

# School of Social Work Bachelor of Social Work

## ***First Nations Specialization***

### **Purpose**

The First Nations Specialization (FNS) has been designed to provide a program of studies that prepares students for practice with First Nations people, communities, and organizations, while also satisfying the general practice criteria required for BSW accreditation and for designation as a Registered Social Worker (RSW).

### **Program Description**

Students enrolled in the FNS are required to complete their fourth year practicum with a First Nations organization. Completion of the specialization is noted on the student's graduating transcript.

### **Mode of Study**

The school of social work offers a full-time and part-time program of studies using both classroom-based and web-based courses. Given the increasing use of online learning technology, it is important to become familiar with Blackboard as an online learning environment. It is recommended that you contact the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology (960-6509) or visit their web-site at <http://www.unbc.ca/ctlr> to acquire information on how to "login" to Blackboard.

**Courses for First Nations Specialization include:**

### **Program Requirement**

SOCW 300-3	Communication Skills in Social Work Practice
SOCW 301-3	Critical Social Work Practice
SOCW 302-6	Social Work Field Education 1
SOCW 310-3	First Nations Social Work Issues
SOCW 320-3	Critical Social Policy
SOCW 330-3	Social Work Research, Policy & Practice
SOCW 336-3	Social Work Philosophy & Ethics
SOCW 401-3	Northern & Remote Social Work Practice
SOCW 402-15	Social Work Field Education
SOCW 421-3*	Human Growth and Development
SOCW 455-3	First Nations Governance and Social Policy
SOCW 456-3	Family Caring Systems
SOCW 457-3	Individual and Community Wellness

Total Elective Course Credits 6

### **Elective Courses**

Any two upper division social work electives.

\*Students must have a human growth and development course prior to graduating with a BSW. If this course was taken prior to entry into the BSW, students can replace it with an additional elective.

**Required Courses** (see UNBC Calendar for more detailed information)

### **SOCW 300-3 Communication Skills**

Introductory course aimed at increasing communication skills in diverse cultural settings

### **SOCW 301-3 Critical Social Work Practice**

Examines the origins, values, methods and applications of various social work practice approaches

### **SOCW 302-6 Social Work Field Education**

This three-day per week field placement is a requirement for all students. It includes a bi-weekly integrative seminar

### **SOCW 310-3 First Nations Social Work Issues**

Examines methods of developing an anti-racist social work practice in the context of First Nations experience

### **SOCW 320-3 Critical Social Policy**

Examines the development of social policy in Canada

### **SOCW 330-3 Social Work Research/Policy/Practice**

Introduces research methods and analysis techniques used to examine issues in the policy and practice of social work and social welfare

### **SOCW 336-3 Social Work Philosophy and Ethics**

Critical assessment of the ethical issues involved in carrying out the tasks of social work, practice, policy and research

### **SOCW 401-3 Northern/Remote Social Work Practice**

Aims to develop critical awareness/analysis of social problems in northern and remote communities

### **SOCW 402-15 Social Work Field Education**

This field placement is five days per week throughout the entire term. Students enrolled in the FNS are required to complete their fourth year practicum with a First Nations organization

### **SOCW 421-3\* Human Growth and Development**

Examines human growth and development with an emphasis on social processes from birth to death

### **SOCW 455-3 First Nations Governance and Social Policy**

Examines first nations governance in first nations communities with an emphasis on self-governance and its impact on social policy

### **SOCW 456-3 Family Caring Systems**

The course creates an understanding of family caring systems from an Aboriginal/First Nations perspective

### **SOCW 457-3 Individual and Community Wellness**

Examines an understanding of the role that wellness plays in the life of Aboriginal/First Nations individuals and communities

### **Elective Courses**

Any two upper division social work electives. Refer to Undergraduate Academic Calendar.

## School of Social Work Faculty and Research Interests

### **Bruce Bidgood, Associate Professor**

BA (Brock) MSW PhD (Wilfrid Laurier)  
*Family Violence, Child Welfare, Social Policy, Social Administration, Social Planning, Applied Social Welfare Research*

### **Dawn Hemingway, Associate Professor, Chair and MSW Coordinator**

BA (Simon Fraser) MSc MSW (Northern British Columbia)  
*Adulthood/Aging (Care-giving, Psychogeriatrics, Empowerment/Self-Advocacy), Disability Issues, Community Development/Community-based Research, Women & Health, Northern/Remote Community Health*

### **Indrani Margolin, Assistant Professor**

BA (Guelph) MSW (Wilfrid Laurier) PhD (Toronto)  
*Holistic Social Work Practices (spirit, mind, body), Expressive Arts Therapies (authentic movement), Girls' and Women's Sexual Health and Well-Being (bodyself), Narrative Inquiry, Arts-Based Research Methodologies*

**Heather Peters, Associate Professor** Sabbatical  
BA (Saskatchewan) BSW (British Columbia) MSW (Carleton) PhD Candidate (UBC)  
*Homelessness, Women and Housing Issues, Youth, Community Development, Social Policy, Aboriginal Self-Government, Housing Policy*

### **Joanna Pierce, Assistant Professor**

BSW MSW (Northern British Columbia)  
*Mental Health, Community Development, Cross-Cultural Communication, Remote/Northern Practice Development, Child Welfare, and Social Policy*

### **Dave Sangha, Assistant Professor**

BSW MSW (British Columbia)  
*Social Policy, Community Development, Human Rights, Anti-Racism, Diasporic Communities, Child Welfare*

### **Glen Schmidt, Associate Professor and BSW Coordinator**

BA BSW (Manitoba) MSW (British Columbia) PhD (Memorial)  
*Social Work Education Outcomes, Mental Health Services, Services to First Nations People, Remote and Northern Practice Issues, Child Welfare Practice and Policy*

### **Tammy Stublely, Assistant Professor**

BA (University College of Cape Breton) BSW (UVIC) MSW (UBC)  
*Child Welfare Practice and Policy, Mental Health, Family Violence, Social Work and Spirituality and Disability Issues*

### **Si Transken, Associate Professor**

BA Hons BSW (Laurentian) MA PhD (Toronto)  
*Cultural Studies, Creative Writing, Criminal Harassment, Incest, Sexual Assault, Violence Against Women, Expressive Arts Therapy, Feminist Social Work, Anti-Racism, Mediation, Sexual Expression and Identities*

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

#### **Is there a separate application that needs to be submitted for the First Nations Specialization?**

Upon admission, students will declare that they are completing the FNS.

#### **Is tuition higher to complete the specialization?**

There are no extra fees associated with this program. Completion of both the general BSW and the First Nation Specialization are based on the same fee schedule for BSW program or 60 credits for BSW graduation.

#### **Once in the Program, who can I talk to regarding courses and options?**

Students may consult with Sarah Kinch at 250-960-6348 or kinch@unbc.ca in the Office of the Registrar.

#### **Will I be guaranteed a job?**

A successful completion does not guarantee employment in a First Nations Organization or Community.

#### **Will the specialization limit my employment opportunities?**

You will be granted a BSW Degree and you will be qualified to apply for positions that specify a BSW requirement.

#### **If I complete this degree, does it affect my applying for a MSW Program?**

No, as long as your grade point average (GPA) is satisfactory and you meet any post-degree experience requirements, you are eligible to apply to any MSW Program as the UNBC BSW Program is fully accredited with the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work.

**Application Procedures:** The admissions criteria and application process for the First Nations Specialization is the same as the BSW Program.

For information on UNBC admission requirements, please see the following:

Registrar's Office

Toll Free in Canada 1-888-419-5588

Phone: 250-960-6351

E-mail: [admissions-info@unbc.ca](mailto:admissions-info@unbc.ca)

Internet: <http://www.unbc.ca/registrar>

UNBC Calendar

Visit our web site at [www.unbc.ca/socialwork](http://www.unbc.ca/socialwork)

#### **Registration and Program Planning:**

The availability of approved field placements for the specialization is limited and may require relocation. Students, who elect not to take the required First Nations practicum in their 4th year, will receive a general BSW degree.

#### **Enquiries:**

#### **Re: General Inquiries related to BSW Program**

Glen Schmidt PhD RCSW

BSW Coordinator School of Social Work

250-960-6519 or 1-888-440-3440

[schmidt@unbc.ca](mailto:schmidt@unbc.ca)

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BACHELOR OF SOCIAL  
WORK DEGREE

FIRST NATIONS  
SPECIALIZATION