

trentu.ca/socialwork

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The challenging field of social work provides essential supports to communities by helping its individuals, groups, and families meet their basic human needs, and by creating the conditions necessary for social change. The Bachelor of Social Work at Trent University prepares graduates with the knowledge and skills for meaningful professional practice in a wide range of social work contexts. Through an interdisciplinary curriculum grounded in social justice, human rights, and cultural awareness, students develop a strong foundation of clinical knowledge, critical thinking skills, and social responsibility. In the first two years of the program, students explore a range of contemporary themes connected to social work from across disciplines. Students must compete for admission to the professional years (years 3 and 4) with limited spots available. Students who are admitted to the professional years focus almost exclusively on social work theory and practice in their third- and fourth-year courses, including 700 hours of supervised placement.

Notes

- The Honours Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program consists of 20.0 credits, with at least 11.0 credits in SWRK.
- Any student can declare a major in Social Work for the general years (years 1 and 2).
- 1000- and 2000-level SWRK courses are open to all students.
- Students must apply to enter year 3 of the program (the first of two professional years). Admission is competitive and spaces are limited.
- To be eligible to apply to the professional years of the program, students must complete a minimum of two general years (10.0 university credits).
- Since admission to the professional years is not guaranteed, students should consider fulfilling the requirements for an alternate major when selecting elective courses in years 1 and 2.
- Students are admitted on a full-time basis to the professional years of the Social Work program and must normally complete the program requirements over two consecutive years.

Admission Requirements – Years 1 and 2

- High School: A secondary school diploma, including six Ontario 4U or 4M credits (or equivalent), is required for admission. These credits must include English (ENG4U) with a minimum 60%. Candidates must possess a minimum overall average of 70%.
- Post-Secondary: Students with college or university transfer credits will be evaluated on an individual basis and should contact the Admissions Office for more information. Students with transfer credits should see an academic advisor for assistance in planning their course of study.

Applying to the Professional Years (Years 3 and 4)

- Without exception, to be considered for admission into year 3 (the professional years), students must have met the following requirements by May 15 of the application year:
 - successful completion of SWRK 1000H, 1001H, 2001H and 2004H (or equivalent);
 - a minimum grade of 70% in each of the completed Social Work courses (SWRK 1000H, 1001H, 2001H, and 2004H);
 - a minimum of 10.0 credits with a minimum cumulative average of 70%;
 - SWRK 3000Y cannot be used to meet the requirements of the general years if it was received as a transfer credit.
- For students with transfer credits, the average will be calculated using the courses they have taken at Trent. For students with more than 10.0 university credits, the best 8.0 credits that meet the requirements of the general years (6.0 credits in Humanities and/or Social Sciences and/or Psychology, and 2.0 additional credits) plus the 2.0 required SWRK credits, will be used in the calculation of the average.
- Students will be charged an application fee to apply for admission to the professional years.
- Students must submit a supplemental application that includes a list of their employment, volunteer, and extracurricular experiences, as well as a short critical thinking essay.
- Successful applicants are admitted to the professional years, which start in September of year 3.
- For additional details, see the BSW Professional Years Admissions Package at trentu.ca/socialwork.

Bachelor of Social Work Program

- In addition to the program requirements listed below, students must satisfy the University degree requirements (see p. 14).
- Social Work is a four-year program leading to an Honours degree. There are no options for a General degree, minor, or joint-major program.
- Students must achieve a minimum of 65% in all required 3000- and 4000-level SWRK courses in order to progress in the program and to graduate.
- Students must achieve a minimum cumulative average of 65% in order to graduate with a BSW degree.
- Social Work Field Education Placement courses (SWRK 3000Y and 4000D) are graded on a pass/fail basis. In order to graduate, students must pass both placements.
- Students may repeat each of SWRK 1000H, 1001H, 2001H, and 2004H in order to improve their grades for application to the professional years. Students can repeat these courses up to the maximum number of attempts allowed by University regulations.
- Students will be allowed to repeat no more than two third- or fourth-year required SWRK courses for which they have received a grade lower than 65%. Failure to raise this grade to 65% or better will result in withdrawal from the BSW program but not from the University. Students who receive a third grade lower than 65% in a third-year or fourth-year required SWRK course will be withdrawn from the BSW program but not from the University.
- Students will be allowed to repeat one failed Social Work Field Education placement over the duration of the program. A second failing grade in a Social Work Field Education placement (either a repeated or different placement course) will result in withdrawal from the BSW program but not from the University.
- For required SWRK courses in the professional years of the program, students must register on the campus to which they were admitted. Only if space permits, and if a request is made to the director prior to the start of the term, will requests to register on the other campus be considered.

- Attendance at integration seminars, orientation days, and placements is mandatory. Please see the Bachelor of Social Work's Field Education Manual for further details.
- All courses reflect the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Ethical Practice, the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers Association (OCSWSSW) Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice, and the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE-ACFTS) Accreditation Standards.
- Unsafe, unethical, or unprofessional social work practice is considered to be professional misconduct. Please see the Bachelor of Social Work's Student Handbook for details related to the Policy on Professional Conduct and Suitability.

The four-year program leading to an Honours degree in Social Work consists of 20.0 credits, with at least 11.0 credits in SWRK. The program must include:

Year 1

- 1.0 SWRK credit consisting of SWRK 1000H and 1001H
- 3.0 credits at the 1000 level or beyond in Humanities and/or Social Sciences and/or Psychology (for disciplines in the Humanities and the Social Sciences, see [p. 18](#))
- 1.0 credit in addition to the above

Year 2

- 1.0 SWRK credit consisting of SWRK 2001H and 2004H
- 3.0 credits at the 2000 level or beyond in Humanities and/or Social Sciences and/or Psychology
- 1.0 credit in addition to the above

Professional Years

Year 3

- 4.5 SWRK credits consisting of SWRK 3000Y, 3001H, 3002H, 3003H, 3004H, 3005H, 3006H, and 3007H
- 0.5 SWRK credit from SWRK 3101H, 3102H, 3104H, 3105H, 3106H, 3107H, or 3950H

Year 4

- 4.0 SWRK credits consisting of SWRK 4000D, 4001H, 4002H, 4005H, and 4006H
- 0.5 SWRK credit from SWRK 3101H, 3102H, 3104H, 3105H, 3106H, 3107H, or 3950H
- 0.5 elective credit in addition to the above (may be from SWRK)

Please consult the academic timetable for information on courses that will be offered in 2019–2020, including when they will be scheduled.

» **SWRK 1000H: Introduction to Social Work**

An introduction to the profession of social work with an emphasis on its functions, values, ethics, and theoretical base. Methods of intervention, fields of practice, and ideological perspectives are explored, along with critical thinking about intersecting oppressions, diversity, and the practice of social work with various populations within Canadian and global contexts.

» **SWRK 1001H: Introduction to Social Welfare**

Provides an overview of Canada's social welfare system. Adopting a critical theoretical approach, the historical development of social policies and programs will be examined. Social welfare frameworks and systems in Canada will be considered in light of issues such as culture, ethnicity, class, dignity, diversity, hegemony, and oppression.

- » **SWRK 2001H: Foundations of Social Work Practice**
Introduces foundational social work theory, knowledge, ethics, and skills and expands anti-oppressive conceptual understandings about social work practice, its mission and values, the profession itself, and planned change stages and processes with individuals, families, and small groups. Introduces the emotional, intellectual, and professional/personal characteristics required for the practice of social work. Prerequisite: SWRK 1000H and 1001H.
- » **SWRK 2004H: Risk and Resilience in the Social Environment**
Focusing on risk and resilience theories, students develop a critical understanding of human behaviour in the social environment by examining relevant theories, assessment strategies, and social work practices. Students will comprehend and assess complex reciprocal interactions between various social systems and individuals, families, and communities throughout the life cycle. Prerequisite: SWRK 2001H. Excludes SWRK 4004H.
- » **SWRK 3000Y: Social Work Field Education Placement**
Includes three mandatory parts—orientation, field placement hours, and regular in-class integration seminars—and will provide opportunities for students to integrate social work theory and practice and to apply and develop social work knowledge and skills. Students will apply key social work concepts, theories, and intervention approaches including process recording, critical thinking, and ethical practice. Prerequisite: 65% or higher in each of SWRK 3001H, 3002H, and 3003H, and a Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Screening. A student with a criminal record that is unacceptable to a placement agency may not be able to complete the program.
- » **SWRK 3001H: Social Work Communication Skills**
Presents social work interviewing, assessment, communication, and documentation practice skills. Students will conceptualize, assess, and apply supportive, culturally appropriate, and ethical intervention strategies with diverse service users. The course will be delivered using experiential learning approaches and utilize lab-based activities and assignments. Prerequisite: Admission to the BSW professional years.
- » **SWRK 3002H: Social Work Theory and Practice 1**
Presents theoretical approaches with societies, communities, families, and individuals; examines the roots of personal and social problems; and discusses working with diverse service user populations. Offers readings, discussions, lectures, and assignments geared to assisting students to integrate mezzo and macro levels of social work theory, practice, and social action. Prerequisite: Admission to the BSW professional years.
- » **SWRK 3003H: Social Work Research**
Provides an overview of social work research methods and their application in anti-oppressive social change oriented practice. Social change oriented approaches to research and community-based research methods and practitioner self-study will be considered as tools for knowledge production and mobilization. Prerequisite: Admission to the BSW professional years.
- » **SWRK 3004H: Social Work and Indigenous Perspectives (ICR)**
Examines the history of colonialism, multigenerational trauma, anti-racist practice, strengths of Indigenous cultures, and relevant current and traditional healing modalities. Examines structural inequities including institutional, social, historic, and economic systems and bridges traditional Indigenous cultural teachings with evidenced-based research in order to provide culturally safe and appropriate care. Prerequisite: Admission to the BSW professional years.
- » **SWRK 3005H: Diversity, Identity, Social Location, and Oppression**
Invites students to consider the dynamics of difference to inform social work theory, research, and practice. Various dimensions of diversity are explored, including age, class, culture, gender, race, disability, and sexual orientation. Cultural safety/humility is explored, and critical thinking, reflection, and awareness of identity, privilege, and intersectionality are emphasized. Prerequisite: Admission to the BSW professional years.

- » **SWRK 3006H: Social Work and Social Policy**
Provides students with an overview of social policy in Canada and its role in anti-oppressive change-oriented social work practice. Students will review historical policy processes and orientations to social welfare and consider their relevance in the contemporary social welfare context. Prerequisite: Admission to the BSW professional years.
- » **SWRK 3007H: Community Social Work**
Focuses on community organization and development as well as the nature of community, its structures and processes, issues, and strategies of intervention across a variety of practice techniques, including community formation, organizing, and advocacy. Locality development, identity-based organizing, social planning, asset mapping, community capacity, social change, and collectivization will be explored. Prerequisite: Admission to the BSW professional years.
- » **SWRK 3101H: Social Work and Aging**
Explores and critically assesses social work theories on aging, the elderly in Canada, the impact of oppression on the aging process, and current (as well as developing) gerontological social work practices. Investigates a range of perspectives on aging including life span theory, feminist approaches, critical race perspectives, and Indigenous knowledge(s). Prerequisite: Admission to the BSW professional years or permission of the director.
- » **SWRK 3102H: Anti-Oppressive Child Welfare**
Reviews the history of child welfare in Canada, issues of colonization, racialization, sexism, poverty, and discrimination, and examines the current structure of child welfare systems including legislation, definitions of abuse/neglect, roles of workers, and demographics of service users. Anti-oppressive theories of assessment and intervention strategies are examined and applied. Prerequisite: Admission to the BSW professional years.
- » **SWRK 3104H: Substance Use, Mental Health, and Recovery**
Explores the meaning and history of substance use, connections with mental health, and the construction of drug/alcohol use as a social problem. Linkages between trauma, oppression, and substance misuse and impacts on service users, assessment of substance misuse and mental health issues, and formulation of intervention plans will be highlighted. Prerequisite: Admission to the BSW professional years or permission of director.
- » **SWRK 3105H: Queering Social Work**
Provides an overview of queer history, presence/absence (exclusion of lesbians, trans, Indigenous, polysexual, and intersex individuals), theories, issues, liberation, resistance, and victories. Emphasis on sexual/gender diversity, privilege, and identity(ies). Support of queer persons and queer-straight alliances, as well as the protection and growth of queer communities, will be explored. Prerequisite: Admission to the BSW professional years or permission of director.
- » **SWRK 3106H: Social Work Organizations and Leadership**
Explores the theories, styles, and contemporary challenges of effective leadership in social work organizations. Perspectives of organizational development and theory, managerialism, and bureaucratic theories are critically examined. Self-knowledge, critical thinking, effective communication, teamwork, evidence-informed leadership, ethical leadership, and practical skills are developed. Prerequisite: Admission to the BSW professional years. Excludes SWRK 4003H.
- » **SWRK 3107H: Social Work and Addictions**
In the context of anti-oppressive social work practice, this course covers pharmacological foundations of substance use; theoretical perspectives on the etiology of addiction; the history and structure of addiction and mental health treatment/support systems; treatment/support/prevention strategies for individuals, families, and groups; and policy/ethical debates. The implications across at-risk populations will be discussed. Prerequisite: Admission to the BSW professional years or permission of director.

» **SWRK 3901H: Reading Course**

A structured course involving independent study of a topic not normally covered in existing SWRK courses. An application must be completed by the student in collaboration with the instructor, and approved by the director and the dean. This option is only offered when faculty expertise and resources permit. Prerequisite: Admission to the BSW professional years.

» **SWRK 3950H: Special Topic: Africentric Perspectives in Social Work**

Provides students with an opportunity to engage in critical dialogue, reflection, and action about historical and contemporary experiences of African Canadians and Africans in the Diaspora. The course also focuses on awareness of Africentric theory and its application in social work practice with Africans and non-Africans. Prerequisite: Admission to BSW professional years or permission of the director.

» **SWRK 4000D: Social Work Field Education Placement**

Includes three mandatory parts—orientation, field placement hours, and regular in-class integration seminars—and will provide opportunities for students to further develop and integrate social work theory and practice and to apply and develop social work knowledge and skills. Students will apply key social work concepts, theories, and intervention approaches, including process recording, critical thinking, and ethical practice. Prerequisite: A pass in SWRK 3000Y and a renewed Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Screening. A student with a criminal record that is unacceptable to a placement agency may be unable to complete the program.

» **SWRK 4001H: Feminist-Informed Trauma Practice**

Explores feminist theories, assessment, and intervention, and an integrated trauma model to work with trauma survivors. Analysis of intersectionality, the feminization of poverty, violence against women, racialized violence, children who witness violence, the construction of masculine violence as a cultural norm, and violence within same-sex couples will be examined. Prerequisite: 65% or higher in SWRK 4002H.

» **SWRK 4002H: Social Work Theory and Practice 2**

Moving from macro and mezzo perspectives to micro-level theoretical assessment and intervention, this course examines social work theoretical models for working with service users, including the use of self as a therapeutic tool; planned change processes; understandings of diversity, identity, social location, intersectionality, and oppression; current research; and professional roles/functions. Prerequisite: 65% or higher in each of SWRK 3001H, 3002H, and 3003H.

» **SWRK 4004H: Risk and Resilience Throughout the Lifespan**

Develops a critical understanding of human behaviour in the social environment through examining relevant theories, strategies, and social work practices. Assessment aimed at identifying factors that place individuals, families, and communities at risk for struggle across a variety of areas and developing strengths-based/resiliency intervention practices are highlighted. Prerequisite: 65% or higher in each of SWRK 4001H and 4002H. Excludes SWRK 2004H.

» **SWRK 4005H: Social Work with Groups**

The history, theory, and practice of group structure, process, skills, and development are examined. Content includes the use of self as a therapeutic tool in diverse group contexts; understandings of diversity, identity, social location, intersectionality, and oppression in group work; current research on group interventions; and professional ethics, skills, roles and functions. Prerequisite: Admission to the BSW professional years and 65% or higher in each of SWRK 3006H and 3007H.

» **SWRK 4006H: Social Work and Families**

Teaches interdisciplinary theoretical perspectives and practice approaches that are relevant for working with the contemporary family in all its forms, including Bowen, systems, feminist, structural, narrative, brief therapy, and Indigenous approaches. Develops family practice skills through the use of lectures, readings, class discussions/exercises, and interactive role play experiences. Prerequisite: 65% or higher in SWRK 4002H. Excludes SWRK 3103H.