

# **Social Work**

**Make a Difference.  
Inspire Change.**

***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.

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 median annual wage for social workers was \$50,390 per year in May 2021. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$36,520, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$82,840.



Overall employment of social workers is projected to grow 12% from 2020 to 2030, faster than the 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*

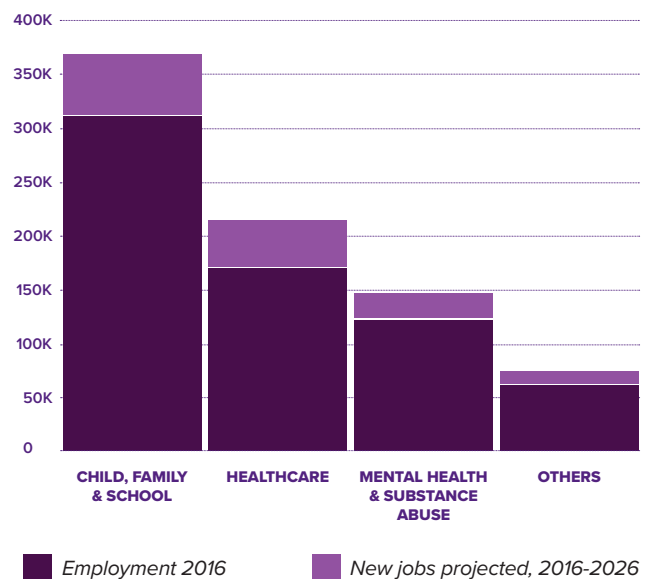
## REFUGEE / IMMIGRANT SERVICES

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
<b>Community and Social Service Occupations</b>	<b>20,420</b>	<b>\$22.78</b>	<b>\$24.47</b>	<b>\$50,900</b>
Educational, Guidance, and Career Counselors and Advisors	3,360	\$26.26	\$27.07	\$56,310
Marriage and Family Therapists	120	\$25.78	\$25.02	\$52,050
Rehabilitation Counselors	1,810	\$17.31	\$19.93	\$41,440
Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors	2,790	\$24.42	\$27.14	\$56,460
Counselors, All Other	110	\$19.46	\$22.58	\$46,970
Child, Family, and School Social Workers	2,970	\$22.38	\$24.74	\$51,460
Healthcare Social Workers	1,150	\$28.04	\$27.85	\$57,920
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers	1,000	\$22.05	\$23.96	\$49,850
Social Workers, All Other	250	\$35.11	\$32.55	\$67,710
Health Education Specialists	530	\$28.47	\$28.55	\$59,380
Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists	950	\$37.21	\$34.77	\$72,330
Social and Human Service Assistants	4,240	\$17.79	\$18.49	\$38,470
Community Health Workers	450	\$21.61	\$22.26	\$46,300
Community and Social Service Specialists, All Other	180	\$19.16	\$20.86	\$43,380

U.S. Bureau of Labor & Statistics for Iowa (May 2022) // [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_ia.htm](http://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)

*Take BIOL 1041 with BIOL 1015 lab*

### 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

### Prerequisites: (12 credits)

BIOL 1014 Life: Continuity & Change  
SOC 1000 Intro to Sociology  
or SOC 1060 Social Problems  
PSYCH 1001 Intro to Psychology  
SOC SCI 2020 Stats for Social Research OR STAT 1772 Introduction to Statistical Methods

### Core Social Work Courses (35 credits)

SW 1001 Intro to Social Work & Social Services  
SW 2091 Practice with Individuals  
SW 3185 Social Work Research  
SW 3192 Practice with Groups & Families  
SW 4144 Social Policies & Issues  
SW 4163 Diversity and Difference  
SW 4164 Human Behavior & the Social Environment  
SW 4196 Practice with Communities & Organizations  
SW 4200 Field Instruction (11-15 credits)

### Social Work Electives (9 credits required)

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

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 2023-24 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 (BIOL 1014 Life: Continuity & Change & BIOL 1015 Life: Continuity & Change, Lab) (4 credits)	4
Discover: Human Condition (Domestic) (SOC 1000 Introduction to Sociology or SOC 1060 Social Problems)	3	UNIFI Elective: PSYCH 1001 Intro to Psych	3
	<u>15 total</u>	SW 1001 Intro to SW and SS	3
			<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

\*Child Welfare Certificate (4 courses, internship)  
 +Addictions Treatment Certificate (4 courses, internship)



# COMPLEMENTARY MINORS & CERTIFICATES

## ADDICTIONS PREVENTION/TREATMENT

- / **Social Work Department Addictions Treatment Certificate** - 12 credits plus social work internship  
Designed to prepare **social work majors** for the field of substance abuse treatment. To receive a UNI certificate, a student must complete the requirements for the Social Work major (including graduation with the B.A.) and the specific coursework and field instruction experiences as indicated.

## 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** - 24 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.
- / **Social Work Department Child Welfare Certificate** - 12 credits plus social work internship  
Prepares **social work majors** to competently work in child welfare settings, including child protective services, adoption, foster care, youth services, and residential facilities. Students complete four required courses pertaining to child welfare policy and practice, problems in juvenile and family law, and an internship requirement in a child welfare setting.
- / **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.

# COMPLEMENTARY MINORS & CERTIFICATES CONT.

## MACRO FOCUS WITH SOCIAL WORK

- ✓ **Certificate in State and Local Government** - 15 credits  
Designed to provide a specific set of skills to any student at UNI looking to work in state or local government. 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 field is quite interdisciplinary, served by a number of different professionals, and mental health issues arise across an array of settings. 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

- ✓ **Certificate in Health and Social Services** - 12 credits  
Provides an overview of issues and topics relevant to students who are interested in providing social services or health education to individuals in public health and healthcare settings. 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.
- ✓ **Certificate in Sociology of Health and Development** - 15 credits  
Investigates the social and cultural forces that influence physical, mental and emotional health and development, and inequalities in health-related problems by race and ethnicity, sex and gender, social class, ability, age, etc. 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.

/ **Certificate in Women's Health** - 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.

/ **Certificate in Sociology of Race/Ethnicity and Immigration** - 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**

/ **Certificate in Sociology of Inequality and Inclusion** - 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.

/ **Certificate in Sociology of Gender and Culture** - 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** - 14 credits  
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. Having an understanding of military culture is beneficial for any mental health professional that may work with active-duty or veteran military members or their families. Understanding the psychological issues faced by the military is also beneficial for aspiring military officers or business professionals that may work with veteran employees.

## Contact us!

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