

Bachelor of Social Work

Social Justice and Service As part of St. Ambrose University's commitment to social justice and service to others, we developed a unique academic pathway that allows students to earn a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) and a second undergraduate degree in Psychology, Sociology, or Women and Gender Studies at the same time.

A History of Engagement At St. Ambrose, our roots in social justice run deep. We take action, in and out of the classroom. From advocating for the rights of labor and migrant workers in the 1930s, to Catholic social action and civil rights movement in the 1950s, to the current issues of economic and racial inequality, St. Ambrose students, faculty, staff and alumni have a rich history of engagement and taking action to make our world a better place.

Advocates for Empowerment An education in social work at St. Ambrose University emphasizes social justice and empowerment practice at all system levels.

The BSW dual degree program prepares students to be social workers with a rich liberal arts base providing strong critical thinking, analytic, and communication skills who enrich lives and advocate for a just society through an empowerment lens. This is a value-added skill set, highly sought by employers.

In-demand Careers The U.S. Department of Labor Statistics estimates the need for social work professionals will grow 16 percent by 2026, with high demand in healthcare and social service related fields.

A Clear Plan Students who earn a BSW can apply for advanced standing in most MSW programs, including the MSW program at SAU. This saves students time and money.

BSW Program Features

- > Apply to the BSW program during your sophomore year while completing a dual degree in Psychology, Sociology, or Women and Gender Studies. High school seniors who demonstrate strong academic performance can qualify for early admission to this program.
- > Our BSW is 32-credit hours and includes a culminating experience and internship. Internship and field experience opportunities will allow students to apply, refine, and integrate knowledge acquired in the classroom with experiences in social service agencies.



Dual Degree Majors

- **Psychology** Psychology majors benefit from unique coursework on mental health, developmental and social influences on human behavior, and how the brain functions. This provides a solid foundation for developing skills that social workers need when assessing and counseling clients, and offers extra insight into client issues and motivations.
- **Sociology** The Sociology major equips students with the ability to demonstrate respect and empathy for persons from diverse cultures and backgrounds, and to propose solutions to social problems reflecting principles of equality and social justice.
- **Women and Gender Studies** Individuals interested in justice, counseling and community activism find that the Women and Gender Studies major provides a framework for supporting human rights by working with people, locally and globally, and for being strong social justice advocates, which resonates strongly with the mission of social work.

BSW Admission Requirements

All students intending to enter the BSW program their junior year must complete the following:

1. Earned at least 45-credit hours and have a minimum 2.5 GPA (including any SAU and transfer credits).
 - > Current SAU students will generally apply during the second semester of sophomore year; the timing may vary for transfer students.
2. Taken the following prerequisite courses with a grade "C" or higher (No C- *exceptions will be considered):
 - > SWK 201 Introduction to Social Work, 3 credits
 - > Human Biology, 4 credits: BIOL 101/BIOL 101L or BIOL 112/BIOL 112L or BIO 199 or BIO 205 or BIO 230
 - > Choose one based on your interests (3 credits each): PSYC 105 Introduction to Psychology, SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology, or WGS 201 Intro to Women and Gender Studies
 - > STAT 213 Statistics/Methods, 3 credits or SOC 430 Data Analysis in Social Research, 4 credits
 - > PSCI 101 Intro to American Government, 3 credits
3. BSW Admission Application which includes:
 - > Personal statement (go to www.sau.edu/BSW for details about personal statement requirements)
 - > Name and email from supervisor or college instructor to serve as a reference
 - > Transcripts sent from all institutions attended (if applicable)

Track 1 Admission Requirements

High-achieving high school students who are interested in securing their place in the BSW program at SAU may apply for early decision consideration by completing an application if they meet the following criteria:

- > Earn a minimum 3.0 GPA
- > Earn a minimum ACT score of 23 or between a 1130 and 1150 score on the SAT
- > Personal statement describing career goals and interests in social work (1-2 pages, double-sided)
- > Accepted by SAU for admission

Get In Touch With Us Today

We invite you to visit St. Ambrose to learn more about the opportunities here. Our quality academic programs provide one of the best private education values in the Midwest.

Check it out for yourself: contact our Admissions Office, 563-333-6300 or admit@sau.edu, or go online to www.sau.edu.

St. Ambrose University offers a Bachelor of Social Work, as well as a Master of Social Work. For complete information, consult the Course Catalog at www.sau.edu/catalog.

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