Social Work Major

Background
Metropolitan State University offers a distinctive Bachelor of Social Work program. The mission of the social work program is to integrate the values, knowledge and skills inherent to social work into an academic program that enables graduating, multiculturally competent, bachelor’s level students to engage in generalist practice that meets the needs of increasingly racially diverse Twin Cities communities. This degree is intended for students who want to become generalist social work practitioners with the capacity to provide culturally competent social work services to people of color.

The social work program received accreditation in June 1998 by the Council on Social Work Education. This program will provide students the opportunity to meet the requirements to sit for the exam necessary for licensing as a social worker by the Minnesota Board of Social Work. They also are eligible to apply for advanced standing in accredited graduate social work programs.

Program Admission Requirements
To be eligible to apply for admission to the social work program major, students must have completed the general education requirements and 40 semester credits including academic content in each of the following:

- psychology;
- sociology;
- anthropology;
- political science;
- human biology;
- introduction to social work; and
- racial/ethnic awareness.

Students seeking admission must also demonstrate a commitment to and/or experience in serving people of color.

The admission process requires the following:

- completion of a social work application form;
- a written personal statement;
- documentation of completion of admission requirements;
- two letters of reference; and
- completion of mathematics and writing assessments. An interview with a social work faculty member is also required.

For applications and more information, call the Social Work Department at 651-793-1339.

Careers
Social work is among the fastest growing professional groups in the United States. With the program emphasis on preparing graduates to serve an increasingly diverse population, it is clear that Metropolitan State graduates will be in an increasingly multicultural society. Graduating students are prepared for entry-level social work positions within government and nonprofit agencies as well as some for-profit human service businesses.

The Program
Metropolitan State’s social work program helps students acquire the values, knowledge and skills necessary to help individuals and families maintain their cultural identities while increasing their capacity to live and function successfully in two or more cultural environments. Students learn to help communities serve and nurture their members and achieve a viable balance between community needs and available resources. Students in the program also learn to help organizations at all levels continuously examine and modify their practices and procedures to ensure equitable distribution of resources and provide race-gender and class-sensitive practice.

Students may choose a full-time daytime program that meets primarily on Mondays and Tuesdays or a part-time evening program that meets on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Major requirements
The social work program has three main components:

1. 60 semester credits, including 40 general education and liberal studies with a minimum of three credits in each of the following: psychology, sociology, anthropology, political science, human biology, and racial/ethnic awareness, completed at Metropolitan State or another postsecondary institution prior to admission to the social work major;
2. 32 semester credits in core curriculum required courses (including sowk 109 Introduction to Social Work);
3. 14 semester credits of field practica including five semester credits in a community learning center in a community of color, five semester credits in a
mainstream social work setting and four credits in field practice seminars.

4. four credits in statistics;
5. eight credits in liberal studies; and
6. two credits in other electives

**Social Work Core Courses**

**Social Work Practice** (10 semester credits)
- SOWk 321 Social Work Practice I (5 cr)
- SOWk 522 Social Work Practice II (5 cr)

**Racial / Ethnic Analysis** (4 semester credits)
- SOWk 341 Racial/Ethnic Comparative Analysis I (2 cr)
- SOWk 542 Racial/Ethnic Comparative Analysis II (2 cr)

**Social Policy** (6 semester credits)
- SOWk 109 Introduction to Social Work (3 cr)
- SOWk 360 Social Welfare History and Policy (3 cr)

**Research** (6 semester credits)
- SOWk 351 Social Research (1–3 cr)
- SOWk 552 Community Research and Advocacy (1–3 cr)

**Human Behavior in Social Environment** (6 semester credits)
- SOWk 331 Human Behavior in the Social Environment I (3 cr)
- SOWk 332 Human Behavior in the Social Environment II (3 cr)

**Social Work Field Courses**

**Field Practicum** (10 semester credits)
- SOWk 391 Community Learning Center Practicum (2–5 cr)
- SOWk 591 Senior Practicum (2–5 cr)

**Field Seminar** (4 semester credits)
- SOWk 381 Community Learning Center Seminar (1–2 cr)
- SOWk 582 Capstone Seminar (1–2 cr)

**How to Apply**

Students who want to be accepted into the social work program must be admitted to Metropolitan State and into the program. Thus, students must complete two application forms. Contact the Admissions Office at 651-793-1300 or 612-659-7300 for a Metropolitan State application form. Contact the Social Work Department at 651-793-1339 for a social work application form. Social work applications are accepted each spring and summer for admission the following fall.

**Campus and Classroom Locations**

Social work core courses are offered at the Saint Paul Campus. The community learning center classes are at African American Adoption Agency, the Division of Indian Work, La Familia Guidance Center and Hmong Golden Village.

**Faculty**

Metropolitan State University prides itself on its outstanding faculty, which includes professional educators and community faculty members who are both teachers and full-time professionals in their areas of expertise. The most important characteristic of the social work faculty is its diversity and commitment to students.

**For More Information**

An important step in the college selection process is to arrange a visit with an admissions counselor or to attend a free general information meeting conducted by an admissions counselor. For more information about Metropolitan State University, call the Admissions Office at the Saint Paul Campus, 651-793-1300, (651-772-7687 tty) or Minneapolis Campus, 612-659-7300, or visit Metropolitan State’s Web site at www.metrostate.edu.