Student Handbook
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Student Handbook Introduction

The Student Handbook (noted as the Handbook) is produced by the Department of Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work’s Social Work Program and updated every August. The Handbook is compiled by the Social Work Program Director with consultation with the social work faculty, representatives from the Community Advisory Group, and representatives from the Student Social Work Association. The policies, regulations, procedures, and fees in this Handbook are subject to change without prior notice, if necessary, to keep the program in compliance with the current Angelo State University Undergraduate Catalog (noted as the University Undergraduate Catalog) and accreditation requirements promulgated by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

Purpose of the Student Handbook

The Handbook serves to inform prospective and current students about the nature of the Social Work Program, the Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.) degree, and the social work minor offered at Angelo State University. The Handbook is organized into the following sections: Student Handbook Introduction; General University Information; The Department of Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work; the Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.) Degree; The Minor in Social Work; Social Work Courses; Social Work Faculty and Staff; Academic Policies Specific to the Social Work Program; and Student, Faculty, and Professional Organizations.

Angelo State University reserves the right to change curricula, rules, fees, admission requirements, and other requirements without notice. The provisions of this Handbook do not constitute a contract, expressed or implied, between any applicant, student, faculty member, or any other person and Angelo State University.

Statement of Accreditation

Angelo State University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; telephone number 404-679-4500) to award degrees at the associate, baccalaureate, and master’s level.

The Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.) degree holds Candidacy status with the Council on Social Work Education.

Statement on Equal Educational Opportunity

No person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored or conducted by Angelo State University, on any basis prohibited by applicable law, including, but not limited to, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or disability.

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Student Responsibility

Each student is responsible for knowing the academic regulations in the *University Undergraduate Catalog*. Unfamiliarity with these regulations does not constitute a valid reason for failure to fulfill them. Eligibility to register at each registration period must be determined by the student. A student has the responsibility to register only in courses for which he or she is eligible. If a student registers in a course for which he or she is ineligible, the student may be administratively dropped without receiving any credit for work done.

General University Information

The City of San Angelo

San Angelo is the center of a community of approximately 100,000 located in West Central Texas between the Texas Hill Country to the southeast and the Rolling Plains to the northwest. San Angelo has a rich history, a vibrant arts community, and many opportunities for outdoor entertainment.

Major highways connecting to San Angelo include U.S. Highways 67, 87, and 277. San Angelo is located between U.S. Interstate Highways 10 and 20. Interstate 10 is 64 miles south of San Angelo and depending upon the route taken; it's approximately 80 miles to Interstate 20. For additional information about San Angelo and the Community, please visit the web site hosed by the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce.

About Angelo State University

**Founded.** 1928

**President.** Lt. Gen. (retired) Ronnie D. Hawkins Jr.

**Affiliation.** Texas Tech University System

**Location.** San Angelo, the center of a West Texas community of approximately 100,000

**Campus.** 268 acres

**Students.** 10,251 (57.7 percent female and 42.3 percent male; 53.6 percent Caucasian, 29.9 percent Hispanic, 6.8 percent African-American, 1.3 percent Asian/Pacific Islander, 0.4 percent American Indian, 2.6 percent international, and 5.3 percent unknown)

**Programs.** Nearly 100 majors spread among 41 undergraduate; 21 graduate, including one doctorate

**Teaching Faculty.** 422
Student Handbook

Student-to-Faculty Ratio. 23:1

Semester Cost Estimate. In-state tuition and fees for 15 credit hours is $4,150. Room and board with a maximum meal plan is $3,962. Average book cost is $600

Financial Aid. Nearly three out of four students receive some form of help

Student Organizations. More than 100

School Colors. Blue and Gold

Mascot. Rambouillet Ram, Dominic

Motto. “Fiat Lux,” which is Latin for “Let there be light”

Athletics. NCAA Division II, Lone Star Conference Member. ASU’s five men’s teams (Rams) include baseball, basketball, cross country, football and outdoor track and field. ASU’s seven women’s teams (Rambelles) include basketball, cross country, golf, outdoor track and field, soccer, softball and volleyball.

The University Mission Statement

Angelo State University, a member of the Texas Tech University System, delivers undergraduate and graduate programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and professional disciplines. In a learning-centered environment distinguished by its integration of teaching, research, creative endeavor, service, and co-curricular experiences, ASU prepares students to be responsible citizens and to have productive careers.

Approved by the Board of Regents, Texas Tech University System, on March 6, 2009
Approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on April 30, 2009

The Department of Social Work

Departmental Description

Tom Starkey, Ph.D., LCSW, Department Chair and Associate Professor of Social Work

The Department of Social Work offers courses and degrees in undergraduate and graduate social work, taught by highly-qualified faculty. The undergraduate and graduate degree programs prepare students for a broad spectrum of careers in the public and private sectors that benefit from an understanding of people, culture, and society.

The courses emphasize contemporary theories, research, and the useful application of knowledge to current problems experienced by people individually and collectively. The curriculum is delivered in varied formats, including face-to-face classes, online courses, and blended classes that utilize both face-to-face sessions and online instruction.

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Students have opportunities to participate in honor societies, field education, service-learning activities, and cutting-edge research on interesting and challenging topics. The learning environment is friendly, supportive, and individualized to facilitate each student’s progress toward fulfilling personal aspirations and goals. Specialized training is available in

Departmental Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Social Work is to provide a generalist social work education to a diverse student body based upon the knowledge, values, and skills of the social work profession; prepare social work students to work with diverse populations, including both rural and urban settings; become active members of the Angelo State University community and the community at large; and to advocate for vulnerable populations, including social, economic, and environmental justice.

Departmental Goals

1. Provide high-quality undergraduate degree programs and courses that meet the educational needs of the general student population and those majoring in social work.
2. Provide high-quality graduate programs that meet the educational needs of students who are seeking advanced training in social work.
3. Promote and publicize the growth and accomplishments of faculty and advanced students in their fields of expertise.
4. Share the knowledge and expertise of students and faculty with others outside the university community.
5. Incorporate innovation, technology, and diverse instructional techniques into the curriculum.

Degree Offerings

Social Work. Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.) in Social Work


Undergraduate Minors. Minors are available in Social Work

The Social Work Program

The Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.) Degree

The purpose of the social work profession. Per the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE, 2015), “The purpose of the social work profession is to promote human and community well-being. Guided by a person and environment construct, a global perspective, respect for human diversity, and knowledge based on scientific inquiry, social work’s purpose is actualized through its quest for social and economic justice, the prevention of conditions that limit human rights, the elimination of poverty, and the enhancement of the quality of life for all persons” (p. 1).
In Texas, social work practice is defined as “the application of social work theory, knowledge, methods, ethics, and the professional use of self to restore or enhance social, psychosocial, or biopsychosocial functioning of individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations, or communities” (Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 505, 2005).

The B.S.W. degree description. The B.S.W. degree curriculum at Angelo State University is designed to prepare generalist social work practitioners to work in a variety of areas including, but not limited to, child, adolescent, and family services; health/mental health; criminal justice/corrections; gerontology/aging; and in a variety of social service organizations in the community. An emphasis is placed on the ecological perspective, providing students with an understanding of the reciprocal relationship between the person and environment.

The Nature of Generalist Social Work Practice

As stated above, the B.S.W. curriculum at Angelo State University prepares generalist social work practitioners and uses the ecological perspective as the theoretical foundation of generalist practice. Generalist social work practice includes the provision of social work services with individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Regardless of the area (e.g., child and family welfare, corrections, health/mental health, aging, etc.) or level of practice (i.e., micro, mezzo, or macro), social workers seek to promote social and economic justice and to improve functioning of individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social work practitioners support individual self-determination and respect the dignity and worth of all people regardless of their age, disability, color, race, ethnicity, family structure, gender, sexual orientation, culture, national origin, religious preference, socioeconomic status, etc. Social work practitioners advocate for those who have experienced various social problems that cut across cultural groups such as poverty; crime and victimization; oppression; discrimination; mental illness; substance abuse; chronic physical illness; physical, emotional, or sexual abuse; and neglect. However, given the breadth of the social work profession, social work practitioners also work with those who may not have experienced such social problems. Regardless of population served, social workers recognize their legal and ethical responsibilities to clients and provide competent social work services. It is to this end that the B.S.W. program at Angelo State University strives to educate a future generation of social work practitioners.

The Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners (2011) defines the practice of Baccalaureate Social Work as “Applying social work theory, knowledge, methods, ethics and the professional use of self to restore or enhance social, psychosocial, or bio-psychosocial functioning of individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations and communities. Baccalaureate Social Work is generalist practice and may include interviewing, assessment, planning, intervention, evaluation, case management, mediation, counseling, supportive counseling, direct practice, information and referral, problem solving, supervision, consultation, education, advocacy, community organization, and policy and program development, implementation, and administration” (p. 6).
The Nature of Social Work Education

Social work education is based in the liberal arts and consists of a structured and integrated curriculum and applied experiences that are designed to train practitioners to competently apply social work values, theories, and methods to the various social problems encountered by individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Indeed, social work education is academically and personally challenging, but rewarding. The Social Work Program at Angelo State University is designed to support the mission of Angelo State University, and reflect the mission and charter of the social work profession by conforming to the standards set forth by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW).

The B.S.W. Program Mission Statement (EP 1.0, EP B2.2*)

As a social work program located in West Central Texas, the mission of the social work program at Angelo State University is to provide quality social work education, based on the knowledge, values and skills of the social work profession; while preparing the students to work with diverse populations with an emphasis on the emerging Hispanic population, the military population, and older adults in both rural and urban settings characteristic of the region. The program will provide professional development opportunities for students who desire to promote the social, psychosocial, or biopsychosocial functioning and well-being of individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations, and communities via generalist social work practice


The Values of the B.S.W. Program (EP 1.1)

The Social Work Program at Angelo State University supports the core values of the social work profession, reflecting the six value elements of the National Association of Social Workers’ Code of Ethics and two additional value elements from the CSWE that include: 1) service; 2) social justice; 3) the dignity and worth of the person; 4) the importance of human relationships; 5) integrity; 6) competence; 7) human rights; and 8) scientific inquiry. These values provide the foundation for the mission and goals of the Social Work Program and our social work curriculum (CSWE, 2008).

The B.S.W. Program Goals (EP 1.0, EP B2.2)

The Social Work Program provides a rigorous curriculum grounded in the liberal arts, using sound teaching practices, to promote: 1) the knowledge, values, and skills used in social work that can be applied across settings and diverse populations; 2) critical thinking skills; and 3) ethical and competent social work practice consistent with the mission and objectives of the social work profession. To this end, the goals of the Social Work Program include:

- to prepare entry-level, generalist social work practitioners to provide ethical and competent services utilizing the knowledge, values, and skills of the social work profession (EP 2.1.1 - EP 2.1.9);

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• to equip students to work with a diverse population of clients that are represented in West Central Texas (EP 2.1.4);
• to empower students with the necessary skills to work in the evolving environment in West Central Texas; including urban and rural settings (EP 2.1.9); and
• to advocate for social and economic justice for at risk populations in West Central Texas (EP 1.8).

The Core Competencies of the B.S.W. Program

The core competencies (as taken directly from the Council on Social Work Education’s 2008 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards) of the Social Work Program at Angelo State University, Department of Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work include:

EP 2.1.1: Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior
Social workers understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards, as well as relevant laws and regulations that may impact practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. Social workers understand frameworks of ethical decision-making and how to apply principles of critical thinking to those frameworks in practice, research, and policy arenas. Social workers recognize personal values and the distinction between personal and professional values. They also understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions influence their professional judgment and behavior. Social workers understand the profession’s history, its mission, and the roles and responsibilities of the profession. Social Workers also understand the role of other professions when engaged in inter-professional teams. Social workers recognize the importance of life-long learning and are committed to continually updating their skills to ensure they are relevant and effective. Social workers also understand emerging forms of technology and the ethical use of technology in social work practice. Social workers:
• make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision-making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics as appropriate to context;
• use reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice situations;
• demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication;
• use technology ethically and appropriately to facilitate practice outcomes; and
• use supervision and consultation to guide professional judgment and behavior.

EP 2.1.2: Competency 2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice
Social workers understand how diversity and difference characterize and shape the human experience and are critical to the formation of identity. The dimensions of diversity are understood as the intersectionality of multiple factors including but not limited to age, class, color, culture, disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, marital status, political ideology, race, religion/spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status. Social workers understand that, as a consequence of difference, a person’s life experiences may include oppression, poverty, marginalization, and
alienation as well as privilege, power, and acclaim. Social workers also understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and recognize the extent to which a culture’s structures and values, including social, economic, political, and cultural exclusions, may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create privilege and power. Social workers:
- apply and communicate understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels;
- present themselves as learners and engage clients and constituencies as experts of their own experiences; and
- apply self-awareness and self-regulation to manage the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse clients and constituencies.

EP 2.1.3: Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice
Social workers understand that every person regardless of position in society has fundamental human rights such as freedom, safety, privacy, an adequate standard of living, health care, and education. Social workers understand the global interconnections of oppression and human rights violations, and are knowledgeable about theories of human need and social justice and strategies to promote social and economic justice and human rights. Social workers understand strategies designed to eliminate oppressive structural barriers to ensure that social goods, rights, and responsibilities are distributed equitably and that civil, political, environmental, economic, social, and cultural human rights are protected. Social workers:
- apply their understanding of social, economic, and environmental justice to advocate for human rights at the individual and system levels; and
- engage in practices that advance social, economic, and environmental justice.

EP 2.1.4: Competency 4: Engage In Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice
Social workers understand quantitative and qualitative research methods and their respective roles in advancing a science of social work and in evaluating their practice. Social workers know the principles of logic, scientific inquiry, and culturally informed and ethical approaches to building knowledge. Social workers understand that evidence that informs practice derives from multi-disciplinary sources and multiple ways of knowing. They also understand the processes for translating research findings into effective practice. Social workers:
- use practice experience and theory to inform scientific inquiry and research;
- apply critical thinking to engage in analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods and research findings; and
- use and translate research evidence to inform and improve practice, policy, and service delivery.

EP 2.1.5: Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice
Social workers understand that human rights and social justice, as well as social welfare and services, are mediated by policy and its implementation at the federal, state, and local levels. Social workers understand the history and current structures of social policies and services, the role of policy in service delivery, and the role of practice in policy development. Social
workers understand their role in policy development and implementation within their practice settings at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels and they actively engage in policy practice to effect change within those settings. Social workers recognize and understand the historical, social, cultural, economic, organizational, environmental, and global influences that affect social policy. They are also knowledgeable about policy formulation, analysis, implementation, and evaluation. Social workers:
• Identify social policy at the local, state, and federal level that impacts well-being, service delivery, and access to social services;
• assess how social welfare and economic policies impact the delivery of and access to social services;
• apply critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.

EP 2.1.6: Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
Social workers understand that engagement is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers value the importance of human relationships. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge to facilitate engagement with clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand strategies to engage diverse clients and constituencies to advance practice effectiveness. Social workers understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions may impact their ability to effectively engage with diverse clients and constituencies. Social workers value principles of relationship-building and inter-professional collaboration to facilitate engagement with clients, constituencies, and other professionals as appropriate. Social workers:
• apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks to engage with clients and constituencies; and
• use empathy, reflection, and interpersonal skills to effectively engage diverse clients and constituencies.

EP 2.1.7: Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
Social workers understand that assessment is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in the assessment of diverse clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand methods of assessment with diverse clients and constituencies to advance practice effectiveness. Social workers recognize the implications of the larger practice context in the assessment process and value the importance of inter-professional collaboration in this process. Social workers understand
how their personal experiences and affective reactions may affect their assessment and decision-making. Social workers:

• collect and organize data, and apply critical thinking to interpret information from clients and constituencies;
• apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the analysis of assessment data from clients and constituencies;
• develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives based on the critical assessment of strengths, needs, and challenges within clients and constituencies; and
• select appropriate intervention strategies based on the assessment, research knowledge, and values and preferences of clients and constituencies.

EP 2.1.8: Competency 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Social workers understand that intervention is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers are knowledgeable about evidence-informed interventions to achieve the goals of clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge to effectively intervene with clients and constituencies. Social workers understand methods of identifying, analyzing and implementing evidence-informed interventions to achieve client and constituency goals. Social workers value the importance of interprofessional teamwork and communication in interventions, recognizing that beneficial outcomes may require interdisciplinary, interprofessional, and inter-organizational collaboration. Social workers:

• critically choose and implement interventions to achieve practice goals and enhance capacities of clients and constituencies;
• apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in interventions with clients and constituencies;
• use inter-professional collaboration as appropriate to achieve beneficial practice outcomes;
• negotiate, mediate, and advocate with and on behalf of diverse clients and constituencies; and
• facilitate effective transitions and endings that advance mutually agreed-on goals.

EP 2.1.9: Competency 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Social workers understand that evaluation is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. Social workers recognize the importance of evaluating processes and outcomes to advance practice, policy, and service delivery effectiveness. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in evaluating outcomes. Social workers understand qualitative and quantitative methods for evaluating outcomes and practice effectiveness. Social workers:
• select and use appropriate methods for evaluation of outcomes;
• apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the evaluation of outcomes;
• critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate intervention and program processes and outcomes; and
• apply evaluation findings to improve practice effectiveness at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.
Declaration of a Major in Social Work

Students who wish to major in social work, but have not met the requirements for admission in to the B.S.W. program will be designated, per degree plan, as “Pre-Social Work” majors. Students who desire to major in social work, but have not met admission criteria for admission in the B.S.W. degree program should talk with the Social Work Program Director (Academic 104F) and complete their application for their “Pre-Social Work” degree plan. This is a single sheet of paper that takes approximately five minutes to complete. Once all admission requirements for admission to the B.S.W. degree program are met, the Social Work Program Director will review the student file.

The Social Work Program Director determines if all required materials are present; next, the Social Work Program Director evaluates the material and rates the student on a scale from 0.0 to 4.0 on the following criteria: 1) personal narrative (this score is derived from a grading rubric); 2) 2.0 GPA on all previous college work taken at, or transferred to, ASU (all students must at least have a 2.0 GPA as specified in the admission criteria); 3) 2.5 GPA on all previously taken social work courses (all students must at least have a 2.5 GPA and no grades less than a “C” on all social work courses previously taken); 4) 20 clock hours of volunteer field experience in a human or social service agency; and 5) their resume or curriculum vita. Students are then ranked by their numerical values derived from these criteria (the five scores are added together and divided by five). Students with less than a 1.9 are denied admission and students with a 2.0 or above are placed in rank order. Students are then admitted into the program as room allows. Students who are eligible for admission, but find themselves in a position where the program is at capacity (e.g., 75 students are already in the program) are placed on a waiting list, and are admitted in rank order as slots become available in the program. The waiting list is revised and students are re-ranked as additional students are evaluated. If admission is granted, the “Pre-Social Work” major designation will be changed to a major in “Social Work” leading to the B.S.W. degree.

Admission Requirements to the B.S.W. Program

- Admission to Angelo State University;
- A completed application for Admission to the B.S.W. degree program as a “Social Work Major”;
- A completed resume or curriculum vita;
- All core education curriculum completed (the liberal arts foundation; junior standing) including SWK 2307;
- A 2.00 GPA on all previous college work taken at or transferred to ASU;
- A 2.50 GPA on any previously taken social work courses;
- A “C” or better in SWK 2307 (Introduction of Social Work) and SWK 2316 (Social Work Theory and Practice);
- 20 clock hours of volunteer experience in the human or social services; and
- A personal narrative, no less than five pages, typed in strict adherence to the American Psychological Association’s most current style manual, covering the below content areas. This personal narrative is designed to help the social work faculty evaluate applicants’ writing ability and critical thinking skills.

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1. your understanding of the social work profession (including its historical development, mission, and values) and how the social work profession is similar to and differentiated from sociology, psychology, psychiatry, and counseling;

2. list and define all six core values of the social work profession; discuss the relationship of these core values to the *NASW Code of Ethics*; choose at least two of the core values of the social work profession and discuss their importance to you and the social work profession;

3. discuss why you desire to enter the social work profession; include a discussion of the following: your personal identification with the social work profession; the ecological paradigm (person-in environment perspective, biopsychosocial approach to clients), advocacy for client access to social work services, your conceptualization and appreciation of human diversity, and generalist social work practice;

4. discuss three of your personal strengths and three of your personal weaknesses or challenges covering the following points:
   a. how your personal strengths will help you become a professional social worker; and
   b. how you plan to overcome any personal weaknesses or challenges to become a professional social worker; and

5. discuss your future goals as a professional (e.g., graduate work in social work, social work employment, social work career path, career-long learning plan, and so forth).

Completed social work major application packages may be hand delivered to the Department of Social Office at Angelo State University, Health and Human Service building, Office HHS 224J; or mailed to:

Angelo State University
Attn: BSW Program Director
ASU Station #11043
San Angelo, Texas 76909-1043

REMEMBER, STUDENTS MAY ENROLL AS A “PRE-SOCIAL WORK” MAJOR UNTIL THEY MEET FULL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE B.S.W. DEGREE PROGRAM. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT STUDENTS MUST BE ADMITTED INTO THE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM TO GRADUATE WITH THE B.S.W. DEGREE. PLEASE DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING YOUR ADMISSION STATUS TO THE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM DIRECTOR.

**Admission status.** There are two types of admission for the B.S.W. degree program including regular admission and provisional admission.

**Regular admission.** Regular admission into the B.S.W. degree program is offered to students that fully meet all admission criteria. To maintain regular admission status, students must maintain all current admission criteria, have no ethical or conduct infractions, and receive satisfactory reviews from their field instructors.

**Provisional admission.** Provisional admission into the B.S.W. degree program is offered to students who have not met all admission criteria and who express intent to complete the
deficiency within one semester. Provisional admission is only awarded for one semester; at the end of the semester in which provisional admission was awarded, the student will be evaluated for regular admission or will return to a “pre-social work” admission status.

**Probationary status.** Probationary status in the B.S.W. degree program is offered to students who hold regular or provisional admission status in the program, and there overall grade point average (GPA) drops below a 2.00 or there social work GPA drops below 2.50. Probationary status is only awarded for one semester; at the end of the semester in which probationary admission was awarded, the student will be evaluated for regular admission or will return to a “pre-social work” admission status.

**Admission Procedures**

Immediately upon meeting criteria for admission into the B.S.W. program, students should send all required information to the BSW Program (see address above) in the Department of Social Work. For consideration for the fall semester, all materials are due by the last day of the summer semester. The material will be evaluated by the Social Work Program Director and a letter indicating the admission decision within two weeks of receipt of the material. All students who are admitted will be required to attend a fall orientation meeting. Students who are denied admission into the program may appeal the decision by written letter to the Social Work Program Director. The Social Work Program Director’s decision is final.

**The B.S.W. Curriculum**

There are a total of 120 semester hours required for the B.S.W. degree. These hours are divided into groups that include: the core education requirements, academic major, general electives, and advanced social work elective courses. Some courses are required to be advanced (3000 and 4000 level courses) while others can be from lower division selections (1000 and 2000 level courses). B.S.W. students do not have a minor field of study.

While the B.S.W. degree program at Angelo State University focuses on generalist social work practice, with the careful selection of advanced elective courses through the academic advising process, and with the proper field education placement, students can effectively build skill sets in the following areas that reflect faculty expertise:

- children, adolescents, and families;
- military;
- gerontology/aging;
- health/mental health; and
- social/community development.

These skill sets increase student expertise in specific substantive areas of practice, may help them obtain employment in these areas of practice, and/or prepare them for more concentrated graduate study. It is recommended that students discuss such options with their assigned academic advisor. See the current *University Undergraduate Catalog* for the social work program curriculum.

Revised 05August2020
Recommended Course Sequence for Social Work Majors

**Freshman Year: Pre-Social Work; Students Take Core Education Curriculum Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hrs.</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hrs.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENG 1301 English Composition</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENG 1302 Writing Across the Curriculum</td>
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<td>HIST 1301 US History</td>
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<td>HIST 1302 US History</td>
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<td>MATH 13XX University Approved Math</td>
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<td>Creative Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Life &amp; Physical Sciences</td>
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**Sophomore Year: Pre-Social Work; Students Take Core Education Curriculum Courses, Introduction to Social Work**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SWK 2307 Introduction to Social Work</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>COM 1305 Public Speaking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language, Philosophy, and Culture</td>
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<td>POLS 2306 Federal and State Gov</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 2305 Federal and State Gov</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SWK 2316</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 2301 or ECON 2301(2) or SOC 1301</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Core 090</td>
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**Junior Year: Students Who Meet Admission Criteria are Admitted to the BSW Major**

**All Freshman and Sophomore Courses are Completed**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hrs.</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hrs.</th>
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<tr>
<td>SWK 3306 Groups</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SWK 3311 HBSE II</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWK 3307 HBSE I</td>
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<td>SWK 3313 Social Work Practice II</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWK 3309 Social Work Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SWK 3315 Soc. Welfare Policy &amp; Prac II</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWK 3355 Social Work Research I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SWK 3357 Social Work Research II</td>
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<td>SWK Advanced Elective</td>
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*Continued on Next Page*
Senior Year: General Electives, Social Field Education, Advanced Social Work Electives, and Social Work Practice III

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
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<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hrs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SWK 4371 Social Work Field Education I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SWK 4372 Social Work Field Education II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWK Advanced Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SWK 4373 Social Work Practice III</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWK Advanced Elective</td>
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<td>SWK Advanced Elective</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Academic and Professional Advising

Pre-social work students and social work majors are required to attend academic and professional advising prior to each semester of enrollment in the Social Work Program regardless of class rank (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, or Senior). You will be assigned an advisor by the Social Work Program Director.

If a student takes issue with a decision or comments made by a social work faculty member during the academic and professional advising process, the student is directed to first discuss the issue or circumstance with the particular faculty member. If a resolution to the issue cannot be reached, the student is directed to address their appeal, in writing, to the Social Work Program Director. After the written appeal is received, a conference between the student and Social Work Program Director will be scheduled as soon as possible to address the issue. If a resolution still cannot be reached, the student may appeal the decision, in writing, to the Department Head. In most cases, the decision of the Department Chair is final unless told otherwise by the Department Chair. In cases where the Department Chair’s decision is not final, students follow university policy concerning the appeal process for grievances.

The Provision of Credit for Life Experience, Work Experience, and Prior Field Education

Angelo State University does not award credit for non-academic experiences nor allow the use of experiential training toward a degree. Angelo State University supports this statement as it is taken from the University Undergraduate Catalog; in summary, ASU does not give credit for life experience; work experience; or for field education, practicum experiences, or field experiences taken from other colleges or universities.

Residency Requirements and Transfer Credit

Overall a minimum of 30 semester credit hours in residence of which 24 semester hours must be advanced; 24 of the last 30 hours required to complete this degree must be taken in residence. Social work courses that are required to be taken in residence include: SWK 4371, 4372, and 4373.

Revised 05August2020
Requirements for Graduation with a B.S.W. Degree

All requirements must be met for the B.S.W. degree pursuant to the University Undergraduate Catalog. Applications for graduation must be filed in the Dean’s Office (College of Liberal and Fine Arts) during the appropriate time; consult the University Undergraduate Catalog and ask the social work program’s secretary for detailed instructions.

The Minor in Social Work

Minor Description

The Department of Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work at Angelo State University offers a social work minor to interested students. Students may obtain an academic minor in Social Work which is grounded in the person-in-environment perspective. Courses in the minor provide students with an understanding of people who may require social services. Students are offered courses that will expose them to biopsychosocial theories of human behavior; assessment and evaluation methods; communication skills; and micro and macro level intervention skills essential in today’s outcome based social service environment. This minor is highly applied, structured, and provides exposure to the social work profession.

The Social Work Minor consists of SWK 2307, SWK 2317, SWK 3307, and 9 semester hours from the following courses: SWK 4303, SWK 4305, SWK 4307, SWK 4309, SWK 4313, SWK 4317, SWK 4325, SWK 4327; and includes a total of 18 semester hours of course work. Of those 18 semester hours, at least six semester hours from the upper level course options listed above, are required in residence.

Minor Requirements

Required courses.  
SWK 2307 Introduction to Social Work  
SWK 2316 Social Work Theory and Practice  
SWK 3307 Human Behavior in the Social Environment I  

Advanced course options.  
SWK 4303 Social Work and Children/Families  
SWK 4305 Social Work and Mental Health  
SWK 4307 Social Work and Aging  
SWK 4309 Social Work and Health Care  
SWK 4313 Social Work and Groups  
SWK 4317 Social Work and Case Management  
SWK 4325 Social Work and Criminal Justice  
SWK 4327 Social Work and Human Sexuality
Social Work Course Descriptions (SWK)

2307 Introduction to Social Work (3-0). An overview of the history and development of social work as a profession. The course is designed to foster a philosophical, historical, and critical understanding of social welfare programs, policies and issues, in part through developing a familiarity with local social service agencies.

2316 Social Work Theory and Practice (3-0). Provides knowledge and values of the history and philosophy of social welfare programs and the skills to understand major social welfare policies. The impact of policy on human functioning is also emphasized.

3307 Human Behavior in the Social Environment I (3-0). The bio psychosocial science base of social work practice. Includes theories of biological, social, cultural, psychological, and spiritual development within the context of the social environment through the life course. Focuses on the critical evaluation and application of theories and knowledge to person-environment transactions. Prerequisite: SWK 2307, SWK 2317, and Admission into the SWK Degree Program or a Declared SWK Minor

3309 Social Work Practice I (3-0). The introduction to social work practice with individuals, couples, families and small groups, including the use of communication skills, supervision, and consultation. Focuses on engagement, assessment and evaluation, planning for service delivery, implementing empirically based interventions, and evaluating outcomes. Prerequisite: SWK 2307, SWK 2317 and Admission into the BSW Degree Program; Prerequisite or Corequisite: SWK 3307

3311 Human Behavior in the Social Environment II (3-0). The biopsychosocial science base of social work practice. Includes a critical analysis of the interactions between the person and the dynamic nature of groups, organizations, communities, society, and economic systems. Focuses on multiple dimensions of the person and the range of social systems in which they live. Prerequisite: SWK 3307 and SWK 3309

3313 Social Work Practice II (3-0). The introduction to social work practice with large groups, organizations, and communities, including the use of communication skills, supervision, and consultation. Focuses on engagement, assessment and evaluation, planning for service delivery, implementing empirically based interventions, and evaluating outcomes. Prerequisite: SWK 3309 and SWK 3307

3315 Social Welfare Policy and Practice II (3-0). Provides the knowledge, skills, and values to apply social welfare policy and practice. Focuses on policy analysis, implementation of policy to achieve social and economic justice, and the impact of social policy on the social work profession. Prerequisite: SWK 2307, SWK 2317, and Admission to the B.S.W. degree program

Revised 05 August 2020
3355 Social Work Research Methods I (3-0). Presentation of the methods used in scientific inquiry and program evaluation; knowledge of how scientific evidence informs social work practice and how social work practice informs scientific inquiry is of primary concern. Focuses on the skills related to conducting research and practice evaluation. Ethical, cultural, and professional value considerations in the research process are emphasized. Prerequisite: SWK 2307, SWK 2317, and Admission to the B.S.W. degree program

3357 Social Work Research Methods II (3-0). Presentation of selected statistical methods used in scientific inquiry, program evaluation, and knowledge of how statistical analysis informs social work practice. Focuses on the skills related to statistical analysis, interpretation, and application. Ethical, cultural, and professional value considerations in statistical analysis are emphasized. Prerequisite: SWK 3355

4303 Social Work and Children/Families (3-0). Provides knowledge and skills necessary for generalist social work practice relating to children and families among diverse populations. Topics include the changing dynamics of families, social problems faced by children and families, counseling and intervention programs for children and families, child abuse and neglect, child and family advocacy, and the role of the social worker in foster care adoption, and the courts. Prerequisite: SWK 2307 and SWK 2317

4305 Social Work and Mental Health (3-0). Provides knowledge and skills necessary for generalist social work practice relating to people with mental illness. The role and function of the social worker in mental health settings is of primary concern. Promotes the application of social work values, ethics, and standards in work with mentally ill people from diverse backgrounds. Prerequisite: SWK 2307 and SWK 2317

4307 Social Work and Aging (3-0). Provides a biopsychosocial perspective on the functioning of older adults. Topics cover the various aspects of geriatric social work including biopsychosocial changes associated with aging, assessment and intervention with the elderly substance abuse and the elderly, group work with the elderly, issues surrounding spirituality, abuse and neglect, family and social support, and issues relating to death and dying. Prerequisite: SWK 2307 and SWK 2317

4309 Social Work and Health Care (3-0). Provides knowledge and skills necessary for generalist social work practice in a hospital and other health care settings with people from diverse backgrounds. Topics include an introduction to evidence-based practice in health care environments, medical terminology, and biopsychosocial factors relating to physical illness and disease. Promotes the application of social work values, ethics, and standards in physical health care. Prerequisite: SWK 2307 and SWK 2317

4313 Social Work and Groups (3-0). An introduction to group theory and practice. Topics include group formation and development, stages of the group process, ethics and legal issues relating to group practice, and group work with diverse populations. Prerequisite: SWK 2307 and SWK 2317
4317 **Social Work and Case Management (3-0).** An in-depth analysis of the case management process from a generalist perspective. Focuses on evidence-based practices in contemporary case management, clarification of practitioner attitudes, cultural competence, effective communication skills, client assessment, service plan development, case documentation, the monitoring of services and treatment, and case termination. Prerequisite: SWK 2307 and SWK 2317.

4321 **Social Work and Domestic Violence.** Provides students with a broad knowledge of issues and methods relevant to domestic violence (spousal; intimate partner violence). The course content is designed to provide the participant with a foundation of understanding of domestic violence dynamics and a knowledge base for working with those affected by domestic violence. Prerequisite: SWK 2307.

4323 **Social Work and the Military.** The course provides students with a basic introduction to military culture to allow them to work more effectively with active duty service members, veterans, their family members, and other involved systems.

4327 **Social Work and Human Sexuality (3-0).** Provides a biopsychosocial perspective on human sexuality across the lifespan. Topics include the male and female sexual anatomy/physiology, multicultural perspective of sexuality, sexual behavior, sexual orientations, sexuality across the life cycle, the prevention and treatment of sexuality problems, and social problems related to human sexuality.

4371 **Social Work Field Education I (3-0).** A supervised field education of at least 250 hours in an approved agency appropriate to social work; fosters the integration of classroom knowledge, values, and ethics with practice-based knowledge that seeks to increase practice skills and promotes professional competence. Restricted to B.S.W. majors. Prerequisite: A grade of “C” or higher in all required social work courses, good academic standing as a senior in the SWK program, and the permission of the SWK Program Director and SWK Field Education Director.

4372 **Social Work Field Education II (3-0).** A supervised field education of at least 250 hours in an approved agency appropriate to social work; fosters the integration of classroom knowledge, values, and ethics with practice-based knowledge that seeks to increase practice skills and promotes professional competence. Prerequisite SWK 4371.

4373 **Social Work Practice III (3-0).** The integrative seminar in social work. This capstone course facilitates the integration and application of the generalist social work curriculum in diverse, evolving, and emerging practice contexts. Student career development, use of technology, and professional leadership are emphasized. As a part of this course, students must take and pass a comprehensive examination. Prerequisite: SWK 4371.

4381 **Special Topics in Social Work (3-0).** Selected topics in social work. (May be repeated once for credit when topic varies.)
4391 Independent Research in Social Work (3-0). A specialized course which may be directed reading or research for superior students. (May be repeated once for credit when topic varies.) Prerequisite: Approval from the SWK Program Director.

Social Work Course Rotations

**Fall Semester.**

- SWK 2307 Introduction to Social Work
- SWK 2316 Social Work Theory and Practice
- SWK 3306 Social Work and Groups
- SWK 3307 Human Behavior in the Social Environment I
- SWK 3309 Social Work Practice I
- SWK 3355 Social Work Research I
- SWK 4317 Social Work and Case Management
- SWK 4303 Social Work and Children/Families
- SWK 4305 Social Work and Mental Health Care
- SWK 4371 Social Work Field Education I

**Spring Semester.**

- SWK 2307 Introduction to Social Work
- SWK 3311 Human Behavior in the Social Environment II
- SWK 3313 Social Work Practice II
- SWK 3303 Social Welfare Policy and Practice
- SWK 3357 Social Work Research II
- SWK 4307 Social Work and Aging
- SWK 4311 Social Work and Health Care
- SWK 4373 Social Work Practice III
- SWK 4372 Social Work Field Education II

**Summer Semester.**

- SWK 2307 Introduction to Social Work
- SWK 4315 Human Sexuality
- SWK 4321 Social Work and Domestic Violence
- SWK 4311 International Social Work
### Social Work Faculty and Staff

#### Resident Social Work Faculty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas W. Starkey, Ph.D., LCSW</td>
<td>Department Chair/BSW Program Director and Associate Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ingrid A. Russo, M.S.W., LCSW</td>
<td>Social Work Field Education Coordinator Clinical Assistant Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelsea Kading, M.S.W., LMSW</td>
<td>Clinical Instructor</td>
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#### Social Work Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Seidel</td>
<td>Department of Social Work Office Coordinator</td>
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#### Social Work Field Instructors

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abilene Behavioral Health</td>
<td>Katy Bruce, LMSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADACCV</td>
<td>Chelsea Ashton, MA History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Courtney Bingham, LBSW</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Red Cross</td>
<td>Josh McDonald, MA History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APS</td>
<td>Stu Stalder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Area Agency on Aging</td>
<td>Toni Gutierrez, Masters in Counseling</td>
</tr>
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<td>ASU Disability Office</td>
<td>Dallas Swafford, M.ED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baptist Memorials</td>
<td>Rachael Nash, LBSW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Ranch</td>
<td>Mike Children, BS in Kinesiology</td>
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<td>Child Advocacy Center</td>
<td>Monica Escobedo, BA Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concho Valley Community Action Agency</td>
<td>Iyla Blue</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPS</td>
<td>Anthony Rastetter, LMSW</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPS</td>
<td>Kelly Walker, BA Psych</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPS</td>
<td>Trista Johnson, BS Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPS</td>
<td>Sylvia Morin, BA Business</td>
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Revised 05August2020
<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crisis Intervention Unit</td>
<td>Rita Guthrie, MS Counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Connection</td>
<td>Anita Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECI</td>
<td>Crystal Berry, BS Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>GoodWill Connection of West TX</td>
<td>Brennan Favor, LMSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guardianship Alliance</td>
<td>Lettitia McPherson, BA Psych</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Sky Children’s Ranch</td>
<td>Courtney Flores, BA Psych</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospice of San Angelo</td>
<td>Ervilene Smith, LCSW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juvenile Probation</td>
<td>Greg Graham, LPC</td>
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<tr>
<td>La Esperanza Clinic</td>
<td>Carina Sturgeon</td>
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<td>Meals for the Elderly</td>
<td>Lori Rodriguez, BSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHMR-IDD</td>
<td>Gana Huff, BA Psych</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHMR—MH</td>
<td>Sammy Sablan, MS in Counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHMR—MH Crisis Unit</td>
<td>Brittany Shroeder, MS in Psych</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASU Multicultural Center</td>
<td>Lorina Klingerman, MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Shelter</td>
<td>Valerie Tillery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape Crisis Center</td>
<td>Heather Hodge, LCSW</td>
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<tr>
<td>River Crest Hospital</td>
<td>Barbara Davis, LCSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sam Gallander, LMSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rust Street Ministries</td>
<td>Bryan Elliot, LMFT, LPC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sage Crest Alzheimers Unit</td>
<td>Sheila Knox, LMSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvation Army</td>
<td>Major Tim Grider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Angelo Odyssey Hospice</td>
<td>Christina Jimenez, LMSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Care Center</td>
<td>Jared Johnson, LBSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shannon Behavioral Health</td>
<td>Roger Collins, LPC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shannon Clinic</td>
<td>Yolanda Rodriguez, LMSW</td>
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Revised 05 August 2020
Academic Policies Specific to the Social Work Program

Academic Honesty

The university expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach. Students will be expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their experiences in the classroom. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject to disciplinary action. Procedures for discipline due to academic dishonesty have been adopted by the Texas Tech University Board of Regents and are published under the Section on Student Services and Activities in the University’s Student Handbook. In summary, the Social Work Program’s policy concerning academic honesty is consistent with Angelo State University’s policy concerning academic honesty found in the University Undergraduate Catalog.

Field Education Placements in Social Work

The social work field education experience is administrated by the Social Work Program’s Field Education Director. According to the CSWE, field education, is the signature pedagogy of the social work profession. The CSWE EPAS states,

“Signature pedagogy represents the central form of instruction and learning in which a profession socializes its students to perform the role of practitioner. Professionals have pedagogical norms with which they connect and integrate theory and practice. In social work, the signature pedagogy is field education. The intent of field education is to connect the theoretical and conceptual contribution of the classroom with the practical world of the practice setting. It is a basic precept of social work education that the two interrelated components of curriculum—classroom and field—are of equal importance within the curriculum, and each contributes to the development of the requisite competencies of professional practice. Field education is systematically designed, supervised, coordinated, and evaluated based on criteria by which students demonstrate the achievement of program competencies” (CSWE, 2008, p. 8).

Revised 05August2020
Only social work majors may enroll in a social work field education course. Student placements in particular field setting are negotiated between the social work student and the Social Work Field Education Director. Please see the Social Work Field Education Manual for details about social work field education, or you may discuss the social work field education sequence with the Social Work Field Education Director.

**Student Liability Insurance for Field Education**

Students must obtain and maintain malpractice insurance prior to beginning their first field education placement, and proof of malpractice must be filed with the Social Work Program’s Field Education Office (Academic Building, Office 104G) while enrolled and/or participating in an field education course. Proof of malpractice constitutes a copy of the “Certificate of Insurance” that accompanies the policy.

**Requirement to Follow the NASW Code of Ethics**

Students who have been admitted into the B.S.W. degree program are required to follow the *NASW Code of Ethics*. Substantiated violations of the *NASW Code of Ethics* may result in dismissal from the B.S.W. degree program.

**Academic and Professional Performance and Dismissal from the Program**

There may be times when a student’s academic or professional performance merit termination from the program; for example, violations the *NASW Code of Ethics* or when Field Education Supervisors may have serious concerns about the professional performance of students, or their health or mental health status. If this occurs, a student’s case will be sent to committee consisting of the core social work faculty. The student’s case may be substantiated, not substantiated, or declared that there is not enough information to determine. If the case is substantiated, the student may be dismissed from the program, required to attend professional performance advising with a member of the core social work faculty, or they may be referred to an appropriate service agency; for example, the campus mental health clinic for evaluation if needed.

Concerning academic performance, a student is required to make at least a “C” in all required social work courses. Courses with an earned grade of a “D” or less must be retaken. All social work students must maintain an overall GPA of 2.0 and a social work GPA of 2.5. If a student falls below this minimum GPA levels, they are placed on academic probation in the program and given one semester to raise their GPA to or above the minimum requirements. Failure to accomplish this results in the student being removed from the program and placed in a pre-social work status. Students may reapply to the social work program if they are placed in pre-social work status once they have met the requirements of the program.

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Concerning professional performance advising, students are required to maintain professional standards consistent with social work professionals in training. This means that they should follow the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics, Angelo State University Honor Code, and the Code of Conduct promulgated by the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners. While it is perfectly acceptable for social work student to experience health and mental health concerns like all other people, such concerns must not impair their professional performance. If a student’s health or mental health condition affects their professional performance in their field education, they may be referred to an appropriate agency or evaluation or other services. The student will need clearance from their health care provider to return to their field education placement.

Prohibition of Independent Practice While a Student and Use of Titles

Social work students of any kind are prohibited from engaging in any form of private or independent practice. They are further prohibited from receiving or taking direct payment for services. Additionally, social work students may refer to themselves as a “Social Work Student,” or if they are in field education placement, a “Social Work Field Education Student;” they may not and are prohibited from calling themselves a “Social Worker” or any derivation of the term social worker that would imply to the public that they hold a social work degree or are licensed in social work.

Student Rights

Students have a right to study and work in a non-discriminatory environment. The Angelo State University Social Work Program affirms and respects diversity and difference among students, faculty, field instructors, staff, and others involved in the program. Further, students have a right to appeal certain decisions and file grievances, including but not limited to admission decisions, academic and professional advising comments and recommendations, and so forth. If a student takes issue with a decision made by a social work faculty member, the student is directed to first discuss the issue or circumstance with the particular faculty member. If a resolution to the issue cannot be reached, the student is directed to address their appeal, in writing, to the Social Work Program Director. After the written appeal is received, a conference between the student and Social Work Program Director will be scheduled as soon as possible to address the issue. If a resolution still cannot be reached, the student may appeal the decision in accordance with university policy through the proper channels (see the university undergraduate catalog). In most cases, the decision of the Social Work Program Director; however, students are advised to follow Angelo State University’s appeal and grievance policy found in the university undergraduate catalog.

Student and Professional Organizations

The Student Social Work Association (SSWA)

The Student Social Work Association is an official ASU student lead organization in which all Angelo State University students are welcome to join on a voluntary basis. There will be one social work faculty member that will serve as the SSWA’s faculty sponsor and liaison.
with the SSWA’s elected president. The SSWA holds meetings to discuss community activities and to generate recommendations for the Social Work Program Director concerning the Social Work Program. The SSWA is the primary mechanism for students to organize and have a voice in the Social Work Program. Student recommendations are taken seriously and are a part of the student voice in the Social Work Program. The dues are $25.00 per year (due every April 15th) as voted upon and approved by the SSWA membership. All student members of the SSWA and the faculty in the Department are welcome to attend all meetings and sponsored events held by the association. All events (except monthly meetings) must be approved by the faculty advisor working with the association.

The Phi Alpha Honor Society

Angelo State University is in the process of filing for a local Phi Alpha charter. According to the Phi Alpha website, the purpose of Phi Alpha is “to provide a closer bond among students of social work and promote humanitarian goals and ideals. Phi Alpha fosters high standards of education for social workers and invites into membership those who have attained excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work”. The criteria to become an undergraduate student member of Phi Alpha include:

- declared social work as a major;
- achieved sophomore status;
- completed 8 semester hours of required social work courses;
- achieved an overall grade point average of 3.0 and 4.0 scale; and
- achieved a 3.25 grade point average in required social work courses.

Students who meet the above stated criteria are encouraged to apply for membership as soon as ASU has established its local charter.

Professional Social Work Organizations

The following are some of the major social work or social work related organizations in the United States that social work students and professional social workers commonly hold membership:

- Council on Social Work Education
- National Association of Social Workers