intellectual fabric of social work practice and the state of the art, and the social fabric of ethical practice. The importance of collegial relationships established through membership in professional organizations cannot be overstated for social work practice in a rural state and region.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is a professional organization whose primary purpose is to help all social workers improve their practice in the field of helping people. The organization is involved in professional development, professional standards, professional action to achieve sound social policy, and membership services.

The National Association of Social Workers is the largest organization of professional social workers in the world, with members in 55 chapters throughout the United States and in the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Europe. Founded in 1955 from a merger of seven predecessor social work organizations, NASW's primary functions include professional development, establishing professional standards of social work practice, advancing sound social policies, and membership services. Membership in NASW is open to all professional social workers. For further information, write NASW, 750 First St., NE, Washington, D. C. 20002. The Idaho Chapter is located at the Boulevard Apartments on Capital Street.. The telephone number is (208) 343-2752. It provides state-wide services to Idaho members. You can link to NASW from the School's web site (<http://boisestate.edu/socwork>).

ACSW

Academy of Certified Social Workers provides the only nationwide, uniform standard of certification for professional social work practice, and is designed to assure high quality services to the public.

The Ethical Base of Social Work Practice

The fundamental values of the social work profession include the worth, dignity, and uniqueness of all persons as well as their rights and opportunities. Values are the centerpiece of the social work profession, and social work ethics are derived from those values to guide social work practice.

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) has an established Code of Ethics and the Idaho Board of Social Work Examiners has adopted a Code of Professional Conduct. Students and practitioners of social work have an obligation to conduct their responsibilities and govern their behavior in accordance with the ethical standards of the profession. Students receive a copy of the NASW Code of Ethics as a part of their orientation materials.

The [NASW Code of Ethics](http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp) can be found at the following web address:

<http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp>

New Student Orientation

All incoming undergraduate professional students must attend a new student orientation prior to attending classes. It is during this orientation that student rights and responsibilities are discussed and pertinent policies, procedures, handbooks, and printed materials distributed. Students are expected to keep orientation materials for future reference and are encouraged to revisit specific policies and procedures when concerns are raised.

It is the policy of Boise State University to provide equal educational and employment opportunities, services, and benefits to students and employees without regard to race, color, national origin, or sex in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 799A and 845 of the Public Health Service Act, and Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, where applicable, as enforced by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

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