

ADMISSION TO THE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

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Do I enroll in Social Work as a freshman?

Student may declare social work as their major when applying for admission to WVSU and at anytime during their collegiate career. However, students must be **formally admitted** to the Social Work program through a special admissions procedure in the Department of Social Work after completing 45 credit hours. The formal admission process is explained on page 8 of this handbook.

Does that mean I do not take any Social Work classes until my second or third year?

No. You should take the Introduction to Social Work (SW 131) course as early as the second semester of your freshman year. This course contains a brief field experience (20 clock hours) in a community social service setting and is an excellent introduction to the profession and its work. In addition, we encourage you to take a social work elective during your first semester as a sophomore. We would like you to take at least one social work course each semester prior to your formal admittance into the program. However, students who have not been formally admitted to the Social Work program will not be permitted into Social Work practice courses.

Why can't I begin all my Social Work courses immediately?

We encourage you to learn about social work during the introductory course to help determine whether social work is the appropriate major for you. In addition, a strong liberal arts foundation is crucial before taking the core professional courses, since these courses build on knowledge taught in the liberal arts courses. It is also necessary for you to establish a successful academic record and demonstrate aptitude for the field of social work before being formally admitted to the program.

Although the faculty and staff will be as flexible as possible in helping you move through the program, standards established through the accrediting process must be maintained. Therefore, it is critical that you complete courses in a sequential way, follow admission procedures carefully, and demonstrate acquisition of knowledge and skills at the conclusion of the program.

What is the procedure for becoming a Social Work major?

When you first enroll at West Virginia State University, and anytime thereafter, you can declare social work as your major. The University will list you as a social work major and the Department of Social Work will receive your semester PIN. It is only after the 45th credit hour that you should make special application to the Department of Social Work for formal admission into the professional program.