

Bachelor of Social Work at UConn (BSW)

PRESENTED BY:

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Fast Facts

- Professional Degree – Accredited by the Council on Social Work Education
- BSW offered on Hartford campus
- Junior year start
- Hands-on learning via 400-hour practicum (internship) in senior year
- Cohort model, small classes, sense of “community”
- Diverse community of faculty and students
- Advising and support for students

Social Work Purpose

To promote human and community well-being and alleviate the conditions of those in need.

The unique contribution of social work practice is the duality of the profession's **person-in-environment mandate**, examining the immediate problem and how it is influenced by other factors (i.e. social, political, familial, spiritual, economic, and physical).

(Segal, Gerdes and Steiner, 2019, p.3)

Strengths-Based Perspective

Social workers create change at the:



- **Micro Level – direct practice with individuals & families**

Draws on:

Psychology, HDFS, Nursing, Allied Health, Communication, Education



- **Mezzo Level – working with groups and communities**

Draws on:

Sociology; Anthropology; Human Rights; Urban & Community Studies; Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies



- **Macro Level – changing the environment, policies, social systems**

Draws on:

Political Science, Economics, Law, Human Rights

How does
social work
differ from -
and overlap
with -
other
disciplines?

ONE DEGREE – MANY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHWAYS DURING A LIFETIME!

What can you DO with a BSW degree?

- Entry-level BSW social workers assume rewarding and challenging roles, such as:

Case Manager

Mental Health Worker

Child Protective Worker

Outreach Worker

Legislative Aide

Hospice Social Worker

Juvenile Court Liaison

Program Coordinator

Domestic Violence Advocate

- No licensure is needed for employment at the BSW level.
- The BSW degree can qualify students to earn the MSW degree via an accelerated timeframe (advanced standing), reducing the time/expense of graduate education.

Diverse Employment Settings

Schools

Community
Centers

Hospitals

Mental Health
Centers

Nursing
Homes

Shelters

Libraries

After School
Programs

Clinics

Courts

Criminal
Justice
Settings

Child Welfare

Social Action
Organizations

Advocacy
Organizations

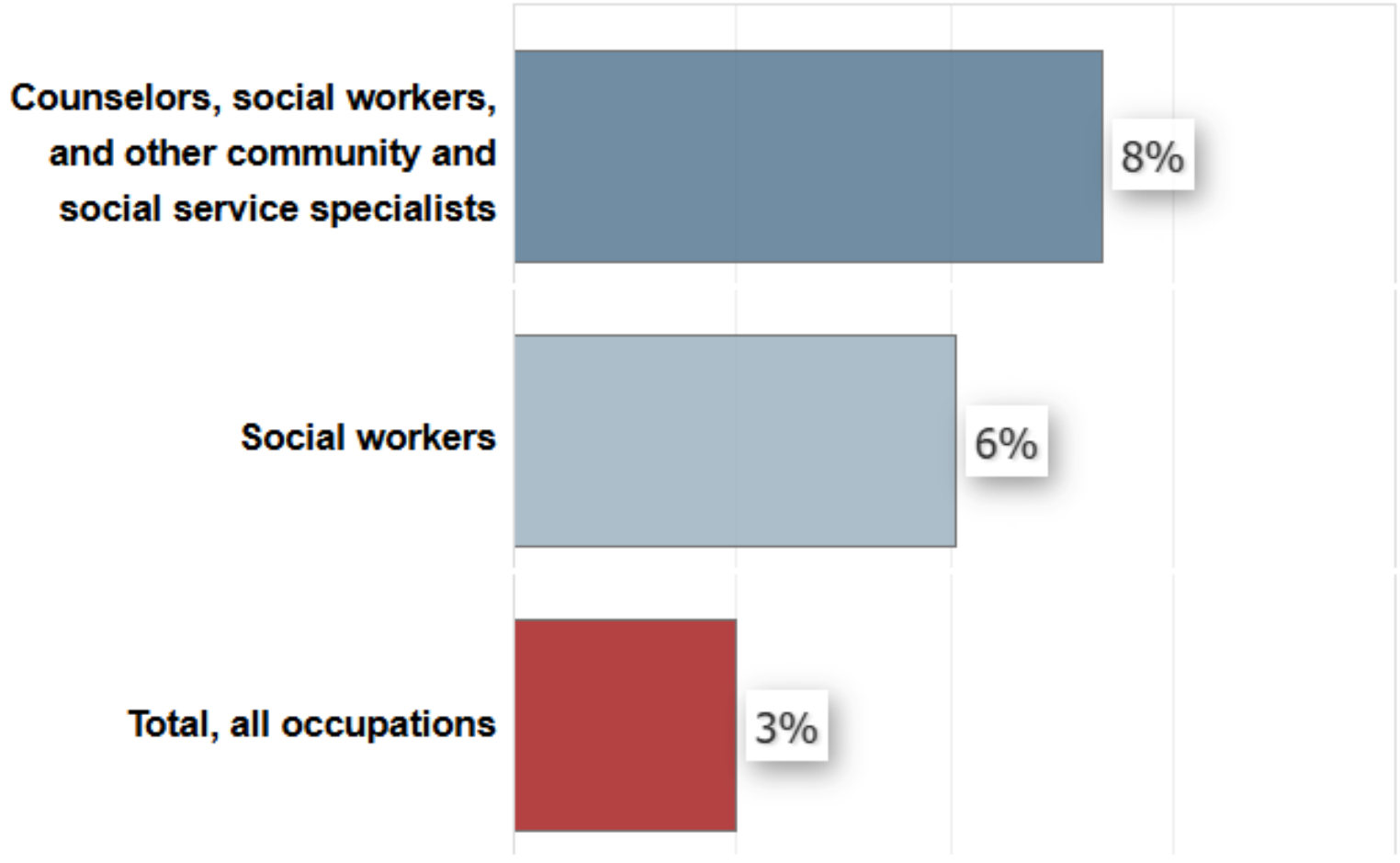
Political
Offices

Social Work Labor Market

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S.
Department of Labor, *Occupational
Outlook Handbook*, Social
Workers, [https://www.bls.gov/ooh/co
mmunity-and-social-service/social-
workers.htm](https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/social-workers.htm) (5/15/26).

Social Workers

Percent change in employment, projected 2024–34



Note: All Occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program

Is the BSW degree a good fit for a student?

Encourage prospective BSW students to ask themselves:

- Am I a “people person”?
- Can I readily see strengths, resources, and capabilities in people and in communities?
- Do I like to apply my learning to “real-world” issues and problems?
- Do I recognize the connections between individual peoples’ challenges and broader social and economic issues and inequities?
- Am I interested in working for social, economic, racial, and environmental justice?
- Do I want a meaningful career where I can help people – and truly make a difference?

Some additional information

The BSW program/social work major is offered on the UConn Hartford campus.

- Accepted students have campus changed to Hartford once they accept the offer of admission.

UConn Hartford now has campus housing.

- Students with 2 years of continuous campus housing (Storrs or Stamford) who transition to Hartford to enter the BSW program - and who meet February 1 housing deadline - will be guaranteed housing.
- Students can apply to housing both on their home campus and the Hartford campus while they are applying to the BSW program

Curriculum structure

Typically 4 required SOWK courses/semester, offered **in-person, 2 days/week (Tu/Th) in Hartford.**

	Fall	Spring	
Junior Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SOWK 2000 Social Justice for the Social Work Profession (3) SOWK 3100 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I (3) SOWK 3200 Social Welfare Policy & Services (3) SOWK 3250 Understanding Social Justice & Diversity Through Intergroup Dialogue (3) <p>12 credits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SOWK 3101 Human Behavior and the Social Environment II (3) SOWK 3250 Research Methods for Social Work Practice (3) SOWK 3301 Pre- Practicum Seminar (1) SOWK 3501 Social Work Practice with Individuals & Families (3) Elective (3) <p>13 credits</p>	
Senior Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SOWK 3502 Social Work Practice with Practice (3) SOWK 3503 Social Work Practice with Communities & Organizations (3) SOWK 3700 Practicum Education I (3) SOWK 3800 Practicum Seminar Seminar I (3) Elective (3) <p>15 credits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SOWK 3201 Advocacy for Social Policy Change (3) SOWK 3701 Practicum Education II (3) SOWK 3801 Practicum Seminar II (3) SOWK 4100W Senior Seminar (3) (Satisfies 2nd W course) <p>12credits</p>	<p>52 Credits Total</p>

- Students engage in hands-on learning via a single **14 hour/week internship** that spans their senior year.
- Our Practicum Education office identifies internships for students based on interests, career goals, and learning opportunities. Students are responsible for their own transportation.

Preparing for the BSW program during the first two years at UConn

Course work

- Choose a wide array of courses to provide a **solid liberal arts foundation** (TOIs, Competencies – and beyond).
- Consider courses that can **build knowledge in human development & behavior, communities, cultures, and societies, social justice and human rights, social policy and political systems** – and other areas of interest related to social work.
- Consider taking **SOWK 2000: Social Justice for the Social Work Profession** (every semester, Storrs & Hartford).
- Consider taking **SOWK elective courses**:
 - SOWK 2101: Organizing for Social Change (Storrs- fall '26)
 - SOWK 2160/HRTS 2160: Human Rights & Social Work (Online - fall '26; Storrs - spring '27)
 - SOWK 2102: Engaged Mindfulness for Social Change (Hartford - spring '27)

Preparing for the BSW program during the first two years at UConn

Co-curricular Engagement

- **Join** student organizations, especially ones that involve service & community engagement (e.g. Social Work Student Association)
- **Volunteer** in the community or on campus
- **Participate** in trainings, workshops, and other non-classroom learning opportunities (see examples in the Daily Digest)
- Use **employment as an opportunity** to develop and hone communication, interpersonal and professional skills

Two admission pathways for UConn students



STANDARD APPLICATION PATHWAY

For students from any declared major or ACES Pre-BSW who have not met criteria for guaranteed admission:

- Must be on track to complete a minimum of 54 credits, including most/all Common Curriculum requirements.
- Cumulative GPA requirement:
 - UConn students 2.5 or higher.
 - Transfer students 2.7 or higher

ACES PRE-SOCIAL WORK GUARANTEED ADMISSION PATHWAY

For students who want to commit to the BSW early on, and who can maintain 3.0+ GPA:

- Meet with a BSW program representative & complete pathway enrollment form (prior to earning 30 cr.)
- Have the ACES-Pre Social Work major designation
- Maintain a GPA of 3.0 or above
- Complete most TOIs and Competencies
- Earn 54 or more credits (ideally between 60-68) prior to BSW program entry

Application
Process:

Standard Application Pathway

By February 1 (sophomore year), student submits electronic application:

- Personal Statement (3 pg. essay in response to prompts)
- Resume
- One professional reference
- Unofficial Transcript

Application link:

<https://ssw.uconn.edu/apply-for-bsw/>

Applications submitted after the deadline are considered on a space available basis.

Application Process:

ACES Pre-Social Work Guaranteed Admission Pathway (GAP)

First year/prior to completion of 30 credits (not including Early College Experience/Dual Enrollment)

- Connect with Social Work admissions office
- Submit form to enroll in ACES-Pre Social Work GAP

During sophomore year (30-60 cr.)

- Meet with a Social Work representative to ensure continued interest and academic progress
- Earn a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0
- Earn 54+ credits by start of the BSW program (preference for 60-68 cr.)
- Satisfy most CC requirements prior to BSW program entry

By February 1 of sophomore year:

- Student submits Change of Major form
- Advisor submits a form verifying student is on track with academic criteria (GPA, credits, CC requirements)

- We will share FAQ's and additional details before the fall semester, as we finalize the admissions process.
- For students entering their sophomore year in AY 26-27: We plan to expedite the start of this new pathway and bring them on board in September & October.
- We expect to have some flexibility in the admission process based on the expertise and recommendations of advisors, who know advisees' capability and potential.
- We will coordinate with your office to develop communication processes to inform students about this new opportunity.

Rolling out
the ACES-Pre-
Social Work
Guaranteed
Admission
Pathway
(GAP)
in AY 26-27

Why UConn's BSW Program?

Over 70 years of experience
educating Social Workers

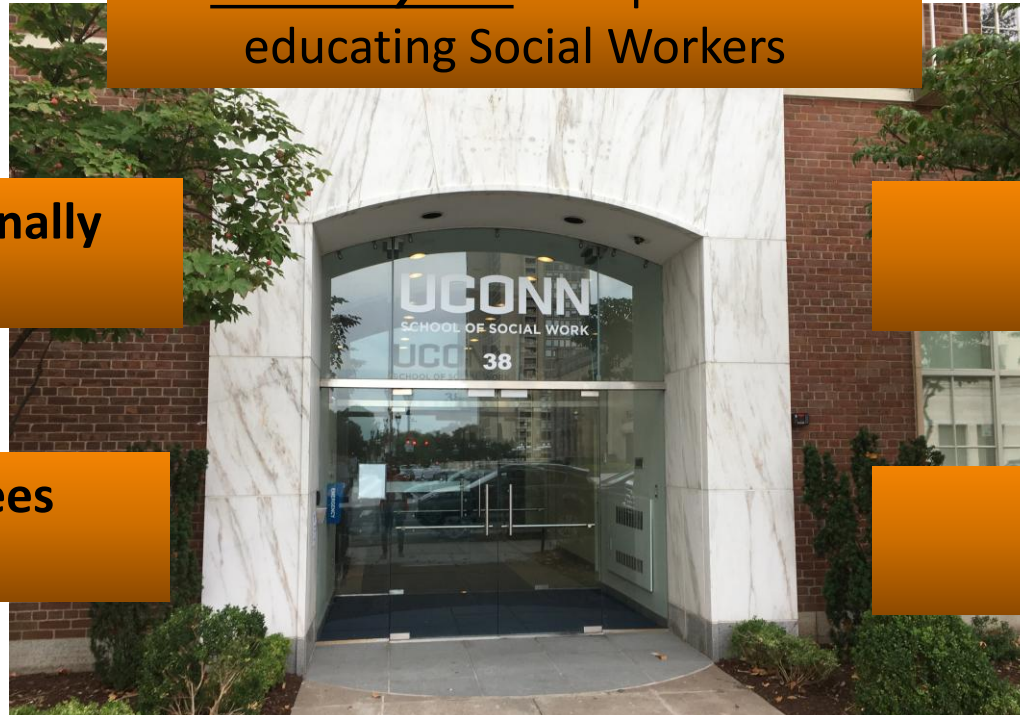
**Nationally and internationally
recognized faculty**

**Active cutting edge
Social Work Research**

Offering 3 social work degrees
BSW MSW PhD

**Embedded in the
Hartford community**

Student & community connectedness



Questions???????

