

Archived: August 9, 2018

Human Services Programs

Bachelor of Social Work

Location Offered:

Nanaimo

Credential:

Bachelor Degree

Program Length:

4 Years

The Program

The purpose of the Bachelor of Social Work degree program at Vancouver Island University is to provide social work education that addresses local, national and global needs.

The goals of the program are derived from the mission statement which seeks to promote the capacity of individuals and communities; to address social issues emanating from the absence of equality and opportunity; and to promote social justice by producing graduates who demonstrate capability in the areas of clinical intervention, research and community development. In addition, this Social Work program will link colleagues in the faculty and other disciplines within the broader Vancouver Island University community with local, national, and/or international organizations. Community study will focus on physical, historical, economic and social dimensions, and the diversity of cultural backgrounds of individual members; encourage critical analysis about the environmental, economic, and social conditions that contribute to community capacity building; incorporate a collaborative approach to community-based social work that includes the application of skills and knowledge and understanding through study within specific focus areas: Disabilities, Older Adults, and Child Welfare.

Program Delivery

The Bachelor of Social Work program at Vancouver Island University will accept students into Year 3 of the program and will be delivered through distance education. Students admitted to the program will be expected to:

- Participate in an online orientation prior to program commencement in September.
- Have access to high speed internet.
- Participate in courses that have both asynchronous (online access to course materials) and synchronous (online access to course materials, audio and visual discussion, e.g. Skype) course delivery methods.

In addition to a generalist social work practice degree the Bachelor of Social Work Program at Vancouver Island University offers the following specializations:

Specialization: Child Welfare

A Child Welfare Specialization within the program is available for a limited number of

students admitted to the Bachelor of Social Work degree program. Students in a Child Welfare Specialization will complete their fourth year field education in a delegated child protection office. Placement preference will be determined by an applicant's GPA in SOCW 362, SOCW 403, and SOCW 421. Should a tie occur, seats will be allocated for these applicants based on their overall GPA in all Year 3 and Year 4 SOCW courses. Interested students must apply for the specialized field education placement by June 1 prior to entry into their fourth year of the BSW program and anticipate meeting all prerequisite requirements for SOCW 480. Applicants are also required to meet all criteria for Field Education placements located in the Student Field Education Guide. Child Welfare field education placements are block placements and students are required to complete 350 hours concurrent with SOCW 400B. Students completing the BSW program in two years will typically also be enrolled in SOCW 401 and a Social Work elective. For further information, please contact the Bachelor of Social Work Field Education Coordinator.

Specialization: Disabilities

A Disabilities Specialization within the program is available for students admitted to the Bachelor of Social Work degree program. Interested students must declare their interest in this specialization by contacting the BSW Field Education Coordinator by email before September 15th on commencement of Year 3 of the program and, in addition to required courses needed to graduate, students must complete:

- SOCW 310 (Contemporary Perspectives on Disabilities)
- SOCW 362 (Child Abuse and Neglect Concerns)
- SOCW 410 (Understanding Ethics in the Lives of Persons with Disabilities)
- A Field Education placement with a focus on service to persons with disabilities

Note: The Bachelor of Social Work program charges enhanced tuition fees. Check the Description of Fees and Rates for further information.

Program Outline

Year 3	Credits
SOCW 300A - (Foundations in Social Work)	3
SOCW 300B - (Community Social Work: Theory and Practice)	3
SOCW 301 - (Social Work Practice Skills)	3
SOCW 322** - (Human Development Across the Lifespan)	3
SOCW 350A - (Law and Social Services)	3
SOCW 352 - (Interpersonal Communication in Structural Social Work Practice)	3
SOCW 380 - (Practicum: Community Social Work Practice)	6
Six credits of Social Work Electives*	6
Total Credits	30

Year 4	Credits
SOCW 400A - (Advanced Community Practice with Diverse Populations)	3
SOCW 400B - (Advanced Seminar in Reflective Social Work Practice)	3
SOCW 401 - (Social Policy and Communities)	3
SOCW 402 - (Research Methods for Social Change in Community Social Work)	3
SOCW 421 - (Social Work Practice with Indigenous Communities)	3
SOCW 440 - (Social Work and Mental Health)	3
SOCW 480 - (Practicum: Community Practice II)	6
Six credits of Social Work Electives*	6
Total Credits	30

* Social Work electives can be chosen from the following: HSD 369, SOCW 310, SOCW 361, SOCW 362, SOCW 403, SOCW 404, SOCW 410, or SOCW 460. Not all electives may be offered each year.

** Students who have completed PSYC 121, PSYC 122 - (Developmental Psychology), or equivalent, will be exempted from this course requirement.

Child Welfare Specialization

Year 3	Credits
SOCW 300A - (Foundations in Social Work)	3
SOCW 300B - (Community Social Work: Theory and Practice)	3
SOCW 301 - (Social Work Practice Skills)	3
SOCW 322** - (Human Development Across the Lifespan)	3
SOCW 350A - (Law and Social Services)	3
SOCW 352 - (Interpersonal Communication in Structural Social Work Practice)	3
SOCW 362 - (Child Abuse and Neglect Concerns)	3
SOCW 380 - (Practicum: Community Social Work Practice)	6
Three credits of Social Work Electives*	3
Total Credits	30

Year 4	Credits
SOCW 400A - (Advanced Community Practice with Diverse Populations)	3
SOCW 400B - (Advanced Seminar in Reflective Social Work Practice)	3
SOCW 401 - (Social Policy and Communities)	3
SOCW 402 - (Research Methods for Social Change in Community Social Work)	3
SOCW 403 - (Child Abuse and Neglect II)	3
SOCW 421 - (Social Work Practice with Indigenous Communities)	3
SOCW 440 - (Social Work and Mental Health)	3
SOCW 480 - (Practicum: Community Practice II)	6
Three credits of Social Work Electives*	3
Total Credits	30

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** Students who have completed PSYC 121, PSYC 122 - (Developmental Psychology), or equivalent, will be exempted from this course requirement.

Disabilities Specialization

Year 3	Credits
SOCW 300A - (Foundations in Social Work)	3
SOCW 300B - (Community Social Work: Theory and Practice)	3
SOCW 301 - (Social Work Practice Skills)	3
SOCW 310 - (Contemporary Perspective on Disabilities)	3
SOCW 322** - (Human Development Across the Lifespan)	3
SOCW 350A - (Law and Social Services)	3
SOCW 352 - (Interpersonal Communication in Structural Social Work Practice)	3
SOCW 362 - (Child Abuse and Neglect Concerns)	3
SOCW 380 - (Practicum: Community Social Work Practice)	6
Total Credits	30

Year 4	Credits
SOCW 400A - (Advanced Community Practice with Diverse Populations)	3
SOCW 400B - (Advanced Seminar in Reflective Social Work Practice)	3
SOCW 401 - (Social Policy and Communities)	3
SOCW 402 - (Research Methods for Social Change in Community Social Work)	3
SOCW 410 - (Understanding Ethics in the Lives of Persons with Disabilities)	3
SOCW 421 - (Social Work Practice with Indigenous Communities)	3
SOCW 440 - (Social Work and Mental Health)	3
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Three credits of Social Work Electives*	3
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Program Accreditation

Consistent with the program's interest in promoting excellence in contemporary professional social work practice through peer oversight that ensures high academic and practice standards, the Bachelor of Social Work program at Vancouver Island University is accredited through the Canadian Association for Social Work Education.

Completion Requirements

- Students must have completed at least 120 university-level credits and have completed all the required core and elective courses to be eligible for the Bachelor of Social Work degree.
- A minimum "C+" average on all required courses with no grade lower than "C".
- It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all requirements for the degree are met. Students are encouraged to consult the social work program Advisor for information and guidance.

Residency Requirement

Fifty percent of all credits used towards a VIU undergraduate degree must be completed with VIU courses and at least fifty percent of all upper-level credits used towards an undergraduate degree must be completed with VIU courses.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the Bachelor of Social Work degree program at Vancouver Island University is competitive. Students apply to enter the program at the third year level. Students must complete a combination of required and elective courses prior to admission. Prospective students are encouraged to explore the program with an Advisor before pursuing application.

Admission Requirements

- To be eligible for admission to the third year, students must have completed at least 60 credits of post-secondary courses that include:
 - Degree English Requirements. A minimum grade of "C+" is required in each course.
 - 6 credits of SOCW 200A and SOCW 200B or equivalent. A minimum grade of "B-" is required for each course.
Note: For SOCW 200A and SOCW 200B online options, check the VIU Bachelor of Social Work website for further information.
 - 48 credits of post-secondary courses, of which, at least 24 credits must be Arts & Humanities and/or Social Science courses. Social Services and Social Work courses may not be used to complete this requirement.
- In addition to the grade requirements noted above, a minimum Grade Point Average of 2.33 ("C+") is required, calculated on the most recent 24 credits completed.
- Applicants must submit a Personal Profile including the applicant's reasons for pursuing a social work degree that includes personal suitability for the profession of Social Work as well as personal strengths and challenges; evidence of 100 hours work experience (paid and/or volunteer) in a community and/or clinical setting.
- Applicants must submit transcripts from all post-secondary institutions/programs attended.

Notes on Admission

- Criminal Record Check. Fieldwork and/or practica will require a satisfactory criminal record check prior to placement. Criminal Record Checks are requested through Vancouver Island University. The Registration Centre at VIU will contact prospective students by mail regarding the requirements for a Criminal Record Check. Criminal Record Checks are processed through the British Columbia Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General in conjunction with the Criminal Records Review Act. A check completed through a local police detachment is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the Act.
- An interview may be scheduled following receipt of the above information (mid-April to the end of May).
- Enrolment is limited. Students who meet or exceed the minimum admission requirements may not necessarily be admitted to the program.
- Practicum placement will be completed in consultation with the student and all efforts will be made to locate a placement based on student area of interest and geographic location.
- Students who wish to take individual courses in Social Work without being admitted to the program may do so when space is available and prerequisites have been met. Students who take Social Work courses without formally being admitted into the program are not guaranteed future entry into the program.

Career Opportunities

Social workers obtain employment in social, educational and health organizations as well as private practice. Social workers assist individuals, families, groups and communities through their work in hospitals, community-based organizations, child welfare agencies, school districts, agencies serving Aboriginal people and human rights agencies that promote the interests of those experiencing inequality in our communities.

Start Date and Application Deadline

The program starts in September and applications are accepted between the first business day in October, and February 28, 2018. For further information regarding late applications and program contacts check the Program Availability List.

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