



**HANDBOOK**  
**for**  
**BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK**  
**STUDENTS**

**2025 – 2026**

**School of Social Work**  
**Faculty of Health and Human Sciences**

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
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[www.unbc.ca/social-work](http://www.unbc.ca/social-work)

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<b>SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK</b>
<b>UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA</b>
<b>MISSION STATEMENT</b>

The UNBC School of Social Work (SoSW) is committed to a program of studies that is informed by a central concern for human rights, personal empowerment, community change, and social justice. The SoSW has as its foundation an analysis of power in relation to class, race, ethnicity, gender, identity, age, and abilities. Incorporating structural, feminist, and anti-racist analyses, the School focuses on social work in northern and remote areas, social work with Indigenous peoples, community-based research and practice, critical and creative thinking, and connection through relationship.

The School of Social Work seeks to provide its graduates with intellectual, practical, and professional skills and knowledge rooted in values consistent with provincial and national codes of ethics. By acknowledging the holistic, interdisciplinary, and activist nature of social work and its commitment to social justice, the curriculum and governance of social work education at UNBC will strive to provide a self-reflective balance between theory and practice; research, teaching and community service; and critical self-awareness and respect for the ideas of others. The School of Social Work seeks to ensure a safe and stimulating education environment for faculty, staff, and students.

<b>BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK (BSW)</b>
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The School of Social Work embraces UNBC's motto, 'En Cha Huná ('En = he/she; Cha = also; Huná = lives), which is from the Dakelh (Carrier) Elders; this motto reminds us that all people have a voice and a viewpoint. Interpreted as "respecting all forms of life," 'En Cha Huná encapsulates the spirit of academic freedom, respect for others, and willingness to recognize different perspectives.

Consistent with the University's central emphasis, the School seeks to provide the highest quality of professional social work education at the BSW and thus prepare qualified graduates to staff and lead social work and social welfare efforts. The Bachelor of Social Work degree at UNBC is designed to prepare students for beginning level, generalist social work practice with individuals, families, groups, and communities. The focus of the BSW is oriented towards social work in northern and remote areas, Indigenous, women and the human services, and community practice and research. Analysis of class, gender, and race relations are considered central to the school of social work. As mandated by its accrediting body, the Canadian Association for Social Work Education and the Social Work Code of Ethics, Social Work at UNBC provides a professional program that advocates for justice and equality and equips graduates with the intellectual, practical, and professional skills needed to promote beneficial change.

Social Work exists in an era of globalization that results in growing unemployment, under-employment, deepening economic vulnerability and uncertainty for many Canadians. This has resulted in increased demand for assistance and social work intervention during a period of declining resources, fiscal restraint, and growing uncertainty for client groups as well as human service workers. Another reality is that Indigenous and other consumer groups have begun to take control of their own services. They have rejected and altered many of the practices social work once took for granted. In this process the relations of power between professionals and client groups have changed.

One of the major challenges facing social work education at UNBC is to provide a program of studies that prepares students for effective practice in the evolving economic, political, and social contexts. Social Work at UNBC does this by accenting the way global, national, provincial, and historical forces affect the well-being of those that live, work, and practice in this region. A major strength of the program lies in its effort to foster critical intervention skills that weave the domains of social policy and research with social work practice. This priority is attained through course offerings that emphasize and integrate the crucial links between social work and social welfare policy, practice, and research.

## **ACCREDITATION**

The UNBC School of Social Work adheres to the Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards set forth by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE). Please visit [CASWE](https://caswe-acfts.ca/) for additional information <https://caswe-acfts.ca/>. In June 2018 the BSW program was granted the maximum of eight years.

## **PROFESSIONAL SUITABILITY POLICY**

The School of Social Work of the University of Northern British Columbia requires that students in the BSW program conduct themselves according to:

- The British Columbia College of Social Workers (BCCSW) Code of Ethics (<https://bccsw.ca/resource/bccsw-code-of-ethics-standards-approved/>)
- The British Columbia Association of Social Workers (BCASW) Code of Ethics (<https://www.bcasw.org/aboutbcasw/bcaswcodeofethics#:~:text=Ethical%20behavior%20is%20at%20the,7.>)
- The Canadian Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics (CASW) (<https://www.casw-acts.ca/en/Code-Ethics%20and%20Scope%20of%20Practice>)

In addition, the School requires students admitted to the program to always conduct themselves in a professional manner, which includes virtual and face to face classes and/or in a practicum setting. In most instances, unprofessional behaviour will be

covered under the UNBC Harassment and Discrimination Policy or the Student Conduct Policy or the General University Guidelines (please see current UNBC Calendars). The School of Social Work is committed to the development of professional graduates and is dedicated to ensuring the highest quality program for students. It recognizes that Social Work students have responsibility for:

- Taking full advantage of the education, training and service opportunities, the program offers.
- One's conduct in all situations connected to the program of study.
- All students are expected to treat others with dignity and respect, and to refrain from any form of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and physical or psychological abuse.

***Prohibited Conduct:*** Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Any violation of the Student Conduct or Harassment and Discrimination policies or the General University Guidelines, in which case those policies shall be followed.
- Engaged or demonstrated harmful or disruptive behaviour to other students, faculty, colleagues, school, or the public.
- Conduct, which if engaged in by a practicing social worker, would result in a serious violation of the Code of Ethics.

***Review Mechanism of Professional Suitability:*** When circumstances arise which do not fall within the scope of other University policies relating to student behaviour, then concerns about student behaviour will be dealt with under the following procedures:

**Step 1:** Where an instructor believes that a student has been involved in prohibited conduct, they must forward that concern in writing to the Chair of Social Work within 15 working days.

**Step 2:** While investigating the complaint, the Chair will meet with the instructor, the student, and any other person necessary to ascertain the basis of the allegations/counter allegations. The Chair will meet with the two parties to see if the issue can be satisfactorily resolved on an informal basis. If deemed necessary, the Chair will also involve the Dean in these discussions.

**Step 3:** If the matter can be resolved informally, the resolution will be final and there shall be no further proceedings.

**Step 4:** However, if the matter cannot be resolved informally, it will be referred to the Registrar and the Director of Student Success. The Registrar and Director, Student Success will assess the complaint according to the criteria established in the policies and procedures of this document and, in consultation with the Faculty Dean where

appropriate, make a recommendation to the Vice President, Academic & Provost who may decide on any disciplinary action to be taken.

**Step 5:** The student has the right to appeal the decision of the Vice President, Academic & Provost and can exercise this right through the normal appeals procedures of the University.

## **ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC CONDUCT-STUDENTS**

**Background and Purpose of this Policy:** Provide clarity, principles, standards and expectations for Students for both Academic and Non-Academic Conduct. Define Students' responsibilities and rights as members of the University Community. Provide clarity and transparency for Students with respect to procedural and decision-making authority for Academic and Non-Academic Misconduct, investigations and Appeals.

PLEASE SEE BELOW LINK.

<https://www.unbc.ca/sites/default/files/sections/policy/academicandnon-academicconductpolicy.pdf>

## **AWARDS AND FINANCIAL AID**

Awards and Financial Aid helps students obtain the funds necessary to finance their UNBC education and to provide educational budgeting services. Funds may be obtained from a variety of sources, including government and bank loans, private, corporate, and public scholarships and bursaries, and UNBC awards.

For a complete listing of Awards and Financial Aid, please see the most current UNBC Calendar. For more information, please access <https://www.unbc.ca/financial-aid>

## **USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

Students should be vigilant and appropriate in their use of electronic communication (email, Facebook, twitter, etc.). Remember that while a student at the University of Northern British Columbia you must abide by the UNBC "Code of Conduct" in all forms of communication. Further information is available at: <http://www.unbc.ca/communications/unbc-social-media>

As a student in the UNBC School of Social Work, you have the additional responsibility to abide by the professional standards set forth by the BCCSW and CASW codes of ethics.

While adherence to these standards is mandatory throughout your role as a UNBC Social Work student, you must be particularly vigilant when in practicum placements or other experiential settings.

Violation of professional standards - including when using social and electronic media - may result in suspension or dismissal from the School of Social Work or the University.

## **HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION AND DIVERSITY INITIATIVES**

UNBC is committed to providing a working and learning environment in which all students, staff and faculty are treated with respect and dignity. UNBC protects the right of all individuals in the University community to work or learn without discrimination or harassment due to their race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, family status, marital status, physical disability, mental disability, sex, age, sexual identity, political beliefs or criminal or summary conviction offense unrelated to their employment.

An approved policy on equity and inclusion, available at <https://www2.unbc.ca/equity-diversityinclusion>,

applies to all members of the UNBC community. For further information or assistance please call 250-960-5878 or email [edi@unbc.ca](mailto:edi@unbc.ca)

**UNBC policies on harassment, discrimination and diversity apply to field placements.**

## **INVOLVEMENT IN GOVERNANCE**

There are two student representative positions available for all campuses each year (Prince George, Quesnel, Terrace, Fort St. John) and one as BSW Committee Representative. Both positions provide valuable opportunities to give a voice to your fellow students, gain insight into the workings of the BSW Program, and add to your resume. Please contact the BSW Coordinator if you are interested in serving the academic school year.



## ACCESS RESOURCE CENTRE

The Access Resource Centre (ARC) provides services to students with documented health conditions and/or disabilities. The conditions can range from temporary to permanent and include but are not limited to:

- chronic health issues (e.g., Crohn's, Diabetes, HIV, Lupus)
- hearing and visual impairments
- learning disabilities • mental health challenges (e.g., anxiety disorder, borderline personality disorder, depression disorder)
- neurological disabilities (e.g., ADHD/ADD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Epilepsy, Concussion, Migraines, Multiple Sclerosis)
- mobility and other physical disabilities.

ARC staff are available, by appointment, to meet with you to determine which academic accommodation can be put in place to support you in achieving their academic goals, provide referrals, and help advocate for you. Students who may have a need for academic accommodation are encouraged to contact ARC: Email at [arc@unbc.ca](mailto:arc@unbc.ca), Phone at 250-960-5682 (toll free 1-888- 960-5682), or stop by 5-157.

## ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTRE

The Academic Success Centre provides students with **FREE** access to academic support services:

- Tutoring (by appointment, asynchronous online, or drop-in)
- Personalized study skills assessments
- Peer-led course supports
- Downloadable handouts
- Access to self-assessment sites
- Customized programs and workshops

ASC services are available in person at the Prince George Campus and online for distance, regional, or physically distanced students.

For more information see the Academic Success Centre website at [www.unbc.ca/asc](http://www.unbc.ca/asc), to book an appointment visit us in the Learning Commons (5-139G, first floor of the library), email [asc@unbc.ca](mailto:asc@unbc.ca), or phone 250-960-6367. Toll-free: 1-888-440-3440 (wait on the line and ask for the ASC).

## Prince George – Faculty Members

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*Indigenous Social Work Practice, Child Welfare Practice, Kinship Care, Social Work Health and Wellness, Indigenous Social Work Education*

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10-2568 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Teaching and Learning Building

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10-2550 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Teaching and Learning

*Spirituality in Practice, Arts/Movement Therapy, Girls' and Women's Embodiment, Arts-based Inquiry*

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10-2556 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Teaching and Learning Building

*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*

**Regional - Faculty**

**Bruce  
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Terrace Campus

*Family Violence, Child Welfare, Social Policy, Social Administration, Social Planning, Applied Social Welfare Research*

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Fort St. John Campus – Room 2809B

*Co-Creative Intersectoral Partnerships, Decolonial and Community-Engaged Practice, Northern Social Work, Trauma-Informed, Spirituality, Peace-building, Healing-Centred Approaches, Child and Youth Mental Health and Well-being, Participatory, Arts-Based, and Creative Research Methodologies, Displacement and refugees, Sumud (Resilience) and Social Justice in Settler-Colonial Contexts, Social Work Education, Graduate Student Mentorship.*

**Christa  
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Terrace Campus – Room 134

*Intergenerational trauma, resistance, healing; Diasporic experiences of Filipina/o/x in Canada; Community mental health and wellness; Community-based research and interventions; Social work praxis with immigrant and racialized populations; Qualitative and mixed-methods research; Children and youth-in care; IPV*

## **Prince George – Support Staff**

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### **Student Success Coordinator Northwest Region**

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Terrace Campus

## **BSW REQUIREMENTS (THIRD AND FOURTH YEAR)**

The Bachelor of Social Work degree at UNBC is a two-year program based on full time studies at all campuses. Students entering their third year of the program *usually* with 60 credits prior to starting their two year social work degree at UNBC ( **please confirm with [bsw.advising@unbc.ca](mailto:bsw.advising@unbc.ca)** to verify if you need to additional course to ensure 120 credits are completed to obtain a social work degree). In sum, a total of 120 credit hours is required for the completion of a BSW degree.

## **ACADEMIC STUDENT ADVISING**

Each student admitted to the School of Social Work at UNBC is assigned to a Student Advisor in the Registrar's Office. They will advise students regarding course selection, graduation requirements, and other related matters. The BSW Student Advisor for the 2025-2026 academic year is April Tod. Her telephone number is 250-960-6302. She can be reached via email at [bsw.advising@unbc.ca](mailto:bsw.advising@unbc.ca).

- Students at all campuses are encouraged to consult with April Tod (Student Advisor) when you have questions related to your academic program. Please also visit [www.unbc.ca/advising](http://www.unbc.ca/advising) for more resources.

The BSW course requirements appear below and are followed by a BSW Degree table.

### **REQUIRED COURSES-YEAR 3: FALL SEMESTER**

**SOCW 300-6:** Introduction to Counselling and Assessment Skills

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

**SOCW 310-3:** Social Work and Indigenous Peoples

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

### **REQUIRED COURSES-YEAR 3: WINTER SEMESTER**

**SOCW 302-6:** Social Work Field Education I

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

**SOCW336-3:** Social Work Philosophy and Ethics

**ELECTIVE COURSE: YEAR 3:** One elective during any semester (fourth year level)

### **REQUIRED COURSES-YEAR 4: FALL SEMESTER**

**SOCW401-3:** Northern Remote Social Work Practice

**SOCW 420-3:** Family and Child Welfare Policy

**SOCW 421-3:** Human Growth and Development (Please verify if required)

## **ELECTIVE COURSES: YEAR 4: TWO ELECTIVES FALL SEMESTER**

## **REQUIRED COURSES-YEAR 4: WINTER SEMESTER**

**SOCW402-15:** Social Work Field Education II

<b>BSW Course Schedule*</b>						
<b>Year 3</b>			<b>Year 4</b>			<b>Total Credits</b>
Required Courses	Credits	Semester	Required Courses	Credits	Semester	
SOCW 300	6	September 2025	SOCW 401	3	September 2026	
SOCW 301	3	September 2025	SOCW 420	3	September 2026	
SOCW 310	3	September 2025	SOCW421**	3	September 2026	
SOCW 320	3	September 2025	Elective	3	September 2026	
			Elective	3	September 2026	
SOCW 302	6	January 2026				
SOCW 330	3	January 2026	SOCW 402	15	January 2027	
SOCW 336	3	January 2026				
Elective	3	January 2026				
Total Required Credits	30			30		<b>60</b>

This is based on full time studies at all campuses.

Students must complete an additional 9 credit hours of approved 400-level elective social work courses in addition to the 51 required BSW social work courses for a total of 60 credits

## **Maintaining Student Registration**

Students must complete their degree within eight years of their admission date. Students who fail to register for a course in three successive semesters lose their student status and are required to reapply to UNBC and reapply to the School of Social Work for the next available student intake.

## **Required Social Work Courses: 300 LEVEL (THIRD YEAR)**

**SOCW 300-6: Introduction to Counselling and Assessment Skills:** This is an introductory course that aims to increase skills and analysis in the diverse cultural settings that are appropriate to social work among Indigenous and remote, northern and rural communities. Learning to recognize the contradictions in people's experiences and to maximize the possibilities, resources and strengths in their lives are critical aspects of a social worker's practice. This course emphasizes the integration of interpersonal and analytical skills. Students learn effective helping strategies within a structural framework that acknowledges the influence of class, race and gender in shaping personal and social well-being. This course includes a skills laboratory.

*Prerequisites:* Enrollment is limited to students admitted to the School of Social Work

**SOCW 301-3: Critical Social Work Practice:** This course critically examines the historical origins, values, methods and applications of various social work practice approaches. With an emphasis on structural, feminist, and Indigenous social work strategies, the course includes the application of these approaches to women, minority groups, Indigenous peoples and residents of northern and remote communities. These approaches will be contrasted with other models of social work practice including general systems theory, ecological theory, and case management.

*Prerequisites:* enrolment limited to students admitted to the School of Social Work

**SOCW 302-6: Social Work Field Education I:** An initial three-day per week field placement, which includes a bi-weekly integrative seminar, is required of all students. Students are involved in a wide range of practice roles and responsibilities at the individual, family, group and community levels. The course provides an initial opportunity for students to link social work concepts and theory with practice skills. It also introduces students to the structure, goals and operation of different human service agencies. Field practice objectives and details will be worked out among the student, the agency field supervisor and the faculty practicum advisor.

*Prerequisites:* SOCW 300-6, 301-3, 310-3 and 320-3; enrolment limited to students admitted to the School of Social Work

**SOCW 310-3: Social Work and Indigenous Peoples:** This course examines methods of developing an anti-racist social work practice in the context of Indigenous peoples' experiences. Particular emphasis is placed on understanding emerging models and structures within Indigenous communities. The course explores the development of these models and analyzes the impact of the colonial experience. Students are introduced to alternative methods, including some of the healing strategies and organizational structures in Indigenous communities.

*Prerequisites:* enrolment limited to students admitted to the School of Social Work

**SOCW 320-3: Critical Social Policy:** This course examines the development of social policy in Canada, including current debates, from conventional and critical perspectives inviting students to consider the relationship between research, policy and social work practice. The course will review ideologies of social welfare policy, its formulation and implementation and consequences for people in need. Policy formulation will be analysed from a critical perspective that examines the role of power and privilege in the construction of social policy. Alternative social arrangements and models of policy and practice will be explored.

*Prerequisites:* enrolment limited to students admitted to the School of Social Work

**SOCW 330-3: SW Research/Policy/Practice:** This course introduces research methods and analysis techniques that are used to examine issues in the policy and practice of social work and social welfare. It reviews qualitative and quantitative approaches with an emphasis on community needs research, participatory research and the development of interview schedules and questionnaires. The methods examined in this course will be linked to substantive policy and practice issues that reflect the economic, social and personal circumstances of people and communities in northern, remote and Indigenous communities.

*Prerequisites:* enrolment limited to students admitted to the School of Social Work



**SOCW 336-3: SW Philosophy and Ethics:** This course critically assesses the ethical issues involved in carrying out the tasks of Social Work practice, policy and research. Using the relevant Social Work Codes of Ethics as a starting point, these practice, policy and research roles are considered in the context of northern and remote Social Work. The course reviews different theoretical approaches to Social Work.

*Prerequisites:* enrolment limited to students admitted to the School of Social Work

## **Required Social Work Courses: 400 LEVEL (FOURTH YEAR)**

**SOCW 401-3: Northern/Remote SW Practice:** Northern and Remote Social Work Practice builds on the structural approach examined in SOCW 301-3. Critical generalist practice will be examined within the context of current and emerging client populations and practice issues. The course aims to develop a critical awareness/analysis of the nature, cause and response of social workers to the social problems they are meant to deal with in the field practice aspects of their work in northern and remote communities.

*Prerequisites:* all 100, 200, and 300 level required courses in Social Work

**SOCW 402-15: Social Work Field Education II:** This field placement requires students to perform in a social work role or organizational setting five days per week through the entire term. Field education provides undergraduate students with an opportunity to enhance and refine their social work skills. As much as possible, the assigned field education setting will broadly match the particular type of social work experience that the student wishes to pursue. The course includes three one-day seminars as part of the field education placement.

*Prerequisites:* all 100-, 200-, 300-, and 400- level requirements; enrolment limited to students admitted to the School of Social Work

**SOCW 420-3: Family/Child Welfare Policy:** This course focuses particularly on feminist and Indigenous critiques of child welfare policy and social work intervention. It critically examines assumptions in family and child welfare policy including notions of family, substitute care, conceptions about violence and neglect, and the implications of child and welfare policy for social work practice in northern communities.

*Prerequisites:* SOCW 320-3; enrolment limited to students admitted to the School of Social Work

**SOCW 421-3: Human Growth and Development:** This course examines human growth and development with an emphasis on social processes from birth to death. The course follows a life cycle approach and addresses the influence of issues such as culture, class, gender and sexual orientation. Linkages are drawn between individual human development and health and social welfare policy, particularly as it effects residents of northern British Columbia. Note: students who have not taken a human growth and development course must take this course prior to graduating with a BSW. If students have previously taken a human growth and development course, they must check with a Student Advisor to ensure that the course meets the Human Growth and Development requirements.



*Prerequisites:* Enrollment is limited to students admitted to the Health Sciences, Nursing, Psychology and Social Work, or with permission of the Social Work Chair.

*Precluded:* PSYC 345-3, PSYC 211-3

## **Elective Social Work Courses: 400 Level**

BSW students must register in 9 credit elective courses which normally equates to three elective courses. The elective courses are numbered at the 400 level, but open to third year students. A list of available electives is noted below but please refer to UNBC's online course schedule to review the electives that are being offered during the academic year. Spring/Summer courses will be circulated by mid semester (fall).

**SOCW 426-3: Current Issues in Child Welfare Practice:** This course highlights topical child welfare issues, and current trends in child welfare practice, examines different methods of intervention and attempts to link changes in the economic circumstances of families to the social wellbeing and healthy family functioning.

*Prerequisites:* upper division standing or permission of the Social Work Chair

**SOCW 437-3 Social Work with Groups and Communities:** This course examines the historical evolution of group work and the role that Social Work has played within this context. Different types of group approaches and experiences are discussed, including professionally led groups and self-help groups. Students consider the operation of groups through analysis of group norms, roles, values, goals and decision making from a perspective that is both theoretical and experiential.

*Prerequisites:* Upper-division standing or permission of the Social Work Chair

**SOCW 439-3: SW/Law and the Justice System:** Social Work, Law and the Justice System examines various areas of the Canadian legal system: constitutional documents and conventions, the court system, the provincial legislative powers, rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and provincial legislation (such as Adoption Act; Child, Family and Community Service Act; Child, Youth and Family Advocacy Act, Family Relations Act, etc.). It also examines the practice of Social Work in court settings. Specifically, it provides a basic understanding of the rights and interests of children, rules of evidence, and the role of various interveners. Court writing skills will be introduced and court visits will be arranged.

*Prerequisites:* upper division standing or permission of the Social Work Chair

**SOCW 440-3: Social Work in Mental Health:** This course examines policy and practice issues pertaining to the understanding and delivery of Social Work services to people with a psychiatric disability. Although the content will explore many ideas that are international and national in scope, the primary focus will be on the policies and practices that are relevant to people in northern British Columbia. Students will examine assessment and intervention methods as well as analyze the impact of current trends and changes in the health and social welfare system pertaining to people who require mental health services. The nature and impact of psychiatric disability are viewed from both an individual level as well as a structural level of analysis. The

major emphasis is on practice and policy issues relating to people who are sometimes described as “psychiatric survivors”.

*Prerequisites:* upper division standing or permission of the Social Work Chair

**SOCW 441-3: SW and Substance Use:** Social Work and Substance Abuse examines alcohol and other drugs in terms of their effects on individuals, families and society. It also looks at different roles of social workers and human service workers in helping people deal with and understand alcohol and drug abuse.

*Prerequisites:* upper division standing or permission of the Social Work Chair

**SOCW 442-3: SW with Victims of Abuse:** Social Work with Victims of Abuse examines physical, emotional and sexual abuse and violence perpetrated on less powerful individuals. The roles played by the helping professions in this context are also examined.

*Prerequisites:* upper division standing or permission of the Social Work Chair

**SOCW 443-3: Social Work and Health Care:** Focuses on the knowledge, attitudes and skills workers need to practice effectively in health care settings. Case studies will be used to demonstrate different methods of intervention in this context.

*Prerequisites:* upper division standing or permission of the Social Work Chair

**SOCW 444-3: SW: Critical Issues in Aging:** Critical Issues in Aging, Social Work Practice and Research examines the physical, social and psychological needs of the elderly. Adaptation of generic social work skills in effective intervention with and on behalf of the aged is also examined.

*Prerequisites:* upper division standing or permission of the Social Work Chair

**SOCW 445-3: SW and Cross-Cultural Practice:** Social Work and Cross-Cultural Practice provides interdisciplinary approaches to understanding cultural and visible minority groups in relation to society and differential access to power are examined. The course will examine and critically evaluate different methods of assistance and intervention offered by social work to minority groups.

*Prerequisites:* upper division standing or permission of the Social Work Chair

**SOCW 450-3: SW and Family Practice:** Social Work and Family Practice through the application of family systems theory, will examine current approaches to working with families in community counselling settings. Completion of a family assessment, as well as a critical examination of power dynamics in families, and their connection with the larger society will be undertaken. Issues of gender, race, age, class, sexual preference, and so on, will be analysed in this context.

*Prerequisites:* upper division standing or permission of the Social Work Chair

**SOCW 453-3: Social Work Practice and Spirituality:** This course provides a forum for the critical exploration of the impact and influence of religious thought and practices on human service work. The historical roots of this work are based in religious movements, aspects of which still affect today's practice/policy. In an increasingly multicultural environment, students must have a fundamental understanding of religion and spirituality in order to practice effectively.

*Prerequisites:* upper division standing or permission of the Social Work Chair

**SOCW 454-3: Disability Issues:** This course involves students in an examination of perspectives on disability, as well as a critical analysis of current theories, policies, and practice. The course begins with an examination of common assumptions about disability and provides opportunities to challenge and critique interpretations of the nature and meaning of disability.

*Prerequisites:* upper division standing or permission of the Social Work Chair

**SOCW 455-3: Indigenous Governance and Social Policy:** Family Values and standards of Indigenous form the basis of the study on Indigenous policy development and its relationship to self-governance for Indigenous' Communities. Topics explored include self-determination from an Indigenous perspective, its impact on Canadian Social Policy, along with the necessity to address Child and Family social needs into self-governance and planning. The course focuses on examples within British Columbia communities. Additionally, the course explores the importance of how social work practitioners need to become skilled advocates aimed at influencing policy and laws affecting Indigenous and family systems.

*Prerequisites:* upper division standing or permission of the Social Work Chair

**SOCW 456-3: Indigenous Wellness: Individuals, Families and Communities:** This course develops an understanding of Indigenous wellness. Topics explored include Indigenous world views; the impact of colonialism on the current realities of Indigenous peoples; and Indigenous perspectives on wellness, traditional family systems, and community. Contemporary social work practices with Indigenous children and families is critically reflected upon, including an emphasis on self-care.

*Prerequisites:* upper division standing or permission of the Social Work Chair

**SOCW 498-(3-6): Special Topics:** Special topic courses may be offered from time to time. These courses are available to permit faculty to offer courses in areas that fall within their particular areas of research and expertise in Social Work practice and policy. With permission of the chair of the School of Social Work, students may repeat the course for credit.

*Prerequisites:* upper division standing or permission of the Social Work Chair

**SOCW 499-3: Directed Readings:** Students can undertake a directed reading course to fulfil a particular learning need and area of interest. Directed readings are dependent upon the availability of faculty resources.

## **FIELD EDUCATION**

Field education or practicum is a required course in both years of the School of Social Work (SOCW 302 and 402). To enter SOCW 302 students must have completed SOCW 300, 301, 310 and 320 with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.33 (C+). To enter SOCW 402 students must have successfully completed all the required 300 and 400 level courses and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.33 (C+). Field practicum is marked on a pass/fail basis.

**PLEASE REFER TO THE FIELD EDUCATION MANUAL FOR STUDENT AND AGENCY SUPERVISORS.**

<https://www.unbc.ca/sites/default/files/sections/social-work/bsw-field-manual-2024-2025-final-september-2024.pdf>

## **ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**

Students must adhere to all policies and regulations of the institution(s) where they are registered for courses. This requirement includes but is not limited to matters related to academic appeals and academic dishonesty. Progression through the program is governed by guidelines on academic standing and continuance; however, probation guidelines are governed by UNBC. Students must obtain the minimum passing grades for all required Social Work courses as defined below under “Qualification for Degree.” Students are required to withdraw from their respective Social Work programs if they have two instances of not meeting the minimum passing grade requirement either in the same Year or in two consecutive Years, in any combination of the following:

SOCW 300, SOCW 301, SOCW 302, SOCW 310, SOCW 320, SOCW 330, SOCW 336, SOCW 401, SOCW 402, SOCW 420 and SOCW 421.

Students admitted to the Bachelor of Social Work program are required to withdraw from the Bachelor of Social Work program if they register a second fail in Social Work Field Education (SOCW 302-6 and/or SOCW 402-15).

## **UNBC STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

<https://www.unbc.ca/policy/student-rights-and-responsibilities>

## QUALIFICATION FOR DEGREE

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that their degree requirements are met. Graduation requirements are found in the Regulations and Policies section of this Calendar. To fulfill the requirements of graduation, the student must also:

- Attain a minimum Cumulative GPA of 2.33 (C+) on courses for credit towards the Social Work degree;
- Obtain a minimum passing grade of 2.00 (C) in every Social Work course for credit towards the degree (note: Students enrolling in any required course must have completed all prerequisites with a grade of C or better); and
- Complete all requirements for the BSW program within eight years of admission into the program or from the first Social Work course used for credit towards the degree.

The primary purpose of the grading policy is to provide guidance to both students and faculty regarding expectations for various aspects of assignments: due dates, deferrals, late penalties, and so on. It also provides information regarding the grading scale that social work faculty will use in grading various assignments—papers, videos, oral presentations, group work, and so on. There are valid reasons for having this type of grading policy. Social Workers are engaged in work settings where deadlines are important, and they must be able to produce various reports on time, often in a very short period.

**ATTENDANCE:** While the School of Social Work is committed to adult education principles, all students are expected to attend 80 % of classes. The UNBC Calendar outlines dates by which a student is required to add or drop a course. If you registered in a course or were on a wait list and decided not to take a course, be sure to inform the Registrar's Office and complete the appropriate paperwork.

**GRADING:** The mark for any assignment can be a letter grade or a percentage, but not a grade point. If several different assignment marks and/or grades must be combined for a final grade, letter grades are converted to their equivalent percentage. The overall percentage is then converted to a final letter grade, according to the grading table. Faculty members are expected to record both positive and critical comments on assignments. Students admitted to the School of Social Work must attain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.33 (C+). The passing grade in Social Work courses is 2.00 (C) with the exception of Field Education courses that are marked Pass or Fail.

**PLEASE CONFIRM WITH YOUR INSTRUCTOR AND READ YOUR COURSE OUTLINES THOROUGHLY FOR EACH COURSE AND ALL ASSIGNMENTS.**

*The following table shows the grading scale for the University of Northern British Columbia School of Social Work. Your assignments will be graded according to this scale.*

## Grading Schedule

Letter Grade	Grade Point	Percentage		Evaluation Criteria
A+ A A-	4.33 4.00 3.67	90 – 100% 85 – 89.9% 80 – 84.9%	Excellent	Represents work of exceptional quality. Content, organization and style all at a high level. Student demonstrates excellent comprehension of the subject and makes use of existing knowledge, literature and research. Writer uses sound critical thinking, a high level of personal engagement with the topic, and is able to apply knowledge to practice.
B+ B B-	3.33 3.00 2.67	77 – 79.9% 73 – 76.9% 70 – 72.9%	Good	Represents work of good quality with no major weaknesses. Writing is clear and explicit and topic coverage and comprehension is more than adequate. Good use of existing knowledge on the subject. Shows some degree of critical thinking, personal investment and application to practice.
C+ C	2.33 2.00	67 – 69.9% 63 – 66.9%	Satisfactory	Represents work of fair but not good quality. Shows some comprehension of the subject, but has weaknesses in content and/or organization of the assignment. Minimal levels of critical awareness, personal involvement or application of ideas to practice.
C- D+ D D-	1.67 1.33 1.00 0.67	60 – 62.9% 57 – 59.9% 53 – 56.9% 50 – 59.9%	Marginal	<b><i>Does not meet the minimum passing grade of 2.0 (C) required to be counted for credit towards completion of a BSW (see <a href="http://www.unbc.ca/calendar">www.unbc.ca/calendar</a>)</i></b> . Serious flaws in content and/or style. Poor comprehension of the subject, and/or little involvement in the paper. Poor use of existing knowledge.
F	0.00	0 – 49.9%	Failure	

## Grade Review Procedures

Students are referred to the general university regulations on appeals in the UNBC Graduate and Undergraduate Calendars.

The following regulations apply to students in the School of Social Work: Step 1 Any student wishing clarification about a grade, or who is dissatisfied with an assigned grade, should first discuss the matter with the course instructor. If the student wishes the instructor to review the assignment, they must make this request within three days from the date that the assignment was returned to the student by the instructor. A student who wishes to have an assignment reviewed by the original marker must make this request in writing, stating reasons why the student is dissatisfied with the original grade and stating the grounds on which the student believes the grade should be reviewed. A copy of the original assignment and grading sheet should be attached to this written request. If asked to do so, the instructor will review the assignment and decide whether

or not the original mark should be confirmed or changed. Step 2 If this review confirms the assigned grade and the student is still dissatisfied, an appeal can be made in writing to the Social Work Chair within three days from the receipt of the instructor's decision. The appeal shall state clearly the grounds on which the student believes the grade should be raised. Step 3 Where a request for a grade review has been assessed by the Social Work Chair to have merit, the Chair may appoint a second instructor to re-read the assignment in question or may undertake the review. This marker will be provided with a statement on the objectives of the course. The mark may be raised, lowered, or remain the same. Step 4 If the matter is not resolved at this point, the student may choose to take the matter to the Senate Committee on Academic Appeals. See details in the UNBC Calendar. The Appeals Form is available from the Registrar's Office Step 5 If the assignment is one based upon performance other than a written assignment, the Social Work Chair will develop a set of procedures in accord with this policy, in consultation with the instructor and student. When setting such assignments, faculty and students should make every effort to document the performance. Student participation may or may not be graded; nonetheless attendance is required in courses and practica.

## **Confidentiality**

Faculty and students will make every effort to maintain a high level of confidentiality with regard to professional and personal information shared in class, or in private conversations. Possible exceptions may occur:

- When an emergency situation arises.
- When instructors share concerns with the academic advisor or where maintaining such confidentiality represents a breach of the code of ethics. Every effort will be taken to advise the student that such information will be shared.
- With regard to practicum, where the faculty instructor deems that an issue will affect student performance in a practicum setting, this information will be shared with the agency supervisor.
- Where academic difficulties are serious and the faculty member is making efforts to resolve them.

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

**Support for Students: Please refer to the link below:**

**<https://www.unbc.ca/information-technology-services/support-students>**

**It is your responsibility to activate and check your email to ensure that you don't miss out on important announcements. If you need assistance with activation, please contact the IT Service Desk at [support@unbc.ca](mailto:support@unbc.ca).**

## **IT Service Desk**

**Phone:** 250-960-5321 (Local 25321)

**Toll-free:** 1-866-960-5321

**Email:** [support@unbc.ca](mailto:support@unbc.ca)

**Location:** LAB 8-262

## **PROGRAM INFORMATION**

Are you interested in obtaining a Bachelor of Social Work Degree at UNBC? Please explore the below links to gain further information about the program.

**Websites:** [www.unbc.ca/social-work](http://www.unbc.ca/social-work)

<https://www.unbc.ca/calendar/undergraduate/social-work>

## **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Admission to the Bachelor of Social Work program is limited and is based on academic qualifications and available space. Students will normally complete 60 credit hours of study that includes a minimum of 48 credit hours of liberal arts and science courses. Students will achieve a minimum grade point average of 2.67 (B-) (calculated on a student's most recent 60 credit hours of study) and meet other selection criteria prior to program entry. More information about these criteria can be found in the BSW Supplementary Application for Admission form.

Students who have completed a social service worker program at a community college may be eligible for discretionary transfer credit.

The School of Social Work will permit up to three Social Work elective courses to be taken prior to formal admission to the BSW program. Successful completion of these courses does not guarantee admission into the program.

Students will be required to undergo a criminal records search prior to being admitted (see Academic Regulation on *Criminal Records Review*).



Students applying to the School of Social Work will have completed the following four BSW course prerequisites:

<a href="#"><u>FNST 100-3</u></a>	The Aboriginal Peoples of Canada
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 200-3</u></a>	Introduction to Social Work Practice
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 201-3</u></a>	Introduction to Social Welfare
<a href="#"><u>WMST 100-3</u></a>	Introduction to Women's Studies

Students applying to the School of Social Work with a Baccalaureate degree in a related discipline do not have to complete the four BSW course prerequisites.

Students admitted to the Bachelor of Social Work program are required to withdraw from the Bachelor of Social Work program if they register a second fail in Social Work Field Education ([SOCW 302-6](#) and/or [SOCW 402-15](#)).

The minimum requirement for a Bachelor of Social Work is 120 credit hours.

## **Field Placements**

Every effort will be made to secure appropriate field placements for students in the School of Social Work. However, the location and type of placement are subject to availability.

## **Costs Associated with the School of Social Work**

Costs associated with study in the School of Social Work are the responsibility of the individual student, including transportation costs and any expenses involved in academic studies, lab, and field placement. In some circumstances, students may complete field experiences at sites other than their campus of registration. Provision for all travel, accommodation, and living expenses associated with field education is the sole responsibility of the student.

## **Standards of Professional Conduct**

All students are expected to abide by professional standards as set forth by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE) and the relevant Social Work Codes of Ethics. Violation of professional standards may result in suspension or dismissal from the program or the educational institution.

## **Academic Performance**

Students must adhere to all policies and regulations of the institution(s) where they are registered for courses. This requirement includes but is not limited to matters related to academic appeals and academic dishonesty. Progression through the program is governed by guidelines on academic standing and continuance; however, probation guidelines are governed by UNBC.

Students must obtain the minimum passing grade for all required Social Work courses as defined under “Qualification for Degree.”

Students are required to withdraw from their respective Social Work programs if they have two instances of not meeting the minimum passing grade requirement either in the same Year or in two consecutive Years, in any combination of the following:

SOCW 300, SOCW 301, SOCW 302, SOCW 310, SOCW 320, SOCW 330, SOCW 336, SOCW 401, SOCW 402, SOCW 420 and SOCW 421.

A 'Year' is comprised of all the mandatory SOCW courses in a given Level (e.g. Year 3 includes all 300-level courses listed under the Upper-Division requirements in the Calendar) regardless of how long it takes the student to complete the courses.

## **Qualification for Degree**

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that their degree requirements are met. Graduation requirements are found in the Regulations and Policies section of this Calendar. To fulfill the requirements of graduation, the student must also:

- attain a minimum Cumulative GPA of 2.33 (C+) on courses for credit towards the Social Work degree;
- obtain a minimum passing grade of 2.00 (C) in every Social Work course for credit towards the degree (note: Students enrolling in any required course must have completed all prerequisites with a grade of C or better); and
- complete all requirements for the BSW program within eight years of admission into the program or from the first Social Work course used for credit towards the degree.

## Transfer Credit

All transfer credit for coursework taken prior to admission to the BSW program is evaluated and applied at the time of initial registration in the program. After students have been admitted to the School of Social Work, coursework taken in other institutions for transfer credit towards the degree requires a letter of permission prior to the registration in the course.

## Program Requirements

### 300 Level

<a href="#"><u>SOCW 300-6</u></a>	Introduction to Counselling and Assessment Skills
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 301-3</u></a>	Critical Social Work Practice
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 302-6</u></a>	Social Work Field Education I
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 310-3</u></a>	Social Work and Indigenous Peoples
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 320-3</u></a>	Critical Social Policy
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 330-3</u></a>	Social Work Research/Policy/Practice
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 336-3</u></a>	Social Work Philosophy and Ethics

### 400 Level

<a href="#"><u>SOCW 401-3</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Northern/Remote Social Work Practice</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 402-15</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Social Work Field Education II</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 420-3</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Family/Child Welfare Policy</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 421-3</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Human Growth and Development</u></a>

Students must select an additional 9 credit hours of approved 400-level Social Work courses from the approved list.

<a href="#"><u>SOCW 426-3</u></a>	Current Issues in Child Welfare Practice
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 437-3</u></a>	Social Work with Groups and Communities
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 439-3</u></a>	Social Work/Law and the Justice System
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 440-3</u></a>	Social Work in Mental Health
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 441-3</u></a>	Social Work and Substance Use
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 442-3</u></a>	Social Work with Victims of Abuse
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 443-3</u></a>	Social Work and Health Care
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 444-3</u></a>	Social Work Critical Issues in Aging
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 450-3</u></a>	Social Work and Family Practice
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 453-3</u></a>	Social Work Practice and Spirituality
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 454-3</u></a>	Disability Issues
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 455-3</u></a>	Indigenous Governance and Social Policy
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 456-3</u></a>	Indigenous Wellness: Individuals, Families, and Communities
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 498 (3-6)</u></a>	Special Topics
<a href="#"><u>SOCW 499-3</u></a>	Directed Readings

## Elective Requirement

Electives at any level in any subject sufficient to ensure completion of a minimum of 120 credit hours.