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# BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK (BSW)

## Department Faculty

Professor and Program Director, Greg Scott, L.M.S.W.

Associate Professor and Field Practicum Director, Judi Ravenhorst Meerman, L.M.S.W., Ph.D.

## Social Work and a Biblical Reformed Worldview

Welcome to the exciting world of generalist social work education. If God has placed on your heart a burden for hurting people, groups or communities, and a desire to “loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke...to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter; when you see the naked, to clothe him and not to turn away”(Isaiah 58:6-7), then social work may be your calling.

As Christians we are called to establish harmony, justice and healing. Having been reunited with God through grace in Christ, we desire to serve and love others. God is a God of *shalom* who seeks for us to dwell in peace, restoring broken relationships, promoting social justice, redressing discrimination and caring for humanity.

## Social Work Defined

Social work is a profession which helps individuals, groups, communities, institutions and nations. It solves problems, defends social justice, and works to improve the social conditions of society. Social work enhances the well-being of all people and their environment.

## Social Work Program Mission Statement

The mission of Kuyper College’s baccalaureate social work program is to equip students with the knowledge, values and skills for generalist practice in entry-level social work positions within the framework of a biblical, Reformed worldview.

Students will develop generalist social work practice skills to work in public and private social service systems and international settings. The program strives to enable students to integrate their biblical Reformed worldview and social work education into their professional practice.

Emphasis is placed on preparing students with a beginning theoretical understanding that will enable them to work with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. Attention is also placed on helping students to think globally in the field of social work. Students who complete the social work major will be prepared for graduate education.

Kuyper College’s social work program is the only program in the state of Michigan that requires all of its students to complete dual majors in Bible/theology and social work.

The social work program is consistent with and a natural extension of the mission, vision and core values of the College. Within a biblical, Reformed worldview, the social work department seeks to equip students to serve effectively Christ’s church and his world. The social work program builds upon a solid liberal arts foundation and communications minor.

## Program Outcomes

Upon completion of the program, students will be able to

- Apply critical thinking skills within the context of professional social work practice.
- Understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards and principles, and practice accordingly.
- Practice without discrimination and with respect, knowledge, and skills related to clients’ age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion and sexual orientation.
- Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and apply strategies of advocacy and social change that advance social and economic justice.
- Understand and interpret the history of the social work profession and its contemporary issues.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

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- Apply the knowledge and skills of generalist social work practice with systems of all sizes.
  - Use theoretical frameworks supported by empirical evidence to understand individual development and behavior across the life span, interactions among individuals, and between individuals and families, groups, organizations, and communities.
  - Analyze, formulate, and influence social policies.
  - Evaluate research studies, apply findings to practice, and evaluate their own practice interventions.
  - Use communication skills differentially across client populations, colleagues, and communities.
  - Use supervision and consultation appropriate to social work practice.
  - Function within the structure of organizations and service delivery systems and seek necessary organizational change.
  - Understand generalist social work knowledge, values, and skills from an international perspective.
  - Analyze and apply the knowledge, values, and skills of social work practice from a biblical, Reformed world-and-life view.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

### **Social Work Non-Discrimination Policy**

In keeping with a biblical, Reformed worldview, the social work program provides equal educational opportunity. Committed to the belief that all human beings are created equal in the image of God, all must be afforded worth, dignity, and respect. In regard to recruitment, admission, financial aid, retention, graduation policies, and practices, the program does not discriminate against any person or group on the basis of class, color, culture, ethnic or national origin, gender, age, race, veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, political orientation, marital status, or family structure. The social work program reserves the right to discriminate on the basis of religion under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended.

### **Accreditation**

The social work program is accredited through the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) to offer the Bachelor of Social Work degree (BSW). Accreditation provides accountability, consistency and standards which ensure that programs are providing the highest level of professional education for their students. A degree accredited by CSWE allows students entrance into advanced placement M.S.W. programs, approval for state licensure and credibility for entry-level social work employment.

The accreditation agency may be contacted at:  
The Council on Social Work Education  
1725 Duke Street, Suite 500  
Alexandria, VA 22314-8099  
Phone: (703) 683-8080 Fax: (703) 683-8099  
[www.cswe.org](http://www.cswe.org)

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## Admission Requirements and Procedures

Students choosing social work as a major must make formal application to the social work program. All students must maintain a minimum overall cumulative GPA of 2.2 and a minimum GPA of 2.5 in all social work courses. To be eligible for admission, the student must

- Apply by March 10 of the sophomore year.
- Complete at least 50 semester hours of general education requirements and/or Kuyper College requirements.
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.2 and a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 in all social work courses.
- Have completed or be currently enrolled in
  - *Introduction to Psychology*
  - *Introduction to Sociology*
  - *Introduction to Social Work*
- Complete and submit an application for admission during the winter semester of the sophomore year to the social work program director.
- Submit an autobiographical statement.
- Submit a letter of recommendation from a faculty member outside the social work program.
- Submit a letter of recommendation from an employer or volunteer coordinator (preferably related to the “helping” profession).
- Submit a letter of recommendation from a pastor or adult friend.
- Interview with the social work faculty.
- Sign statement indicating a commitment to abide by the National Association of Social Workers *Code of Ethics*.
- Sign statement agreeing to follow the codes of conduct and expectations of the *Student Handbook*.
- Sign statement adhering to the program policies of the *Social Work Program Handbook*.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The Social Work Admissions Committee, upon review of an application, will make one of the following decisions:

- Accepted — meets all criteria
- Conditional acceptance — candidate is accepted and criteria are mostly met but there are still some areas to be completed
- Decision on hold — candidate has criteria or conditions which must be met before admission will be reconsidered
- Not admitted — deficiencies beyond foreseeable remediation

**Life Experience Policy:** The Kuyper College social work program does not give academic credit for life or previous work experience, in whole or in part, to satisfy any course requirement within the professional curriculum, including the field practicum.

The Social Work Admissions Committee reserves the right to dismiss students from the program for reasons it judges as immoral and unethical behavior, poor academic performance and/or emotional instability which may jeopardize the well-being of themselves, the College, field placements and/or clients.

To appeal or grievance the admission decision or process, the applicant should send a letter to the provost within two weeks of receipt of the committee’s decision. Detailed guidelines for appeal are outlined in the *Social Work Program Handbook*.

The Bachelor of Social Work degree qualifies students for entry-level generalist practice in a variety of settings. Graduates of this program will earn a dual major in Bible/theology and social work. To complete the social work program within four years, students may need to take courses during the spring session or during the summer.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

### International Social Work Experience

The Kuyper College social work program offers an overseas social work experience in the Dominican Republic and Romania for the fall or spring session as a block semester field placement. These experiences broaden the student's education in global awareness and practice. E-mail the program director, gscott@kuyper.edu, for more details.

### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

#### I. General Education Foundation

Foundation Courses		36 credit hours
PS 111	General Psychology	3
GV 110	American Government	3
SC 215	Human Biological Science	3
SO 211	Introduction to Sociology	3
AN/MI 222	Cultural Anthropology	3
---	Elective	3
---	Elective	3
MA/PS 340	Social Science Statistics	3
PH 132	Introduction to Philosophy	3
GE 120	Gateway to Excellence	3
DR 107	Intro. to Drama (or other Fine Arts Elective)	3
HI 321	20th Century U.S. History <i>or</i> History Elective	3

Physical Education		2 credit hours
PE 112	Fitness for life <i>or</i> two 1-credit P.E. Electives	

Field Education		3 credit hours
FE 262	Field Education	1
FE 361	Field Education	1
FE 362	Field Education	1

(One credit equals 30 hours of service learning field experience.)  
(FE461 and FE462 are waived if SW443 and SW446 are completed.)

#### II. Minor in Communications 15 credit hours

CO 101	English Composition I*	0
CO 102	English Composition II**	3
<i>or</i> CO 203	Advanced Rhetoric***	
CO 234	Principles of Speech	3
Advanced Writing Course: choose one		3
CO 203	Advanced Rhetoric	
CO 331	Principles of Journalism	
CO 360	Creative Writing	
Communication Elective Courses: choose two (one must be in literature)		6
CO 210	Introduction to Literature	
CO 232	Children's Literature	
CO 320	Advanced Grammar	
CO 342	American Literature	
CO 354	British Novels	
CO 413	World Literature	
CO/MI 323	Intercultural Communication	

\* This course requirement is waived for students with ACT English scores of 21 or higher. Students who complete CO101 in the fall should take CO102 in the winter semester.

\*\*Students with ACT English scores of 21 - 24 take CO102 and an advanced writing course.

\*\*\*Students with ACT English scores of 25 or higher take CO 203 and three communication electives.

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**III. Professional Education Career Track** **42 credit hours**

SW 222	Introduction to Social Work	3
SW 227	Human Behavior/Social Environment I	3
SW 228	Human Behavior/Social Environment II	3
SW 320	(Generalist Practice I) Individuals & Families	3
SW 334	Human Diversity	3
SW 340	Social Work Research	3
SW 364	(Generalist Practice II) Groups	3
SW 419	Social Welfare Policy Analysis	3
SW 424	(Generalist Practice III) Communities & Organizations	3
SW 443	Social Work Field Practicum I	5
SW 445	Field Practicum Senior Seminar I	1
SW 446	Social Work Field Practicum II	5
SW 448	Field Practicum Senior Seminar II	1
SW 460	International Social Work	3

**IV. Bible and Theology Major** **30 credit hours**

BI 101	Introduction to Biblical Interpretation	3
BI 111	Old Testament Survey	3
BI 112	New Testament Survey	3
BI 307	Spiritual Formation	3
BI ---	New Testament Elective	3
BI ---	Old Testament Elective	3
TH ---	Theology Elective	3
TH 241	Christian Doctrine I	3
TH 242	Christian Doctrine II	3
TH 344	Principles & Practices of Reformed Worldview	3

**ACADEMIC  
PROGRAMS****Summary:**

General Education: 56 credits  
Professional Education: 42 credits  
Bible and Theology: 30 credits  
Total Credits: 128 credits

# Bachelor of Social Work

## Suggested Program

### Freshman Year

Fall Semester			Winter Semester		
BI111	Old Testament Survey	3	BI112	New Testament Survey	3
CO102	English Composition II	3	PS111	General Psychology	3
SW222	Intro. to Social Work	3	CO203	Advanced Rhetoric	3
BI101	Biblical Interpretation	3	SO211	Intro. to Sociology	3
GE120	Gateway to Excellence	3	SC215	Human Biological Science	3
FE262	Field Education(SW222)	1	PE112	Fitness for Life	2

### Sophomore Year

Fall Semester			Winter Semester		
TH241	Christian Doctrine I	3	TH242	Christian Doctrine II	3
HI---	History Elective	3	---	Elective	3
SW227	Human Beh./Soc. Envir. I	3	AN/MI222	Cultural Anthropology	3
CO322	Principles of Speech	3	or SW400	Dominican Republic	
---	Elective	3	PH132	Intro. to Philosophy	3
			SW228	Human Beh./Soc. Envir. II	3
			FE361	Field Education	1

Spring Session: Theology Elective - 3 credits

### Junior Year

Fall Semester			Winter Semester		
CO---	Literature Elective	3	CO---	Communications Elective	3
SW334	Human Diversity	3	GV110	American Government	3
---	Fine Arts Elective	3	BI103	Spiritual Formation	3
SW320	(Gen.Practice I) Indiv./Family	3	SW340	Social Work Research	3
MA/PS340	Social Science Statistics	3	SW364	(Gen.Practice II) Groups	3
FE362	Field Education	1			

### Senior Year

Fall Semester			Winter Semester		
SW419	Soc. Welfare Policy Analysis	3	SW424	(Gen.Practice III) Communities	3
SW443	Field Practicum I (200 hrs)	5	SW446	Field Practicum II (200 hrs)	5
SW445	Field Pract. Sr. Seminar I	1	SW448	Field Pract. Sr. Seminar II	1
BI---	Old Testament Elective	3	TH344	P&P Reformed Worldview	3
BI---	New Testament Elective	3	SW460	International Social Work	3

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS