
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).

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

020 - Mathematics – 3 hours

Choose MATH 1314, MATH 1324, or higher level mathematics.

040 - Language, Philosophy, and Culture – 3 hours

Choose from:

- PHIL 1305 Introduction to Latin American Philosophy
- PHIL 1310 Ethics, Happiness, and the Good Life
- PHIL 1312 Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy (Social Work section recommended)
- PHIL 2351 Religious Diversity in the Global Community

080 - 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:

- SOCW 4354 Field Education I and SOCW 4355 Field Education II
- SOCW 4619 Field Education Block

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).

Graduation requirements

In addition to the graduation requirements listed in the UTRGV 2015-2017 Undergraduate Catalog, demonstration of proficiency in a language other than English is required at the undergraduate level equivalent to a minimum of six credit hours. Proficiency can be demonstrated by a college credit exam, a placement test approved through the UTRGV Department of Writing and Language Studies, and/or up to six credit hours of college-level language coursework.