

School of Social Work Bachelor of Social Work

Child Welfare Specialization

Purpose

The Child Welfare Specialization (CWS) has been designed to provide a program of studies that prepares students for practice in child welfare, while also satisfying the general practice criteria required for BSW accreditation and for designation as a Registered Social Worker (RSW).

Program Description

Students enrolled in the CWS are required to complete their fourth year practicum with the Ministry for Children and Family Development or a fully delegated First Nations child welfare agency. Completion of the specialization is noted on the student's graduating transcript.

Mode of Study

The school of social work offers a full-time and part-time program of studies using both classroom-based and web-based courses. Given the increasing use of online learning technology, it is important to become familiar with Blackboard as an online learning environment. The Northern Social Work Student Association with support from the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology host a Blackboard site where students can participate in a variety of online activities. It is recommended that you contact the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology (250-960-6509) or visit their web-site at www.unbc.ca/ctlit to acquire information on how to "login" to Blackboard.

Required Courses

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|-------------|--|
| SOCW 300-3 | Communication Skills in Social Work Practice |
| SOCW 301-3 | Critical Social Work Practice |
| SOCW 302-6 | Social Work Field Education I |
| SOCW 310-3 | First Nations Social Work Issues |
| SOCW 320-3 | Critical Social Policy |
| SOCW 330-3 | Social Work Research, Policy & Practice |
| SOCW 336-3 | Social Work Philosophy & Ethics |
| SOCW 401-3 | Northern & Remote Social Work Practice |
| SOCW 402-15 | Social Work Field Education II |
| SOCW 420-3 | Family/Child Welfare Policy |
| SOCW 421-3* | Human Growth and Development |
| SOCW 422-3 | Child Welfare Practice |
| SOCW 426-3 | Current Issues in Child Welfare Practice |
| SOCW 439-3 | Social Work/Law and the Justice System |

Total Required Course Credits 57

Elective Courses

Any one upper division social work elective course.

Total Elective Course Credits 3
Total Credits 60

*Students must have a human growth and development course prior to graduating with a BSW. If this course was taken prior to entry into the BSW, students can replace it with an additional elective.

Required Courses

(see UNBC Calendar for more detailed information)

SOCW 300-3 Communication Skills

Introductory course aimed at increasing communication skills in diverse cultural settings

SOCW 301-3 Critical Social Work Practice

Examines the origins, values, methods and applications of various social work practice approaches

SOCW 302-6 Social Work Field Education I

This three-day per week field placement is a requirement for all students. It includes a bi-weekly integrative seminar

SOCW 310-3 First Nations Social Work Issues

Examines methods of developing an anti-racist social work practice in the context of First Nations experience

SOCW 320-3 Critical Social Policy

Examines the development of social policy in Canada

SOCW 330-3 Social Work Research/Policy/Practice

Introduces research methods and analysis techniques used to examine issues in the policy and practice of social work and social welfare

SOCW 336-3 Social Work Philosophy and Ethics

Critical assessment of the ethical issues involved in carrying out the tasks of social work, practice, policy and research

SOCW 401-3 Northern/Remote Social Work Practice

Aims to develop critical awareness/analysis of social problems in northern and remote communities

SOCW 402-15 Social Work Field Education II

This field placement is five days per week throughout the entire term. For those choosing the Child Welfare Specialization, this placement must take place in a government child welfare service or a First Nations child welfare agency

SOCW 420-3 Family/Child Welfare Policy

Focuses on feminist and FN critiques of child welfare policy and social work intervention

SOCW 421-3* Human Growth and Development

Examines human growth and development with an emphasis on social processes from birth to death

SOCW 422-3 Child Welfare Practice

Child maltreatment is examined from the perspective of social work practice in the field of child welfare. (Please note this is a full online course which will require specific computer software to access all of the course features).

SOCW 426-3 Current Issues in Child Welfare

Highlights topical child welfare issues and examines current trends in Child Welfare practice

SOCW 439-3 Social Work, Law and the Justice System

Examines various areas of the Canadian legal system including the practice of social work in court settings

Faculty & Research Interests

Bruce Bidgood

Associate Professor
BA (Brock) MSW PhD (Wilfrid Laurier)
Family Violence, Child Welfare, Social Policy, Social Administration, Social Planning, Applied Social Welfare Research

Susan Burke

RSW, Assistant Professor
BA (Trinity Western) MSW (UNBC) PhD (UNBC)
Social Work with and by Indigenous People, Social Work Health, Kinship Care, Adoption/Permanency, Indigenous Learning

Dawn Hemingway

RSW, Associate Professor, Chair, MSW Coordinator
BA (Simon Fraser) MSc MSW (Northern British Columbia)
Adulthood/Aging (Care-giving, Psychogeriatrics, Empowerment/Self-Advocacy), Disability Issues, Community Development/Community-based Research, Women & Health, Northern/Remote Community Health

Nancy Jokinen

RSW, Associate Professor, BSW Coordinator
BA HBSW MSW (Lakehead) PhD (Calgary)
Aging, Disability, Health, Dementia, Familial Relations and Support, Quality of Life, Age-Friendly Communities, Qualitative and Mixed methods Research

Indrani Margolin

RSW, Associate Professor
BA (Guelph) MSW (Wilfrid Laurier) PhD (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, U of Toronto)
Spirituality in Practice, Arts/Movement Therapy, Girls' and Women's Embodiment, Arts-based Inquiry

Tammy Pearson

RSW, Assistant Professor, Field Director
BA (University College of Cape Breton) BSW (UVIC) MSW (UBC), PhD (UNBC)
Child Welfare Practice and Policy, Mental Health, Family Violence, Social Work and Spirituality and Disability Issues

Heather Peters

Associate Professor
BA (Saskatchewan) BSW (British Columbia) MSW (Carleton) PhD (British Columbia)
Homelessness, Women and Housing Issues, Youth, Community Development, Social Policy, Aboriginal Self-Government, Housing Policy

Joanna Pierce

RSW, Associate Professor
(Sabbatical January 2019-June 2019)
BSW MSW (Northern British Columbia) PhD (UBC)
Mental Health, Community Development, Cross-Cultural Communication, Remote/Northern Practice Development, Child Welfare, and Social Policy

Dave Sangha

Assistant Professor
BSW MSW (British Columbia)
Social Policy, Community Development, Human Rights, Anti-Racism, Diasporic Communities, Child Welfare

Glen Schmidt, Adjunct Professor

RCSW, Professor
BA BSW (Manitoba) MSW (British Columbia) PhD (Memorial)
Social Work Education Outcomes, Mental Health Services, Services to First Nations People, Remote and Northern Practice Issues, Child Welfare Practice and Policy

Si Transken

RSW, Associate Professor
BA Hons BSW (Laurentian) MA PhD (Toronto)
Cultural Studies, Creative Writing, Criminal Harassment, Incest, Sexual Assault, Violence Against Women, Expressive Arts Therapy, Feminist Social Work, Anti-Racism, Mediation, Sexual Expression and Identities

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a separate application that needs to be submitted for the Child Welfare Specialization?
Upon admission, students will declare that they are completing the CWS.

Is tuition higher to complete the specialization?
There are no extra fees associated with this program. Completion of both the general BSW and the Child Welfare Specialization are based on the same fee schedule for BSW program or 60 credits for BSW

graduation.
Once in the Program, who can I talk to regarding courses and options?
Students may consult with April Tod at 250-960-6302 or april.tod@unbc.ca in the Office of the Registrar.

Will I be guaranteed a job?

A successful completion does not guarantee employment in a First Nations Organization or Community.

Will the specialization limit my employment opportunities?

You will be granted a BSW Degree and you will be qualified to apply for positions that specify a BSW requirement.

If I complete this degree, does it affect my applying for a MSW Program?

No, as long as your grade point average (GPA) is satisfactory you are eligible to apply to any MSW Program as the UNBC BSW Program is fully accredited with the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work.

Application Procedures

The admissions criteria and application process for the Child Welfare Specialization are the same as applying to the BSW Program.

For information on UNBC admission requirements, please see the following:
Registrar's Office
Toll Free in Canada 1-888-419-5588
Phone: 250-960-6351
E-mail: admissions-info@unbc.ca
Web: unbc.ca/registrar
unbc.ca/social-work

Registration and Program Planning

The availability of approved field placements for the specialization is limited and may require relocation. Students, who elect not to take the required Child Welfare practicum in their 4th year, will receive a general BSW degree.

Nancy Jokinen, BSW Coordinator
School of Social Work(250-960-5111)
Nancy.jokinen@unbc.ca

School of Social Work

Bachelor of Social Work Degree Child Welfare Specialization

