

School of Social Work

The main objective of the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree is to provide graduates with a generic practice framework so that they are prepared to deliver services to various client constituencies at a level of competence suitable for beginning practice. The School of Social Work at St. Thomas places major emphasis on understanding the structural roots of social problems in Canadian society. The cause of much of the suffering and inequality in society is seen to be rooted in our social and economic order, and not in the individual, the family, or the subculture. All interventions are seen within the context of this understanding and, although much of social work practice is concerned with the immediate needs of individuals, the resolution of social problems is seen as necessarily involving interventions in our major social institutions.

A. Admission To Bachelor of Social Work (Four-Year BSW)

Prerequisites

1. A minimum of 60 credit hours in liberal arts with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, or a minimum GPA of 3.0 on the most recent 30 credit hours.
1. A minimum grade of "B" in SCWK 2013 Introduction to Social Welfare and a minimum grade of "B" in SCWK 2023 Introduction to Social Work*.

Note: Applicants who do not satisfy these minimum academic requirements are not considered further in the selection process.

2. A critical awareness of the interaction among the individual and the social, political, and economic aspects of society and a demonstrated recognition that for structural social workers the main focus for change is the structure of society rather than the individual.
3. Evidence of familiarity with, and commitment to, the profession of social work, as well as the capacity to learn from experience.

**Students without the mandatory social work courses will be required to participate in an interview process weighted at 30% (replacing the weight given to the grades of two mandatory courses).*

Practicum Conditions

The BSW Program includes a minimum of 700 hours of field practice, as required by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education Standards for Accreditation. The first practicum commences during the Winter Semester of the 3rd year (250 hours). The second practicum occurs during the Winter Semester of 4th year (450 hours) in a block format, four days a week.

Application Deadline

April 30 of each year. All application materials and supporting documents must be received by the Admissions Office on or before the deadline.

Educational Equity Admissions Policy

The School of Social Work has adopted an Educational Equity Admissions Policy for those applicants who have been disadvantaged and/or marginalized by some form of oppression. The policy recognizes that some students may have experienced structural barriers due to identification with a specific group, or because of labels imposed upon them by society. Students wishing to be considered under the Educational Equity Admission Policy must indicate their request on the application form and by identifying which form of oppression has impacted their life through marginalisation or barriers that have limited their access to social institutions. Educational Equity Statements are considered during the second stage of the admission process only for applicants who meet the minimum academic requirements outlined above in "Prerequisites," subsections 1 and 2.

Admission Criteria

CGPA on program or most recent 30 credit hours (minimum 3.0)	15%
*SCWK 2013 Grade	15%
*SCWK 2023 Grade	15%
Personal Statement	15%
Experience (work, volunteer, life and learning from experience)	20%
Two references	20%

**Students without the prerequisite second year social work courses will be required to participate in an interview process weighted at 30% (replacing the weight given to the grades of two mandatory courses).*

Application Procedures

The deadline for applications is April 30. The application, including supporting documents, must be received by the Admissions Office on or before the April 30 deadline. The required application and documents include the following:

1. a completed general application form for admission found at stu.ca/ApplyNow
2. non-refundable application fee of \$55 (\$40 for applicants from New Brunswick)
3. personal statement in which you discuss your interest in becoming a social worker; experiences (personal, volunteer, professional, employment) that have influenced both your understanding of Social Work and your decision to apply; insights, knowledge, and skills that you have gained from these experiences and that have relevance to social work; and your professional/learning goals as well as any relevant vocational plans
4. a detailed résumé including volunteer and paid employment
5. two reference letters which assess your readiness for the Social Work profession; one academic and a second related to community experience, volunteer work, or paid employment.
6. official transcripts of marks from all post-secondary institutions you have attended. Please note, if you have a STU transcript, you will not need to submit it, as our Admissions Office has access to it.