

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT
GUIDANCE AND COURSE SEQUENCING FORM

Student's Name: _____

Student's ID: _____

Year Entered: _____ Anticipated Graduation Date: _____ Advisor's Name: _____

NOTE: The Department advises all students to commit to this sequence and register courses accordingly. Academic credit for life experience or Previous work experience is prohibited. Non-Social Work Majors are recommended to complete SWO 200 and SWO 225 before requesting a major change. An interview with the Chairperson is required for all internal students requesting a major change to Social Work. Students are responsible

for checking their degree progress report (via degree transcript) to ensure they are fulfilling all university degree requirements.

Download University General Education and Distributive Requirements at <https://catalog.wcupa.edu/undergraduate/>

WRT 120 and WRT 200 level (can place out of WRT 120 – contact ENG)	Six credits of approved Science
Three credits Ethics Designation Course (SWO 320)	Six credits of Behavior Science (For SW 9—PSY, SOC, PSC)
Three credits Math course above one hundred levels (104 or 121 recommended)	Six credits of Humanities (For SW –HIS, PHI)
9 Credits Speaking Emphasis (SE) (enroll in six credits SE outside of the Social Work Department. SWO 495 will count towards three of the nine credits). Take electives with SE designation	Three credits of ART
Three credits of diverse communities (for SW – SWO 351)	Eighteen credits of Advised Electives (with FYE 17 credits required)
Three credits of interdisciplinary course (for SW – SWO 225)	Students must achieve a minimum of 120 credits to graduate
Nine credits of writing emphasis courses (for SW—SWO 300, 351, 495)	SW Students need 2.50 GPA overall for BSW
First Year Experience (FYE) required for all new students and transfer students with less than 24 credits.	
Minimum grade of C required for SWO 320, 321, 375, 395, 450, 451, 495, and 496. All other required SWO courses minimum C-	

*Transfer students with 40-70 need six credits approved speaking emphasis (SE) courses. With 70+ transfer credits, only one 3 credit course is required. All students must complete at least one SE course at the 300 or 400 level.

First Year: Pre-Candidacy - Fall Semester				
Course Number	Course Name	Credits	Term	Grade
SWO 200	Introduction to Social Welfare	3		
SWO 225	Race Relations (I and J)	3		
FYE 100	First-Year Experience (Waived for transfer students with 24+ credits)	4		
WRT 120	English Composition Effective Writing I	3		
FLG I (SPA 101)	Foreign Language - <i>Spanish recommended.</i> (SPA 118 recommended **	3		

** Students may enroll in 1 or 2 foreign language culture clusters (must be **SAME** language) to meet the foreign language requirement.

First Year: Pre-Candidacy - Spring Semester				
Course Number	Course Name	Credits	Term	Grade
SWO 220	Introduction to Generalist Practice	3		
SWO 300	Family Systems (W)	3		
PSY 100	PSY 100 required	3		
FLG II (SPA 102)	Foreign Language (Must be the SAME language and one level up from first FLG course) or complete second Culture Cluster in the SAME language as Culture Cluster 1.	3		
WRT 200 Level	WRT 200, 204, 205, 206, 208, or 230	3		

Second Year: Pre-Candidacy - Fall Semester				
Course Number	Course Name	Credits	Term	Grade
SWO 332	Social Welfare Policies and Services	3		
SWO 350	Human Behavior in the Social Environment I	3		
PSC	Select approved Political Science Course (PSC 100 recommended)	3		

Science #1	Select approved science class from CHE, CSC, ESS, or PHY	3		
HIS	Select approved HIS course (HIS 150 Recommended)	3		

Second Year: Pre-Candidacy - Spring Semester				
Course Number	Course Name	Credits	Term	Grade
SWO 320	Generalist Practice I (E)	3		
SWO 351	Human Behavior in the Social Environment II (W) (J)	3		
Science #2	Select approved science class from CHE, CSC, ESS, or PHY	3		
SOC	Select approved Sociology course (SOC 100 or SOC 240 recommended)	3		
Advised Elective #1	Advised Elective	3		

BSW Guidance Sheet Revised August 2022

Third Year: Apply for Candidacy by September 15 th - Fall Semester				
Course Number	Course Name	Credits	Term	Grade
SWO 321	Generalist Practice II	3		
ART	Select approved Art, Cinematography, Dance, Photography, or Theater	3		
MAT	Select any math course based on placement (MAT 104 or MAT 121 recommended)	3		
PHI	Select approved Philosophy course (PHI 180 recommended)	3		
Advised Elective #2	If interested in CWEB, enroll in the Child Welfare Elective	3		

Third Year: Professional Core - Spring Semester				
Course Number	Course Name	Credits	Term	Grade
SWO 375	Field Experience I	6		
SWO 395	Junior Seminar	3		
Advised Elective #3	Advised Elective	3		
Advised Elective #4	Advised Elective	3		

Fourth Year: Professional Core - Fall Semester				
Course Number	Course Name	Credits	Term	Grade
SWO 431	Methods of Social Inquiry	3		
SWO 450	Field Experience II	6		
SWO 495	Senior Seminar I (W)	3		
Advised Elective #5	Advised Elective	3		

Fourth Year: Professional Core - Spring Semester				
Course Number	Course Name	Credits	Term	Grade
SWO 451	Field Experience III	3		
SWO 496	Senior Seminar II	6		
SWO 432	Advanced Policy Practice	3		
Advised Elective #6	Depending on transfer credits and FYE, student may take a 2 or 3 credit elective to fulfill the 120 credits required for graduation	2 or 3		

SOCIAL WORK ELECTIVES				
Courses	Term(s) Offered	Credits	Term	Grade
SWO 421 – Mental Health and Addictions		3		

SWO 423 – Child Welfare Practice and Policy		3		
SWO 491 – Human Sexuality Concepts for Social Workers		3		
SWO 493 Public Health Social Work: Core Concepts and Practical Application		3		
SWO 494 Global Social Justice				

I = Interdisciplinary J = Diverse Communities W = Writing Emphasis E = Ethics

- Students may take social work courses concurrently while applying for candidacy.
- Students cannot fulfill a general education requirement and interdisciplinary with the same course.

Chairperson’s Signature

Date

Student’s Signature

Date

Advised

BSW Guidance Guide Revised August 2026

West Chester University

BSW Program Academic Plan for Degree Completion

Student’s Name: _____

Student

ID: _____

Semester/Year Entered: _____

Academic Advisor: _____

Fall	Spring	Summer	Outstanding General Education Courses
Fall	Spring	Summer	Outstanding Speaking Emphasis Courses
Fall	Spring	Summer	Outstanding Foreign Language Courses

			Outstanding Social Work Courses
Fall	Spring	Summer	
			Outstanding Electives

I have met with my advisor, and I understand this academic ladder as it has been presented. I understand that I must follow the courses in the sequence above in order to apply for candidacy and graduate on time. At any time, I may meet with my Academic Advisor to adjust this plan, as necessary. I am aware that I must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.50 in order to remain in the Undergraduate Social Work Program. I understand that if my cumulative GPA falls below 2.50 for two consecutive semesters, I will schedule a meeting with the Chairperson to request a change of major.

_____	_____	_____	_____
Student's Signature	Date	Academic Advisor/Chairperson	Date

WCU Undergraduate Social Work Program Minimum Grade Point Average Policy

The Undergraduate Social Work Program at West Chester University (WCU) of Pennsylvania offers the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) Degree at the West Chester Campus and Philadelphia Campus. The BSW Degree is a professional degree that provides graduates with employment opportunities as generalist social workers. The BSW Degree also prepares students for the advanced Master of Social Work (MSW) Degree. The BSW Program at WCU is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

To remain in good standing, social work majors (students) must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.50 every semester in addition to earning a minimum of a “C” letter grade for SWO 320, 321, 375, 395, 450, 451, 495, and SWO 496. In the event that a student’s GPA falls below the minimum 2.50, student will be granted one semester to increase their GPA to a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 or higher. The current policy states that when students maintain a cumulative GPA below 2.50 for two consecutive semesters, they will be provided with the opportunity to pursue another major of study.

Students review their academic progress and academic standing every semester with their Academic Advisors during the mandatory academic advising session. Any potential or existing challenges to meeting the minimum requirements to remain in the BSW Program must be addressed with students' Academic Advisors immediately. When the Academic Advisor is unavailable, students are asked to contact the Chairperson of the BSW Program in Anderson Hall Room 404A. The Academic Advisor, student, and/or Chairperson may initiate this communication to address matters of GPA.

The BSW Program at WCU provides students with two field practicums. The first is completed during students' junior spring semester and the second field practicum is completed over two semesters (fall and spring) of students' final enrollment year. To be considered for these field placements, students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50. When students do not have the minimum GPA, they are encouraged to immediately meet with their Academic Advisor and/or the Chairperson of the Undergraduate Social Work Department to identify a plan for success. Students without the minimum 2.50 GPA will not be granted permission to proceed with field practicum.

Any questions regarding this policy can be addressed with students' Academic Advisors or the Chairperson, currently Dr. Pablo Arriaza in Anderson Hall Room 404A in West Chester or Philadelphia Office 26 and/or or at parriaza@wcupa.edu

ATTESTATION

1. I have read the above minimum cumulative grade point average policy for the Undergraduate Social Work Program, and a copy has been given to me. _____
2. I have been provided with the opportunity to ask questions regarding this policy. _____
3. I understand that if my cumulative GPA falls below 2.50, I will be granted one (1) semester to increase my cumulative GPA to 2.50. _____
4. I understand that if I have a cumulative GPA below 2.50 for two consecutive semesters, I will meet with my Academic Advisor and/or the Chairperson to pursue another major. _____
5. I understand that I must have a minimum cumulative 2.50 GPA to begin field practicum. _____

Student

Academic Advisor/Chairperson

Date