

Social Work

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
INSPIRE CHANGE.**

2025-26

UNI

**University of
Northern Iowa.**

Social Work

So you want to be a Social Worker ...

The mission of the program is to prepare students for beginning generalist social work practice at the individual, family, small group, organizational and community levels while adhering to social work values and ethics and advocating for social and economic justice.

By choosing to get your Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) from UNI, you're opting into a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

All BSW students must apply and be accepted to the social work major. This includes submitting an application, resume, and personal statement to the admissions committee for review.

That means you'll be eligible to complete your MSW in just one year after getting your BSW through Advanced Standing Programs.

Clinical social workers must have a master's degree in social work, two years of post-master's experience in a supervised clinical setting and be licensed.



The national median annual wage for social workers was \$58,380 per year in May 2023.



Overall employment of social workers is projected to grow 7% from 2023 to 2033, faster than average for all occupations.

WHERE DO SOCIAL WORKERS WORK?



WHERE DO UNI ALUMNI WORK?

ADDICTIONS PREVENTION & TREATMENT

Area Substance Abuse Council: *Cedar Rapids*
Substance Abuse Treatment Unit of Central Iowa: *Marshalltown*
Jackson Recovery: *Sioux City*
Pathways Behavioral Services: *Waterloo*

AGING / GERONTOLOGY

Aging Services for Linn County: *Cedar Rapids*
Barthell Eastern Star Home: *Decorah*
Elderbridge Agency on Aging: *Mason City*
Northcrest Specialty Care: *Waterloo*
Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging: *Waterloo*

CHILDREN, ADOLESCENT & FAMILY SERVICES

Lutheran Services in IA: *Ames, Muscatine, Waterloo, Waverly*
ISU Extension Education/Linn County: *Cedar Rapids*
Bethany Christian Services: *Cedar Rapids*
Four Oaks: *Cedar Rapids, Independence, Mason City*
Tanager Place: *Cedar Rapids*
Heartland Family Services: *Council Bluffs*
Families First: *Fort Dodge*
Iowa Homeless Youth Shelters: *Des Moines*
Orchard Place: *Des Moines*
Francis Lauer: *Mason City*
Child Protection Center: *Muscatine, Waterloo*
Meskwaki Family Services: *Tama*
Iowa Department of Human Services: *Waterloo*
YWCA: *Waterloo*
Sequel Family Services: *Woodward*

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Linn County Juvenile Detention Center: *Cedar Rapids*
Iowa Department of Corrections: *Waterloo*

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE / PREVENTION / HOUSING

Domestic Violence Intervention Program: *Iowa City*
Amani Community Services: *Waterloo*
Friends of the Family: *Waterloo, Waverly*

EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS

Grantwood AEA: *Cedar Rapids*
Prairie Lakes AEA: *Storm Lake, Fort Dodge*
Heartland AEA: *Johnston*
Central Rivers AEA: *Cedar Falls*
Waterloo Community Schools: *Waterloo*

MEDICAL / HEALTH CARE

Mary Greeley Medical Center: *Ames*
St. Anthony Regional Hospital and Nursing Home: *Carroll*
UnityPoint/St. Luke's Hospital: *Cedar Rapids*
Comfort Care Medicare, Inc.: *Cedar Rapids, Waterloo*
Broadlawns Medical Center: *Des Moines*
UnityPoint Health: *Des Moines*
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics: *Iowa City*
Buena Vista Medical Center: *Storm Lake*
Virginia Gay Hospital: *Vinton*
UnityPoint Allen Hospital: *Waterloo*

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Abbe Inc. Community Mental Health: *Cedar Rapids*
 Mount Mercy University Counseling Services:
Cedar Rapids
 Vera French Community Mental Health Center:
Davenport
 Mental Health Institute: *Independence*
 Southern Iowa Mental Health Center: *Ottumwa*
 Seasons Center for Behavioral Health: *Spencer*
 County Social Services: *Waterloo*
 UnityPoint Black Hawk Grundy Mental Health Center:
Waterloo (clinic and schools)

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Optimae Life Services: *Des Moines*
 Full Circle Services: *Independence*
 Cedar Valley Community Support Services: *Waterloo*
 Comprehensive Systems, Inc.: *Waterloo*
 Exceptional Persons, Inc.: *Waterloo*
 REM: *Waterloo*

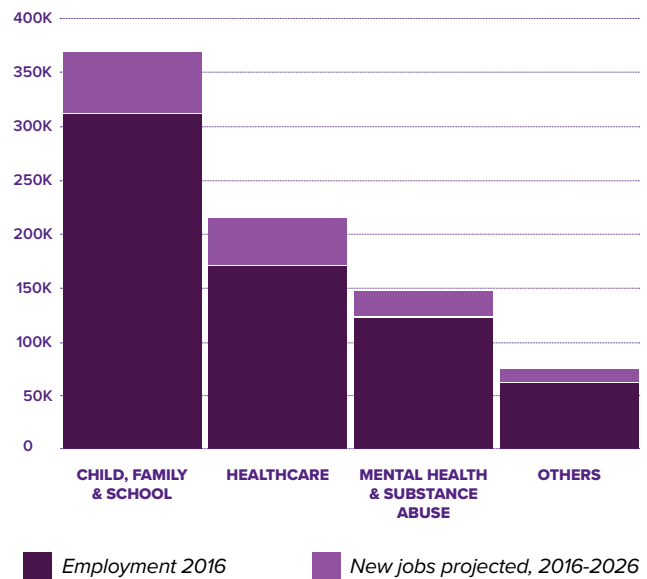
REFUGEE / IMMIGRANT SERVICES

Catherine McAuley Center: *Cedar Rapids*

VETERAN SERVICES

Department of Veterans Affairs: *Des Moines, Iowa City, Waterloo*
 Veteran Affairs Commission of BH County: *Waterloo*

SOCIAL WORKER EMPLOYMENT, BY TYPE
 2016 and projected 2016-2026



SOCIAL WORK SALARIES IN IOWA

	# INDIVIDUALS EMPLOYED IN IA	MEDIAN HOURLY WAGE	MEAN HOURLY WAGE	ANNUAL MEAN WAGE
Community and Social Service Occupations	21,240	\$23.18	\$25.07	\$52,150
Educational, Guidance and Career Counselors and Advisors	3,260	\$25.71	\$27.70	\$57,610
Marriage and Family Therapists	130	\$18.26	\$19.52	\$40,600
Rehabilitation Counselors	1,760	\$17.63	\$19.68	\$40,930
Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder and Mental Health Counselors	2,680	\$28.36	\$29.70	\$61,770
Counselors, All Other	110	\$20.24	\$23.93	\$49,770
Child, Family and School Social Workers	3,020	\$22.53	\$25.26	\$52,540
Healthcare Social Workers	1,290	\$29.15	\$28.90	\$60,100
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers	990	\$23.48	\$25.12	\$52,260
Social Workers, All Other	300	\$37.42	\$33.80	\$70,290
Health Education Specialists	460	\$31.29	\$30.88	\$64,230
Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists	830	\$36.95	\$35.20	\$73,220
Social and Human Service Assistants	4,990	\$18.14	\$19.40	\$40,360
Community Health Workers	410	\$22.73	\$23.57	\$49,020
Community and Social Service Specialists, All Other	300	\$19.12	\$17.89	\$37,210

U.S. Bureau of Labor & Statistics for Iowa (May 2023) // www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_ia.htm

SOCIAL WORK COURSE REQUIREMENTS

UNIFI Requirements

Engage (9 credits)

Written Communication (3 credits)
Oral Communication (3 credits)
Quantitative Reasoning (3 credits)
Take SOC SCI 2020 or STAT 1772

Discover (16 credits)

Human Condition (Domestic) (3 credits)
Options: SOC 1000, SOC 1060, PSYCH 1001, SW 2045

Human Condition (Global) (3 credits)

Option: SW 1041

Scientific Reasoning (4 credits)

Human Expression (3 credits)

Responsibility (3 credits)

Connect (12 credits)

Elective (3 credits)
Elective (3 credits)
Elective (3 credits)
Options: SW 2045, SW 1041, SOC 1000, PSYCH 1002

Need 120 credits to graduate from UNI

Other: Remaining credits (double major, minor(s), program certificate(s), UNIFI certificate(s), university electives)

Social Work Requirements

Foundations: (6 credits)

PSYCH 1001 Introduction to Psychology
SOC 1000 Introduction to Sociology
(or SOC 1060 Social Problems)

Required Courses: Research

SOC SCI 2020 Social Sciences Statistics *
SW 3185 Social Work Research

Required Courses: Core

SW 1001 Intro to Social Work & Social Services
SW 4144 Social Policies & Issues
SW 4163 Diversity & Difference
SW 4164 Human Behavior & the Social Environment

Required Courses: Practice

SW 2091 Practice with Individuals
SW 3192 Practice with Groups and Families
SW 4196 Practice with Communities & Organizations
SW 4200 Field Instruction (10-15 credits)

Electives

Any SW course (9 credits)

Total Hours: 52-57

* STAT 1772 will substitute for SOC SCI 2020

A minimum cumulative grade point average for all college work of 2.50 is required for admission to the Social Work major.

All required courses for the Social Work major require a C (2.00) or higher to count towards the major.

A minimum UNI grade point average of 2.50 is required for graduation as a Social Work major.

Based on 2024-25 Academic Catalog

Students who graduate with a major in Social Work receive a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree.

SOCIAL WORK COURSE SEQUENCING

FRESHMAN

FALL	HOURS	SPRING	HOURS
UNIFI courses	9	UNIFI courses	6
Engage: Quantitative Reasoning (SOC SCI 2020 or STAT 1772)	3	Discover: Scientific Reasoning with lab	4
Discover: Human Condition (Domestic) (SOC 1000 Introduction to Sociology or SOC 1060 Social Problems)	3	UNIFI Elective: PSYCH 1001 Intro to Psych	3
		SW 1001 Intro to SW and SS	3
	<u>15 total</u>		<u>16 total</u>

SOPHOMORE

FALL (apply to Social Work major)	HOURS	SPRING	HOURS
UNIFI courses	9	SW/UNI Electives	12
SW 2019 Practice with Individuals	3	SW 3192 Practice with Groups & Families	3
SW/UNI elective	3		
	<u>15 total</u>		<u>15 total</u>

JUNIOR

FALL	HOURS	SPRING	HOURS
SW 4163 Diversity & Difference	3	SW 4196 Practice with Comm & Orgs	3
SW 4164 Human Behavior & the Social Environment	3	SW 3185 Social Work Research	3
SW/UNI Electives	9	SW/UNI Electives	9
	<u>15 total</u>		<u>15 total</u>

SENIOR

FALL	HOURS	SPRING	HOURS
SW 4144 Social Policies & Issues	3	SW 4200 Field Instruction/Internship (11-15 credits)	<u>11-15</u>
SW/UNI Electives	12		
	<u>15 total</u>		

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: MINIMUM OF 120

SOCIAL WORK ELECTIVES

SW 1041 Global Social Work
 SW 2045 American Racial & Minoritized Populations
 SW 3143 Self-Care & Stress Management in Helping Professions
 SW 3175 Child Welfare Policy and Practice
 SW 4171 Addictions Treatment

SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM CERTIFICATES

Addictions Treatment Certificate (4 courses, internship)

COMPLEMENTARY MINORS & CERTIFICATES

ADDICTIONS PREVENTION/TREATMENT

- / **Social Work Department Addictions Treatment Certificate** - 12 credits
Designed to prepare students for the field of substance abuse treatment.

AGING/GERONTOLOGY

- / **Gerontology Minor** - 21 credits
Multidisciplinary study of the issues associated with aging and the aging process. Explores the psychological, sociological, behavioral, and other social aspects of aging.

CHILDREN, ADOLESCENT AND FAMILY SERVICES

- / **Certificate in Sociology of Family and Life Course** - 15 credits
Provides students with a greater understanding of the social dimensions of families across the life course, highlighting how diversity and inequality (by race and ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality, age, etc.) shape our family experiences. This certificate is relevant to any student pursuing jobs related to community action, social service, public health, long-term care, family counseling, program planning, community education and policy analysis.
- / **Family Studies Minor** - 21-22 credits
The discipline of family studies explores patterns of family functioning and how relationship processes and other contextual factors influence individual development and behavior. Strong focus on prevention and early intervention, providing tools and knowledge to families in order to improve their quality of life.
- / **Youth Work in Religious Settings Certificate** - 18 credits
Prepares students for work in a variety of religious organizations and contexts.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

- / **Certificate in Crime Mapping and Analysis** - 18 credits
Provides students with both theoretical and applied training in spatial mapping and the analysis of crime data.
- / **Criminology Minor** - 18 credits
Train to work in the criminal justice system and associated organizations in Iowa. Minor prepares students to interact ethically with diverse populations with a sense of open mindedness, respect and cultural awareness.

EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS

- / **Education Studies Minor** – 15 credits
For students interested in the intersection of learning, education and society. Coursework provides opportunities for students to study the learning process, the organization of schooling, its links to broader political and historical contexts, and the potential of educational systems to bring about social change. This interdisciplinary program is designed specifically for undergraduates not majoring in teacher education.

ETHICS

- / **Ethics Minor** - 15 credits
Provides students of diverse major fields of study a way to focus and develop their interest in ethics both by offering them a core of courses essential to an understanding of the field of ethics and by advising them in the selection of courses that enable them to develop depth and detail in theoretical, professional and applied ethics.

MACRO FOCUS WITH SOCIAL WORK

- / **Civic Literacy, Engagement and the Humanities Minor** - 18 credits
Interdisciplinary minor will help students develop the knowledge, skills and dispositions of civic literacy in tandem with the foundational knowledge, skills and dispositions of the humanities that support the flourishing of a democratic society.
- / **Civic Literacy, Engagement, and the Humanities Certificate** - 9 credits
Interdisciplinary certificate emphasizes training in civic literacy and the humanities that address how to contribute to the flourishing of a democratic society.
- / **State and Local Government Certificate** - 15 credits
This certificate blends theoretical and practical knowledge to provide the flexibility to solve some of the problems facing these governments. Ideal for students interested in careers within public finance, economic development, community development and planning, or state and local politics. Also helpful for students who want to work in public agencies such as school administration, city management, public health, social services or public safety.
- / **Legal Studies Minor** - 21 credits (great if considering law school!)
Encourages students to study legal institutions, norms and traditions and to analyze how they interact with society, culture, economics, politics and policy. Minor equips students with the ability to comprehend and critically evaluate written arguments, to make one's own arguments and support them with evidence and logical reasoning, and to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.
- / **Nonprofit Management Certificate** - 14 credits
Provides knowledge, skill-building and professional experience for students interested in working in the nonprofit sector. Earning this certificate from UNI also enables students to earn a national certificate in Nonprofit Management from Nonprofit Leadership Alliance.
- / **Political Science Minor** - 18 credits
Teaches students how to take on and talk about important and complex issues related to government, power and change. Students will develop the tools to be responsible citizens, successful professionals and leaders in their communities.
- / **Conflict Resolution Certificate** - 15 credits
Conflict can be viewed on both the macro and micro system levels. It can be interpersonal, as in the area of individual or family dynamics, or organizational, as in labor, racial/ethnic, or international relations. The Certificate in Conflict Resolution focuses on understanding the roots of conflict, as well as its management or resolution.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- / **Mental Health Minor** - 18 credits
The mental health minor fosters interdisciplinary exposure to mental health issues, provides broad preparation for those who may directly or peripherally work with mental health issues, and presents different approaches to conceptualization and intervention of mental health issues.
- / **Psychology Minor** - 25 credits
Understand the basic principles of cognitive, emotional, social, developmental, and biological processes, and the scientific research methods used to learn about these processes.

PUBLIC HEALTH / HEALTH CARE

- / **Health and Social Services Certificate** - 12 credits
This certificate is designed for undergraduate students who are preparing to work with persons of varied demographic backgrounds in health-related settings such as clinics, hospitals, and other organizations working to promote public health.

- / **Sociology of Health and Development Certificate** - 15 credits
 This certificate is relevant to students with interests in health care, public health, social work, criminal justice, mental health counseling, health education, human services, family services, health advocacy, and more.
- / **Women's Health Certificate** - 15 credits
 Prepares students for work in organizations that address women's health needs.
- / **Public Health Minor** - 20 credits
 This minor is for students who want to become advocates for health in their local communities and around the globe. Focus on environmental health sciences, epidemiology, nutrition, public health programming and more.

REFUGEE/IMMIGRANT SERVICES

- / **Anthropology Minor** - 16-17 credits
 Study all aspects of the human experience, compare the patterns and interpret them using various perspectives.
- / **Sociology of Race/Ethnicity and Immigration Certificate** - 15 credits
 Allows students to develop a rich understanding of two of the greatest social issues of our time: racism and immigration. Students learn the history and development of racism and immigration, as well as contemporary permutations.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

- / **Sociology of Inequality and Inclusion Certificate** - 15 credits
 Provides students with a deeper understanding of how social inequalities work in today's complex, fast-changing world--and what to do about them. Students examine how inequalities work in workplaces, schools, families, healthcare systems, the criminal justice system, and other social settings. Learn how to ethically and morally address inequalities as citizens and leaders so that we can collectively create a more just and inclusive society.
- / **Sociology of Gender and Culture Certificate** - 15 credits
 Offers students a deeper understanding of gender and culture in society. Classes highlight multiple perspectives, emphasizing that how gender is defined can change over time and place, and that culture can be experienced through the lens of gender. Students earning this certificate gain a well-rounded comprehension of how gender and culture interact in larger society, and can be viewed as a potential employee interested and supportive of cultural competency.
- / **Sociology Minor** - 21 credits
 The scientific study of human society and social interaction. Understand how everyday lives and actions are influenced by broader social structures, contexts, and processes. Develop a comprehensive understanding of the nature and applications of sociological theory and methods. Value cultural diversity and pluralism and taught to engage in critical analysis of structures of power and inequality. Develop critical thinking skills, research tools and knowledge about diverse populations.
- / **Social Justice Minor** - 21 credits
 Investigate a broad understanding of theories and concepts of social justice and articulate a variety of perspectives on social justice through classes that address crucial social issues in diverse voices (interdisciplinary nature: sociological, political, psychological, historical, etc.).
- / **Studies in Sexuality, Women & Gender Minor** - 18 credits
 An interdisciplinary and multicultural program that engages in research and exploration concerning all areas of human experience. Its unique perspective strengthens the abilities of students within any major to critically analyze theory and research emphasizing the importance of gender while including other essential categories of analysis such as race, class, sexuality, ethnicity, and nationality.

VETERAN SERVICES

- / **Certificate in Military Psychology** - 15 credits
 UNI's Certificate in Military Psychology provides psychology majors and students in related fields with the opportunity to develop an understanding of military culture and the psychological issues faced by military veterans.

Certified Nonprofit Professional Credential

LEARN MORE

csbs.uni.edu/CNP-credential

As a campus partner with the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance, UNI offers a preferred track to prepare students for the Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP) credential — the only national nonprofit credential preparing students for leadership in the nonprofit sector.

This credential is now an easy addition your BSW degree!

The Department of Social Work will now accept the two RTNL classes (noted below) as electives towards the major. As long as the required internship is for a registered nonprofit, those hours can also count towards your major requirement. That means the only additional requirement necessary to earn this credential is to take the exam (which you can do before graduation, on your own timeline).

REQUIREMENTS

- / Course Guided Pathway to CNP I for Social Work Majors
- / RTNL 2130-01: Foundations of the Nonprofit Sector*
- / RTNL 2210-01: Nonprofit Leadership Practicum I (student association)* \$100 course fee
 - Course meets volunteer service requirement
 - Course meets conference requirement
- / 120 hour internship (credit or transcript notation)
 - *For BSW students: your required internship for the social work major can also count towards these hours, as long as the internship is for a registered nonprofit.*
- / Complete CNP Exam
- / Earn BSW from UNI

***ONE EXTRA STEP: for the time being, BSW students must fill out an exception request for the two RTNL courses, in order to count towards your social work major electives.**

Contact us!

Libby Fry, LMSW, CNP
BSW Program Director
elizabeth.fry@uni.edu
319-273-7204

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