

School of Social Work

WHY STUDY SOCIAL WORK AT UMAINE?

The mission of the School of Social Work is to improve the quality of life for all people by promoting excellence in social work practice. We are committed to the professional education of social workers who are ready to make a difference in our complex and changing society. We provide this education in an atmosphere of individualized learning, respect for individual rights, and a celebration of diversity. The School of Social Work offers two fully accredited degree programs, both of which are firmly rooted in the philosophical approach of the generalist perspective of social work practice. The degree programs are specifically designed to provide students with a well-integrated academic and practical education. The size of the school is ideal for undergraduate and masters level study, featuring greater student-faculty interaction and a highly individualized field practicum, which facilitates maximum personal growth and learning.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH AN UNDERGRADUATE SOCIAL WORK DEGREE?

There are many opportunities for social workers in Maine and throughout the United States. Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) graduates are employed in public settings such as the Maine Department of Health & Human Services and in private, nonprofit organizations—youth serving agencies, nursing homes, day care centers, hospitals, adoption agencies, community centers and mental health programs. The UMaine BASW program prepares students to qualify for licensure at the LSW (Licensed Social Worker) level. Graduates work with people of all ages and with a wide variety of problems and issues.

University of Maine BASW graduates qualify to apply for “advanced standing” in the Master of Social Work program (MSW) at the University of Maine, at the weekend MSW Program at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast, and at many graduate programs of social work nationwide. In most programs, admission to “advanced standing” means the student may complete the MSW program in less than the traditional two years. The BASW degree is also good preparation for graduate study in psychology, human development, family studies, and counselor education.

GRADUATE EDUCATION

The MSW program is designed for people who are interested in entering the social work profession at an

advanced professional level and for people currently in the profession who are interested in upgrading their knowledge, skills, credentials and career potential.

The UMaine MSW curriculum has been developed to both reflect and promote the advances in contemporary advanced social work practice. Curriculum design and materials incorporate theory and practice approaches that have been developed throughout the country as well as those that have been created by faculty and practitioners to meet rural state and local needs. Upon graduation, students are prepared to deal with a wide variety of current and emerging human problems using a generalist approach to practice that allows the social worker to select and apply the appropriate intervention. The curriculum consists of foundation and advanced year courses, field practicum and electives. A number of specialized programs are offered including the Certificate in Leadership in Rural Gerontological Practice and the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education.

The UMaine MSW program prepares students to qualify for licensure at the LMSW (Licensed Master Social Worker) level upon graduation. MSW students who complete specific clinical social work courses and appropriate supervised work experience in a clinical setting for at least two years following graduation are eligible to apply for licensure at the LCSW (Licensed Clinical Social Worker) level. Courses may be taken at the University of Maine in Orono or at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast. The MSW program will be available in Falmouth and Presque Isle for three-year students entering in 2012 and advanced standing students entering in 2013. Full-time and part-time programs are available.

ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS

The University of Maine has offered undergraduate education in social work and social welfare since the 1950s. In 1972, the University of Maine began offering the BASW degree to its undergraduate students. The BASW program was granted initial accreditation from the Council on Social Work Education in 1979 and has been fully accredited ever since. The two-year graduate program leading to the MSW degree was approved in 1987, and accredited in 1991. The school currently has an average enrollment of 120 undergraduate and 130 graduate students in the programs.



OUR FACULTY

Social work faculty at the University of Maine has a wealth of academic specializations which add to the strength of the generalist perspective of social work to which the school is committed. In addition to their research and teaching, faculty are effectively engaged in both professional and public service activities at the local community level, statewide, nationally, and internationally. This active involvement by faculty ensures that students receive an education that is both current and practical. The adjunct social work faculty at the University of Maine brings to the classroom a wealth of practice experience from numerous specializations. Our adjunct faculty are leaders in every area of social work practice and bring to the classroom a unique combination of practice and theoretical wisdom.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Recent Bureau of Labor statistics indicate that social work employment “is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations through 2018” and that job prospects “are expected to be favorable, particularly for social workers who specialize in the aging population or work in rural areas.” (Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-11 edition, <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos060.htm>)

ABOUT THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION

Social work is a distinctive profession, which views people and their environment as integrally intertwined and interactive. We share a commitment not only to work with individuals, but also share a commitment to institutional and societal change. As a profession, social workers maintain a primary commitment to disadvantaged, vulnerable, and economically deprived persons in our society. Historically, social workers led the fight for child labor laws, voting rights for women, and other progressive milestones. Social workers share a common set of professional values and ethics, and common set of skills that enable us to work with diverse populations and fill diverse roles in a variety of settings.



about UMaine

The University of Maine, founded in 1865, is the state's premier public university, located in the town of Orono. It is among the most comprehensive higher education institutions in the Northeast and attracts students from across the U.S. and more than 60 countries. It currently enrolls 12,000 total undergraduate and graduate students who can directly participate in groundbreaking research working with world-class scholars. Students are offered 88 bachelor's degree programs, 64 master's degree programs, 25 doctoral programs and one of the oldest and most prestigious honors programs in the U.S. The university promotes environmental stewardship on its campus, with substantial efforts aimed at conserving energy, recycling and adhering to green building standards in new construction. For more information about UMaine, go online (umaine.edu). Equal opportunity information also is available online (umaine.edu/eo).

apply

To request an MSW or BASW application package or to request more information, please call or email your request along with your name and address to:

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A Member of the University of Maine System



My course work and my field placement work prepared me well for the work I do now. The school offers very extensive field placement opportunities and I have heard and seen that people coming out of this program are the most prepared for the social work field. They are really trained as generalist social workers to approach a lot of different challenges. The commitment of the people who teach in the department has given me a real passion for social work.

--- Elin MacKinnon, BASW, MSW, LCSW University of Maine 1995



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