The Department of Social Work at The University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley offers a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree program which is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The BSW is a professional degree built on a liberal arts foundation with supporting social and behavioral sciences coursework. Graduates of our program will qualify to take the Texas licensing examination to become a Licensed Baccalaureate Social Work (LBSW).

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
1. Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly.
2. Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice.
3. Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.
4. Engage diversity and difference in practice.
5. Advance human rights and social and economic justice.
7. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment.
8. Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services.
9. Respond to contexts that shape practice.
10. Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, group, organizations, and communities.

A – GENERAL EDUCATION CORE – 42 HOURS
Students must fulfill the General Education Core requirements. The courses listed below satisfy both degree requirements and General Education core requirements.

Required

Mathematics – 3 hours
Choose MATH 1314, MATH 1324, or higher level mathematics.

Language, Philosophy, and Culture – 3 hours
Choose from:
PHIL 2330 Ethics and Leadership
PHIL 2320 Professional Ethics

Social and Behavioral Sciences – 3 hours
Choose from:
SOCI 1301 Introduction to Sociology
PSYC 2301 General Psychology

B – MAJOR REQUIREMENTS – 39 HOURS (30 advanced)
SOCW 2361 Introduction to the Social Work Profession
SOCW 2362 The Social Welfare Institution
SOCW 2375 Statistical Methods
SOCW 3314 Social Welfare Policy and Programs
SOCW 3321 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I
SOCW 3322 Human Behavior and the Social Environment II
SOCW 3323 Social Work Practice I
SOCW 4301 Social Work Practice II
SOCW 4302 Social Work Practice III
SOCW 4311 Research for the Social Services
SOCW 4353 Integrative Field Seminar
Choose one:
C – SUPPORT COURSES and ELECTIVES – 39 HOURS (24 advanced)

1 – Advanced Support Courses – 12 hours (12 advanced)
SOCI 4352 Social Stratification
Choose one:
   PSYC 4313 Abnormal Psychology
   SOCI 4314 Sociology of Deviance
Choose one:
   PSYC 3337 Developmental Psychology: Lifespan
   PSYC 3332 Developmental Psychology: Infancy through Adolescence
   PSYC 3333 Psychology of Adulthood: Maturity and Old Age
Choose one:
   SOCI 4313 Race and Ethnic Relations
   SOCI 4323 The Mexican American Experience

2 – Advanced Restricted Electives – 12 hours (12 advanced)
Choose from any advanced CRIJ, REHS, SOCW, PSY, SOCI, POLS, or ANTH courses.

3 – Spanish Language Electives – 6 hours
Choose one pair:
   SPAN 1311 Spanish for Non-Native Speakers I
   SPAN 1312 Spanish for Non-Native Speakers II
   SPAN 1387 Beginning Spanish I for Honors Students
   SPAN 1388 Beginning Spanish II for Honors Students
   SPAN 2313 Spanish for Native/Heritage Speakers I
   SPAN 2315 Spanish for Native/Heritage Speakers II

4 – Social Science and Behavioral Science Elective – 3 hours
Choose course not completed in the General Education Core:
   SOCI 1301 Introduction to Sociology
   PSYC 2301 General Psychology

5 – Free Electives – 6 hours

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS FOR GRADUATION – 120 HOURS
TOTAL ADVANCED HOURS – 54 HOURS

ADMISSION, PROGRESSION, AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, if applicable:

Admission requirements
Requirements include: (1) 2.7 cumulative GPA, (2) At least 30 hours of University General Education Core Curriculum requirements, with a 2.0 GPA, (3) SOCW 2361 Introduction to the Social Work Profession, with a grade of ‘C’ or higher, (4) 6 hours of freshmen English, with a grade of ‘C’ or higher, and (5) 3 hours of college algebra or higher-level mathematics, with a grade of ‘C’ or better.
The application process includes the following:

1. Application for Admission into BSW Degree Program.
2. A 300-500 word essay on your interest in becoming a professional social worker.
3. Copy of unofficial UTRGV transcript.

Progression requirements

A minimum grade of ‘C’ is required for SOCW 3323 (Practice I) as a prerequisite for enrollment in SOCW 4301 (Practice II) and SOCW 4302 (Practice III). A minimum grade of ‘C’ is required in both SOCW 4301 and SOCW 4302 in order to progress to SOCW 4353 (Integrative Field Seminar) and SOCW 4619 (Field Education Block) or SOCW 4354 and SOCW 4355 (Field Education I and Field Education II).