INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS TO THE SOCIAL WORK MAJOR

SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS | The Social Work Program recognizes its responsibility as gatekeeper to the profession including an obligation to protect clients who will be served by program graduates. Academic standards enforced by the program include both competence in social work knowledge, values, and skills as demonstrated by students’ classroom and field agency performance; and behavior in conformance with the ethical and behavioral expectations of the social work profession.

Scholastic Academic Standard | Social work majors must demonstrate mastery of the knowledge, values, and skills of the social work profession. Social Work Majors must maintain a University cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 ('C'). Grades earned in social work courses must reflect mastery of the profession's knowledge base and skills; motivation, work and time management skills; and critical thinking skills that are essential for effective social work practice. Therefore social work majors must earn a grade of ‘C’ or better in all required courses beyond the pre-major foundation course level. These courses include SWK 200, SWK 300, SWK 311, SWK 312, SWK 320, SWK 325, SWK 330, SWK 333, SWK 350, SWK 420, SWK 450, and SWK 475. The social work faculty will review the academic progress of all social work majors whose University cumulative grade point average drops below 2.0 or whose grades fall below C in the listed social work courses. At the discretion of the social work faculty, failure to meet the program’s academic standards may delay admission into further courses in the sequence of study or result in suspension or dismissal from the social work major.

Ethical Academic Standard | The social work profession is committed to the advancement of human well-being and the promotion of social and economic justice for all. This professional role requires a public trust. Social work students therefore must show moral awareness, self-understanding, concern for the welfare of others, and responsibility. Students must demonstrate respect, honesty, fairness, trustworthiness, appreciation of individual and cultural differences, and the ability to collaborate effectively with others.

Academic standards relating to personal conduct | Because social work clients are particularly vulnerable to misconduct, misjudgment, and biases, social work students must meet high standards for knowledge, ethical standards, and behavioral expectations. Ethical and responsible conduct is expected of social work majors in classroom activities, on fieldwork assignments, in the university, in the community and through their identity in social media.

Student conduct (especially behavior involving clients) in the classroom, university, field work agency, in the community, or in electronic media that is potentially dangerous to current or future clients or which raise doubt about the student's ability to adhere to the ethical expectations and obligations of professional practice constitutes a violation of social work program academic standards. In field agency placements students are expected to conform to agency policies and to conduct themselves ethically and responsibly with the agency, colleagues, and clients. Violations of
campus or community regulations, violations of law and/or university standards of behavior, and violations of academic standards relating to personal conduct, will result in a review of the student’s performance in the Social Work Program by the program faculty and may result in dismissal from the social work major in addition to university or community action taken against the student. The following are examples but not a complete list of proscribed behaviors for social work students which may result in a student's dismissal form the social work major on academic grounds:

*Academic dishonesty, University behavior code violations, and other community misconduct | Academic dishonesty may result in an academic progress review for social work majors.*

- Academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism, cheating on examinations, or other conduct punishable by the Connecticut State University.
- Dishonesty about field work activities including, but not limited to, falsification of records such as field agency time sheets, field journal entries, or field performance documentation and evaluation forms.
- Solicitation or acceptance of gifts of value, services, or money from clients that are not legitimate payment for services received on behalf of the student's field agency.
- Sexual activity with clients including, but not limited to, kissing, fondling, or sexual intercourse.
- Interaction with clients on personal social media sites.

Social work majors should read and become familiar with the Connecticut State University Guidelines for Student Rights and Responsibilities and Judicial Procedures, and the Connecticut State University Punishable Offenses and Range of Sanctions contained in the ECSU Student Handbook. In addition, students also should be aware of other relevant policies such as the CSU Policy Regarding Racism and Acts of Intolerance, Eastern's academic misconduct, alcohol and drug, and sexual harassment policies also contained in the ECSU Student Handbook and at http://www.easternct.edu/studentaffairs/studenthandbook.htm.

*Social Work students are required to inform the Program Coordinator as soon as practical, but no later than five business days, following any arrest or University offense that could result in disciplinary action by the University.*

Student misconduct, on or off campus, directed toward other students, faculty, University staff, or members of the community may, at the discretion of the social work faculty, result in Social Work Program and/or University procedures for dismissal. The Connecticut State University "Proscribed Conduct" list published in Eastern's Student Handbook provides examples, but not a complete list, of misconduct which may result in a student's dismissal from the Social Work Program on academic grounds. When the legal or illegal behavior does not affect current or potential clients but the behavior violates the policies, standards, or rules of the University, proceedings will follow the University's procedures for addressing student misconduct as described in the Eastern Connecticut State University Student Handbook.
SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM MISSION

The Social Work Program of Eastern Connecticut State University prepares bachelor-level generalist social work professionals who competently and effectively advance social justice and human rights. Ready for professional practice and graduate study upon graduation, our students promote human well-being by employing practice skills that are grounded in social work’s body of knowledge and professional values. Students are ready to serve diverse client populations especially those most vulnerable and oppressed. The Social Work Program improves the lives of people of the region and state by increasing the number of effective social work practitioners who serve our residents.

Because the program relies upon a collaborative, supportive and engaged learning community, our students achieve professional competencies that are rooted in relational, experiential and empirical learning. Dedicated classroom and field faculty teach and mentor individual and small cohorts of students to promote and achieve a professional ideal that emphasizes the importance of human relationships and service to the community. Students develop professional social work identities grounded in self-awareness, professional values, and the history and mission of social work in the United States.

Our students develop social work practice competencies in our beautiful and paradoxical region. We serve a diverse community within urban, rural and suburban settings in Eastern Connecticut. We are the “Last Green Valley” – a national heritage corridor that characterizes our unique assets as a rural environment within the Washington – Boston megalopolis. We work within a wealthy state with contrasts of extreme poverty and high rates of income inequality. Our graduates are capable of meeting human needs and mobilizing opportunities in diverse community settings.

Social work is a major program in Connecticut’s only public liberal arts university – a university that aspires to be a model of social responsibility, environmental stewardship and educational access. Our educational community prepares our social work liberal arts graduates to be broadly educated about the human condition in society, intellectually curious and responsible citizens, who are capable of promoting social justice and human well-being in a rapidly changing global context.