

Trent University, Department of Social Work, Professional Years Admissions Package 2023



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Admission Overview:

The Bachelor of Social Work program seeks to attract a diverse and intellectually engaged body of students who are committed to social justice and service to their communities and society. We are seeking students who exhibit the following personal characteristics:

- ❖ Courage and empathy;
- ❖ Inclusivity and social justice;
- ❖ Collaboration and leadership;
- ❖ Communication and organizational skills;
- ❖ Commitment, care, and concern;
- ❖ Flexibility, openness, and curiosity;
- ❖ Maturity and confidence;
- ❖ Critical thinking skills;
- ❖ Ethical and responsible practice.

Social workers work with diverse individuals, families, and groups. They pay attention to what people say and do. They are interested in the world around them and strive to improve social conditions for all peoples. Students in the Bachelor of Social Work Program are expected to adhere to [Code of Ethics of the Canadian Association of Social Work Education](#) (CASWE) and the [Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers](#), both in the academic environment and field settings.

During the Professional Years (Years 3 and 4), students will acquire the knowledge, values, and skills to become effective generalist social work practitioners. The word “generalist” in the context of social work means that students will acquire a comprehensive set of knowledge, values, and skills that are transferable across a range of fields of practice and a range of social work roles. Students will also gain strong critical thinking skills, leadership abilities, and enhanced values related to social justice and social responsibility. The program provides students with many opportunities to expand their experiences, apply their knowledge in real-world situations, and to prepare for success in a social work career. Students will learn how to provide essential supports to vulnerable people through an interdisciplinary curriculum grounded in social justice, human rights and cultural awareness. This includes hands-on experience through a minimum of 700 hours of supervised field education. Students will graduate with an Honours Bachelor of Social Work degree.

Admission Cycle:

- The online application opens January 10, 2023 via the myTrent portal.
- The online application (via the Academics/Admissions section of the myTrent portal) closes at 11:59 pm, March 1, 2023 (there are no extensions).
- All grades to be used to meet requirements for admissions to the Professional Years must be available by May 15, 2023.
- Decisions will go out mid-June to students' Trent University email address (@trentu.ca) only.
- The deadline to accept will be noted in the offer of admissions email.

Admission Details:

- Students applying to the BSW Professional Years will only be eligible for admissions to 3rd year. The professional years only have one start session, which is September. Students admitted to the Professional Years are not able to start in any other session.
- Fulfillment of the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission.
- There is a **non-refundable application fee of \$60**. Your application is not considered complete until the payment is made.
- Payment is made via myTrent: MyTrent>Finance>Make a Payment (then select the Social Work application fee from the drop-down menu).
- Overall GPA, individual grades in SWRK courses, and the online supplemental application information will be considered.
- Admission can be competitive with a limited number of spaces available at each campus.
- There will be an optional voluntary equity declaration as part of the online application.
- There will be one applicant pool. On the online application form, students will indicate: "Peterborough campus only", "Durham campus only", "either campus prefer Peterborough", or "either campus prefer Durham".
- Offers of admission will indicate the student's assigned campus. Students must attend the assigned campus for all required professional years courses.
- Students are admitted on a full-time basis to the Professional Years of the BSW Program and must complete the professional requirements over two consecutive years.
- Offers cannot be deferred (students would have to reapply).
- Students admitted into the BSW Professional Years are required to annually obtain a Criminal Record Check (with Vulnerable Sector Screening if required by placement agency). A student with a criminal record that is unacceptable to his/her field placement agency may not be able to complete the program.
- Students must complete NVCI and ASIST training in the third year of the program. Students are responsible for the cost of this training.

Minimum Academic Requirements:

To be considered for admission to year 3 (the BSW's Professional Years), by May 15th of the application year, students must have:

- earned a minimum grade of 70% in each of SWRK 1000H, 1001H, 2001H, and 2004H;
- completed 10.0 credits used to meet the admission requirements for applying to the Professional Years (see below – Specific Courses Required to Apply to the Professional Years)
- Earned a minimum cumulative average of 70% in the 10.0 credits listed below.
 - If 10.0 credits are made up of a combination of courses taken at Trent and transfer credits, only the grades of the courses taken at Trent will be used to determine the cumulative average.

Specific Courses Required to Apply to the Professional Years (see Academic Calendar for complete details):

Year 1

- 1.0 SWRK credit consisting of SWRK 1000H and 1001H
- 3.0 credits in Psychology and/or Humanities and/or Social Sciences at the 1000 level or beyond
- 1.0 credit in addition to the above at any level

Year 2

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

If students are applying with more than 10.0 credits, the best eight credits that meet the admission requirements for applying to the Professional Years, plus the four SWRK courses will be used in the calculation of the cumulative average. If students have transfer credits that are used in the 10.0 credit count, the credits taken at Trent will be used in cumulative average calculation.

Writing Your Supplemental Application:

The Supplemental Application must be submitted online by 11:59 pm, March 1, 2023. As program admission is based on a combination academic achievement and experiences, this is a critical part of the application. Once submitted, students will receive an email confirming that the application was received. Completion of the supplemental application is mandatory – applicants who do not submit by the deadline will not be eligible for admission consideration.

The first part of the supplemental application is **a point form list of work, extra-curricular and volunteer experiences**. Two experiences for each category are the maximum allowed. Listing fewer than two experiences (or none) is acceptable if an applicant does not have relevant experiences to fit the category. This point form list is not an assessed part of the application, rather this information should then be applied in your

admissions essay integrating the knowledge you have gained in your Social Work courses. The second part is a **1000-word essay**. This essay provides the committee with insight into your character, self-awareness, curriculum knowledge, and the skills you will bring to the profession. The important part of the application is not the list of experiences but an essay that demonstrates critical thinking, reflection, and the degree to which students can link their experiences to social work practice and integrate what they have learned in social work classes. In addition, we are also seeking evidence of specific professional characteristics that are suitable for social work.

The online supplemental application questions:

- 1) In point form, students will list their employment, volunteer, and extracurricular activities, all within the last five years. Students will be given text boxes, in the online application form, to provide this data.
 - a. List 2 recent **employment positions**. Please indicate a brief description of the job, the approximate number of hours you worked each week, and the number of years you held the job. Contact information is not required.
 - Name of Employer
 - Brief Job Description
 - # of hours/week; # of years
 - b. List 2 recent **volunteer activities** in which you have been involved. List the details of the activities, positions held, and appropriately how many years you were involved.
 - Details of Activities
 - Positions Held
 - Years Involved
 - c. List 2 recent **extracurricular activities** in which you have been involved. List the details of the activities, positions held, and appropriately how many years you were involved.
 - Details of Activities
 - Positions Held
 - Years Involved

****Note:** providing 2 examples from each of the three areas listed above is a guideline. If you do not have 2 examples, please list what related experience you have.

The online supplemental application Essay:

In essay format, considering your courses SWRK1000H (or equivalent), SWRK1001H (or equivalent), SWRK2001H, and SWRK2004H (or equivalent), employment, volunteer, extracurricular activities listed above, and life experiences, explain what you learned from

these activities and experiences and how they will contribute to your social work career. Ensure that you integrate course material in the discussion of your experiences. What about these activities/experiences will help you succeed in our program?

Length is 1000 words maximum.

Provide the word count at the end of your document. Do not exceed the limit. The typed essay will be attached as part of the online application form.

Please name your essay file in the following format:

Lastname_Firstname_AdmissionsEssay.

Please note: Other than the file title, do not include your name within the essay document.

In the essay, formal writing is expected. Please use paragraphs and full sentences. **Remember to think critically and reflectively about yourself and your activities/experiences.** Reflect on how your experiences, knowledge, social location and identity may have prepared you for the social work profession and may impact and inform your future social work practice. These can take many different forms ranging from academics, service, cultural, social, religious, or family work, the pursuit of social justice, and/or to overcoming personal challenges or forms of oppression. Your characteristics may be displayed at school, at home, and/or in your life outside these venues. Do not submit additional information (e.g. resume) as it will not be considered. In writing the essay, try to be concise and do not repeat information from your list of activities/experiences, but instead expand and reflect on them. **Please reference appropriately using APA 7th edition.** Please do not include a title page. Reference page not included in word count.

The supplemental application will also ask for **contact information for 2 references**; we reserve the right to contact the references to verify information submitted in your application. Family members are not acceptable referees. Letters of reference should not be attached and will be removed if submitted.

How the Supplemental Application is Scored:

The supplemental application will be evaluated based on:

- the degree to which you link between your experiences, the integration of your learning across previous social work courses, and the professional characteristics we are seeking;
- reflection of your experiences, challenges, and accomplishments;
- critical thinking skills;
- written communication skills, including organization and style, as well as spelling, grammar and correct citations (APA 7th edition).

Optional Voluntary Equity Declaration:

Social Work welcomes applications from persons of Indigenous heritage, those who identify as racialized individuals, students with disabilities, and those who identify as Two-Spirit, LGBTQ+, as well as from other marginalized groups. Students may choose

to complete a voluntary equity declaration section when applying. Those who declare must meet the minimum academic requirements and will receive individual consideration of their application.

Offer of Admission:

Admission will be competitive. All admission decisions are final and there are no appeals. Offers will be sent out mid- June 2023. Offers will be sent to students' Trent University email address (@trentu.ca) only. Students cannot defer the offer of admission. The offer letter will state the assigned campus. The deadline for acceptance will be noted in the offer email, please be sure to check your Trent email regularly.

Transcripts:

Since students are already enrolled at Trent, they are not required to submit transcripts. By submitting their online application, students grant the Department of Social Work permission to access their grades on the Trent system.

FAQ – Questions and Answers

1. I am taking courses in the summer session in 2023, am I still eligible to apply for the Professional Years for September 2023?

All requirements for admissions must be completed by May 15, 2023. Courses taken during the 2023 summer semester will not be considered during the admissions process.

2. When does the BSW Professional Years start? Can I begin the Professional Years in second term (i.e., January) or during summer sessions?

The Professional Years start in September. There are no entry points for January or summer.

3. Is it possible to pursue the BSW Professional Years part-time?

No. The Professional Years is a full-time program unless you are registered with SAS and your accommodation plan requires a reduced course load.

4. Can I apply to both the Peterborough campus and the Durham campus?

Yes. You will have the choice to apply to Peterborough only, Durham only, either campus prefer Peterborough, or either campus prefer Durham. By selecting either campus, it improves your chances to be accepted into the Program; however, students must attend their assigned campus for all required courses. All decisions are final.

5. How is the academic component of students' applications calculated?

- Applicants must have a minimum 70% grade in each of SWRK 1000H (or a transfer credit pass), SWRK 1001H (or a transfer credit pass), SWRK 2001H, and SWRK 2004H.
- Applicants must also meet the academic requirements for applying to the professional years (see Year 1 and 2 in the Academic Calendar under Social Work). These 10.0 credits will then be used to calculate the cumulative average (70% minimum cumulative average required).
- If you have transfer credits, the average will be calculated using your remaining numeric Trent grades.

6. What do I do if I do not have two employment/volunteer/extracurricular experiences to list?

You can list up to 2 examples in each of the three sections. If you do not have 2 examples to list, you may list one or none.

7. Can I apply to the professional years a second time?

Yes. If you have applied once and did not get an offer, you can apply again. You must pay the fee again and complete the online form by the applicable deadline.

8. If I don't get into the Professional Years, what can I do?

You can continue with your studies at Trent and complete your degree in a different major. After graduating from Trent, you might consider applying to a one-year post degree BSW or a two-year MSW. For more information visit the [Canadian Association for Social Work Education website](#) for Universities that offer these programs. Please note that for information on admissions process to other schools, it is best that you contact that school/program for the most accurate and update to date information.

9. Who do I contact if I have questions?

If you have questions, please contact the Social Work Academic Coordinator:

Phone: 705-748-1011 x 7618

Email: socialworkadvising@trentu.ca