



Dear Prospective Student,

I am pleased to know of your interest in applying for the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program in the School of Social Work at Aurora University. Accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, our BSW program enables graduates to sit for the state social work licensing exam and to use the title “social worker”.

Attached you will find application forms and admissions instructions for the School of Social Work. Please note that if you are accepted to the BSW program, you will be required to complete a background check. There is a fee to complete the background check of approximately \$40 to \$50. You will receive additional information with your status letter after the completed application is received. Reading these materials will help guide you through the application and admissions process.

We have designed our admissions process to give you as much information as possible about our BSW program. If at any point you have additional questions about the admissions process or the BSW program itself, feel free to contact me by e-mail at aarendt@aurora.edu or by phone (630) 844-5793.

Thank you for your interest in Aurora University’s School of Social Work. We look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,

Alison S. Arendt

Alison S. Arendt, MSW, LCSW
BSW Program Director, School of Social Work



Bachelor of Social Work

Admissions Instructions for Transfer Students

Read carefully the steps outlined here which will facilitate your timely admission to the School of Social Work.

1. Complete the BSW Application forms and submit these forms to the School of Social Work. Please be thoughtful with your responses on these application forms since our admissions process is designed to enable us to appropriately counsel you regarding your entrance into the BSW program.

BSW application materials should be mailed to:

School of Social Work
BSW Program
Attn: Lisa Schilling
347 S. Gladstone Avenue
Aurora, IL 60506

2. Once you have been accepted into the University and your BSW application materials have been received, you may, 1) receive a letter within ten days informing you of the admission decision; **or** 2) be contacted to arrange for a personal interview with a social work faculty member. During this interview you will be asked to elaborate on your written responses to the questions on the BSW application forms. You will also have an opportunity to have your concerns and questions about the program addressed. A letter regarding the admission decision will be mailed to you within ten days of the interview.
3. If you are a student on the Aurora Campus, after being accepted to the BSW program, you will register for social work course work with your advisor. Ms. Calie Thanepohn, Mr. Ryan Hiller, or Linda McCall will assist you with the process. At that time, an academic plan will be developed with you that will ensure your timely graduation. A copy of this plan will be given to you for your records.



School of Social Work

Criteria for Admission to the Bachelor of Social Work Program

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be accepted into the BSW program:

- Have earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 point scale;
- Have earned or are planning to have earned approximately 60 semester hours prior to beginning the fall required social work course work;
- Completion of the following social work supportive liberal arts prerequisites or their equivalent

PSC 2110 U.S. Government or an equivalent Political Science course

PSY 1100 General Psychology

SOC 1100 Principles of Sociology

(After an administrative review, students may be admitted to the BSW program and complete one course concurrently with social work courses if necessary);

- Be willing to adhere to the social work Code of Ethics;
- Have a career goal that is consistent with the BSW program's philosophy and curriculum;
- Legally be able to qualify for the state social work license (prior arrest and convictions may disqualify an applicant);



School of Social Work B.S.W. Program

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is the BSW program accredited?

The BSW program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The program has been accredited by CSWE since 1974, which was the first year undergraduate programs were accredited. We have maintained our accreditation for almost 40 years.

2. Why is an accredited program important?

In order to be eligible to be a licensed social worker, a student must graduate from a CSWE accredited school. Many agencies that employ social workers require social workers to be licensed.

3. When should I apply for admission to the School of Social Work?

Applicant interviews begin during the spring semester for those students intending to begin the BSW course work the following fall. Most applicants complete the admissions process during the spring and early summer of their sophomore year.

4. Can I begin the BSW Program course work at any time?

Once admitted to the BSW program, students can begin social work courses in the fall or spring.

3. Can I complete the BSW degree on a part time basis?

Students can complete the BSW program part time over a three or four-year period.

4. Do I need an Associates of Arts (A.A.) or Associates of Science (A.S.) Degree?

Applicants do not need to have earned an A.A. degree or an A.S. degree to gain admission to the BSW program. Students who have not earned either of these degrees must meet the university's general education graduation requirements.

5. How can I find out what courses I should take prior to transferring to Aurora University to ensure completion of my BSW degree requirements within two years?

Students planning on transferring to Aurora University should contact the Admissions Office on the Aurora or George Williams College campus to ensure that the courses they are taking or plan to take at their current academic institution will facilitate the transfer process and prepare them for the BSW course work. The Admissions Office phone

number on the Aurora Campus is (630) 844-5533). The George Williams College Campus Office of Admissions phone number is (262) 245-8586.

6. **Can I apply to the BSW program prior to completing my sophomore year or 60 semester hours?**

Students can apply and will be accepted provisionally into the BSW program if they plan on completing 60 semester hours prior to beginning the required social work course work. Students who will have completed slightly fewer semester hours prior to beginning the social work required course will be accepted provided they are willing to develop a plan to complete these hours.

7. **What if my cumulative grade point average is below the required 2.5 on a 4.0 point scale?**

Students, who have a cumulative grade point average slightly below the required minimum should consider taking courses that will compliment the BSW program until a 2.5 has been achieved. Some students benefit from retaking courses that were completed with a lower grade.

8. **Can I receive social work credits for life or work experience?**

The Council on Social Work Education, the social work accrediting body, does not permit life or work experience to be used for either required or elective social work courses.

9. **Can I transfer social work or human service courses into the university and have them apply to the required social work course work?**

Only courses taken in an academic institution accredited by the Council on Social Work Education can be used to meet required social work course work. Such non-accredited courses can, of course, be used to meet the 120 semester hour general university degree requirement.



APPLICATION FOR BSW PROGRAM

APPLICATION for: Fall: ___ Spring ___ Full-time ___ Part-time ___ ADC ___

CAMPUS: GWC ___ AU ___ WDT ___ Online ___ Year in college: ___1st___2nd___3rd___4th

Date: _____ Student Id # at AU: _____

First Name: _____ MI: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone () _____ Cell Phone () _____

Personal e-mail address: _____ AU e-mail address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____

Are you a student at Aurora University currently? Yes _____ No _____

Will you transfer credits from another College or University? Yes _____ No _____

Name of this institution(s) _____

How many credits do you plan to or have you already transferred? _____

What is your cumulative grade point average? _____

Which of the following required supportive liberal arts courses have you taken?

Introduction to Sociology	Semester Completed _____	Grade _____
Introduction to Psychology	Semester Completed _____	Grade _____
U.S. Government or Basic Political Science Course	Semester Completed _____	Grade _____

List any other courses you have taken which you feel are supportive of your interest in social work.



MINI AUTOBIOGRAPHY OUTLINE

When writing your mini autobiography, please write all responses in a narrative, first person style. Be thoughtful while typing complete responses. Keep in mind, this application is a professional document.

1. How did you become interested in social work, and why are you seeking a career in social work? (Include in your response, any prior experience working or volunteering for a social services agency.)
2. What important events and relationships have positively influenced your development?
3. What important events and relationships have caused stress or trauma with regard to your development?
4. What would people who know you (e.g., family, friends, professors, etc.) say are your greatest strengths and weaknesses?
5. What experiences, feelings, and ideas do you have working with people from different cultures and/or oppressed groups (e.g., people of a different race, ethnicity, ability, religion, socio-economic status, gender, and/or sexual orientation)?
6. What additional information would you like the admissions committee to consider?

All application materials become a part of your academic file in the School of Social Work. These materials are used only for the admissions considerations and will not be disclosed.