

SOCIAL WELFARE, BA

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students must complete both the following Core General Education (Core GenEd) and University Degree and Quality of Work requirements. The requirements below apply to students whose first term at UW-Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution is Summer 2026 or later.

Students whose first term at UW-Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution occurred before Summer 2026 should refer to the archived Guide (<https://guide.wisc.edu/archive/>) for the requirements that apply to them.

CORE GENERAL EDUCATION (CORE GENED) REQUIREMENTS

Civics & Perspectives 3 credits of Civics & Perspectives coursework.

Communication & Literacy 6 credits of Communication & Literacy coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: <https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement> (<https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement/>)

Humanities & Arts 6 credits of Humanities & Arts coursework.

Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning 6 credits of Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: <https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement> (<https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement/>)

Natural Science & Wellness Complete both:

- 6 credits of Natural Science & Wellness or Natural Science & Wellness + Laboratory coursework.
- one course must be in Natural Science & Wellness + Laboratory coursework.

Social & Behavioral Science 3 credits of Social & Behavioral Science coursework.

Total Credits 30 credits.

For more information see the policy (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1095/>).

UNIVERSITY DEGREE AND QUALITY OF WORK REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate degree recipients must complete the following minimum requirements. Requirements for some programs will exceed these requirements; see program requirements for additional information.

Total Degree 120 degree credits.

Residency Complete 30 credits in residence. A course is considered "in residence" if it is taken when in undergraduate degree-seeking status and:

- is offered by UW-Madison and completed on the UW-Madison campus or at an approved off-site location, or
- is offered by UW-Madison in an online or distance format, or is completed during participation in a UW-Madison study abroad/study away program.

Quality of Work Achieve at least the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, and/or academic program.

Math Demonstrate minimal mathematics competence by:

- placing above MATH 96, or
- successfully completing MATH 96, or
- successfully completing a more advanced mathematics course such as MATH 112, MATH 113, MATH 114, MATH 141, MATH 211, or MATH 221.

English Language If required to take the UW-Madison English as a Second Language Assessment Test (MSN-ESLAT), demonstrate minimal English language competence by:

- earning credit for ESL 118, or
- achieving a qualifying MSN-ESLAT placement test score.

Language Complete one:

- 2 high school units of a single language other than English, or
- one course with the second semester Language designation.

Major Declaration Declare and complete the requirements for at least one major.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. Some courses satisfy more than one L&S degree requirement (visit College of Letters & Science: Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/#requirementstext>) for details).

This major can be paired with either the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree requirements.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Communication Complete both:

- Part A: one course with the Communication A designation or eligible UW Placement Score; and
- Part B: one course with the Communication B designation

Quantitative Reasoning	Complete both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part A: one course with the Quantitative Reasoning A designation or eligible UW Placement Score; and Part B: one course with the Quantitative Reasoning B designation
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Ethnic Studies	one 3+ credit course with the Ethnic Studies designation
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Language	Complete either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the fourth unit of one language other than English; or the third unit of one language other than English and the second unit of an additional language.
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L&S Breadth: Humanities	Complete 12 credits with the Humanities or Literature designation, which must include at least 6 credits with the Literature designation.
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L&S Breadth: Social Sciences	Complete 12 credits with the Social Science designation.
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L&S Breadth: Natural Sciences	Complete 12 credits with the Natural Science, Biological Science, or Physical Science designations, which must include both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one 3+ credit course with the Biological Science designation, and one 3+ credit course with the Physical Science designation.
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Liberal Arts and Science (LAS) Coursework	at least 108 credits
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Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	at least 60 credits at the Intermediate or Advanced level
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Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
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Total Credits	at least 120 credits
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UW-Madison Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 credits in residence, overall; and 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit
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Quality of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.000 in all coursework at UW-Madison 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW-Madison
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NON-L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non-L&S students who have permission from their School/College to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

Complete a minimum of 32 credits, to be attained via the requirements detailed below.

SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY & SERVICES

Code	Title	Credits
Complete both:		
SOC WORK 205	Introduction to the Field of Social Work	4
SOC WORK 206	Introduction to Social Policy	4

SOCIAL SCIENCE CONCENTRATION

Complete two Intermediate or Advanced level courses and at least 6 total credits with the Social Science Breadth designation from one of the following subject areas:

- African American Studies (AFROAMER) (<https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/afroamer/>)
- American Indian and Indigenous Studies (AMER IND) (https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/amer_ind/)
- Anthropology (ANTHRO) (<https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/anthro/>)
- Asian American Studies (ASIAN AM) (https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/asian_am/)
- Chicanx/e and Latinx/e Studies (CHICLA) (<https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/chicla/>)
- Economics (ECON) (<https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/econ/>)
- Gender and Women's Studies (GEN&WS) (https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/gen_ws/)
- Political Science (POLI SCI) (https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/poli_sci/)
- Psychology (PSYCH) (<https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/psych/>)
- Sociology (SOC) (<https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/soc/>)

HUMAN BEHAVIOR & THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

Code	Title	Credits
Complete both:		
SOC WORK 457	Human Behavior and the Environment	3
SOC WORK 640	Diversity, Oppression, and Social Justice in Social Work	3

STATISTICS & RESEARCH

Code	Title	Credits
Statistics		
Complete one course from:		3-4
STAT 301	Introduction to Statistical Methods (recommended)	
or STAT 371	Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences	
or PSYCH 210	Basic Statistics for Psychology	
or SOC/ C&E SOC 360	Statistics for Sociologists I	

Research		
Complete one course from:		3-4
SOC WORK 650	Methods of Social Work Research	
or PSYCH 225	Research Methods	

or SOC/
C&E SOC 357

Methods of Sociological Inquiry

Total Credits **6-8**

ELECTIVES IN SOCIAL WELFARE

Complete **two** Intermediate or Advanced level SOC WORK courses and **at least 6 total credits** of Social Work electives. Not all courses in the list below are offered in each semester or year.

List of Elective Soc Work Courses

Code	Title	Credits
SOC WORK 316	Power, Possibility, and the Practice of Social Justice	3
SOC WORK 336	Making Sense of Mental Health & Mental Illness	3
SOC WORK 375	Contemporary Issues in Social Welfare	2-3
SOC WORK 420	Poverty and Social Welfare	3
SOC WORK/ SOC 422	Social Issues in Aging	3
SOC WORK 453	Substance Use Disorders	3
SOC WORK 462	Child Welfare	3
SOC WORK 578	Housing Precarity and Social Policy	4
SOC WORK 623	Interpersonal Violence	3
SOC WORK 627	Sex Trafficking and Sex Trading	2
SOC WORK/ AMER IND 636	Social Work in American Indian Communities: The Indian Child Welfare Act	3
SOC WORK 639	Social Work Practice with LGBTQIA2S+ Individuals and Communities	3
SOC WORK 644	Issues in Developmental Disabilities	3
SOC WORK 646	Child Abuse and Neglect	2
SOC WORK 648	Social Work Practice in Palliative Care	2
SOC WORK 656	Child Welfare Practice in Foster and Kinship Care, Permanency, and Adoption	2
SOC WORK 675	Topics in Contemporary Social Welfare	2-3
SOC WORK 691	Senior Thesis ¹	2
SOC WORK 692	Senior Thesis ¹	2
SOC WORK 699	Directed Study ^{1,2}	2-3

of instructor is required for the noted course offerings in independent work.

² No more than 3 credits of SOC WORK 699 may be used to meet this requirement.

³ PSYCH 225, SOC/C&E SOC 357, STAT 301, STAT 371, PSYCH 210, and SOC/C&E SOC 360, and all SOC WORK courses designated as Intermediate or Advanced level count as upper-level in the major.

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all SOC WORK and all major courses
- 2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level major credits taken in residence³
- 15 credits in SOC WORK, taken on the UW–Madison campus

FOOTNOTES

¹ Students with an interest in a particular area of study may develop a plan of independent work with the assistance of an interested Social Work faculty member. They may obtain information about instructors and their areas of interest from the School of Social Work website. Consent