



take action
be a force for change

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 A Social Work Education 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 oral and written communication skills who enrich lives and advocate for a just society through an empowerment lens. This is a value-added skill set, highly valued by employers.

In-demand Careers The U.S. Department of Labor Statistics estimates the need for social work professionals will grow 19 percent by 2022, with high demand in healthcare and social services related fields.

A Clear Plan Undergraduate students who complete the BSW could qualify for Advanced Standing status in our MSW program, which saves students time and tuition.

three pathways, two degrees

Our BSW program is designed for students who are motivated to help others, who want to make connections and enact change, who have a strong drive and often question “what can I do to make a difference?”

At St. Ambrose, students learn how to improve the lives of individuals and how to change society. We prepare students to work in social services, hospitals, schools, policy advocacy, mental health centers, and many more settings.

A BSW degree is one of the most useful and flexible degrees for the human service sector. We’ve created a program that combines a BSW with a major in Psychology, Sociology, or Women and Gender Studies. Both degrees build on each other, and improve a student’s skills in social work practice. You get a well-integrated program that connects the two degrees and leads to a successful career.

Learn More

St. Ambrose Admissions Office
563-333-6300
800-383-2627
admit@sau.edu
www.sau.edu/sw

- > **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. Psychology’s roots in conducting scientific research prepares social workers to understand and design research in their field to use best practices with clients and organizations. This pairing of Psychology and Social Work, as well as the completion of an internship, can help students stand out in job interviews.
- > **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. Social workers meet people where they are in life, and a background in sociology provides powerful tools for understanding the social forces that can shape personal behavior and social circumstances. Social Work is a great fit for students interested in social justice and how to affect change in someone’s life in order to avoid previous difficult situations.
- > **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. The empowerment model is a hallmark of the St. Ambrose BSW program and helps students gain broader perspectives on the human condition preparing them to be advocates for justice in a rapidly changing global society.

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 dual degree program allows students to earn two degrees which perfectly complement one another.
- > 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.
- > Internship and field experience opportunities will allow students to apply, refine, and integrate knowledge acquired in the classroom with experiences in social agencies.
- > Our BSW is 32-credit hours and includes a culminating experience and internship.