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).
# BLUEPRINT EXPERIENCES

## FIRST YEAR
- UTRGV has a Writing Center and a Learning Center. Make it a point to visit them!
- Complete your core English classes (section 010) during your first year.
- Complete 30 credit hours every year in order to graduate in 4 years.
- Shoot for a GPA of 2.7 or 3.0 if you are thinking about going to graduate school or other graduate programs.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Make your Social Work program. Submit application a month before registration takes place.

## MILESTONES

### APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN
- Choose a major with confidence—visit my.UTRGV.edu and check out the Kuder Journey.
- Meet with your academic advisor and bring your orientation folder with you to every session!
- Make an appointment to visit a faculty member during their office hours and ask a question about classes. Do this a month before registration is to take place.
- Classes fill up fast. When registration opens, be sure to register on the first day of your group.
- Cold or flu getting you down? We have Student Health Services on campus with free office visits.
- Look for a service-learning course! For guidance, visit Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
- Participate in a campus-sponsored community service project.
- Ask a student in class to study with you.
- Set up your profile on the Engagement Zone through My.UTRGV.edu.
- Attend a diversity based campus or community event (e.g. Milk Day of Service).
- Attend a departmental program such as Lunch and Learns which take place during the lunch hour.
- Join a student organization! Consider looking into Social Work Student Association (SWSA) or visit VLink (utrgv.edu/vlink) for options.
- Create a résumé and set up your profile on the Career Connection icon (My.UTRGV.edu).
- Got summer plans? Visit Career Center and ask about places to do some job shadowing.
- Research shows that students who work on campus perform better than those who work off campus. Look for a job on the Career Center portal!
- Check your UTRGV email for the daily Messenger—locate and attend one student workshop.

### LIFE AFTER GRADUATION
- Complete required courses such as SOCW 2361, SOCW 2362 and SOCW 2371 courses. SOCW 2361 is required to apply for the program and must have a minimum grade of C.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Complete mandatory orientation for all new Social Work Majors.
- Submit application if meet requirements for Membership to Phi Alpha Mu.

### ADVICE & SUPPORT
- Want to explore different careers? Check out Kuder Journey!
- Come ready with course suggestions and questions when you meet with your academic advisor.
- Visit the Communication Hauser Lab for help with your speeches.
- Trouble making your tuition payment? The Financial Aid Office can help. Payment plans and emergency loans are also available.
- To find undergraduate research opportunities, visit the Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
- Consider attending the Leadership Institute or attend the Engaged Scholar Symposium.
- Consider serving on a campus life/community committee or become a student leader and make a difference. Visit VLink or speak with your Student Government Association for more information!
- Travel the world! Look into study abroad opportunities at Office for International Programs & Partnerships.
- Check DegreeWorks for your progress reports.
- Go show off your research, service-learning or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium!
- Sharpen your writing skills! Visit the Writing Center or speech coaching with the Communication Hauser Lab.

## SECOND YEAR
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Attend mandatory advising in the Social Work Department.
- Attend mandatory Orientation for all new Social Work Majors.
- Visit my.UTRGV.edu.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Visit the Communication Hauser Lab for help with your speeches.
- Trouble making your tuition payment? The Financial Aid Office can help. Payment plans and emergency loans are also available.
- Complete required courses such as SOCW 2361, SOCW 2362 and SOCW 2371 courses. SOCW 2361 is required to apply for the program and must have a minimum grade of C.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Complete mandatory orientation for all new Social Work Majors.
- Submit application if meet requirements for Membership to Phi Alpha Mu.

## THIRD YEAR
- Shoot for a GPA of 2.7 or 3.0 if you are thinking about going to graduate school or other graduate programs.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Attend mandatory advising in the Social Work Department.
- Attend mandatory Orientation for all new Social Work Majors.
- Visit my.UTRGV.edu.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Visit the Communication Hauser Lab for help with your speeches.
- Trouble making your tuition payment? The Financial Aid Office can help. Payment plans and emergency loans are also available.
- Complete required courses such as SOCW 2361, SOCW 2362 and SOCW 2371 courses. SOCW 2361 is required to apply for the program and must have a minimum grade of C.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Complete mandatory orientation for all new Social Work Majors.
- Submit application if meet requirements for Membership to Phi Alpha Mu.

## FOURTH YEAR
- Shoot for a GPA of 2.7 or 3.0 if you are thinking about going to graduate school or other graduate programs.
- “I have a plan for after graduation.” If this describes you great! If not, visit your faculty advisor or Career Center!
- Submit your application(s) for graduate school, an apprenticeship, or for fulltime employment.
- If your plans are to work, begin the application process for your Social Work license while in your field internship.
- Take your Licensing exam prior to graduation.

### CAREERS
- Administration and planning
- Case management
- Program evaluation
- Policy development
- Research
- Public welfare agencies
- Private social service agencies
- Local, state, and federal government:
  - Department of Human Services
  - Department of Education
  - Housing Services
- Local, state, and federal government continued:
  - Veterans Administration
  - Indian Health Services
  - Administrative agencies
  - Job Corps
  - Head Start
  - State legislatures

For additional info, visit the Career Center website and check out “What Can I Do With This Major?”
www.utrgv.edu/careercenter