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Social work is a profession with a two-fold mission: to help people function as well as they can within their environment and to work for improved social conditions. Social workers are involved in providing services to people in such areas as education, health, mental health, housing, public welfare, counseling, services to the aging, care for the retarded, recreation, corrections and criminal justice, family services, child welfare services, services for the physically and mentally handicapped, vocational rehabilitation and the like. This includes services designed to protect, promote or restore the well-being of people. Both universal services and services for special-needs groups are included.

Social work is not only restorative in nature, responding to human problems after the fact; there is also a strong commitment towards preventive measures. An emphasis upon institutional change within society is predicated upon the principle that society has a responsibility to protect the most vulnerable groups in its midst from falling prey to damage and injury. This expresses itself in the central thrust of the social work profession towards social justice.

The origins of social work are rooted in the ancient human impulse of altruism, the desire to care for one another's needs. Social work became a profession around the beginning of the twentieth century through the efforts of social reformers to meet the needs of the poor, of neglected children and of exploited workers through the better organization of charities and the first "friendly visitors." Social workers led the fight for child labor laws, more humane industrial conditions, voting rights for women and other progressive causes.

Today, professional social work as described in a publication of the National Association of Social Workers, is a "dynamic, growing profession based on knowledge drawn from the social sciences and its own research and practice. It has a code of ethics, standards for practice, and a nationwide system of accredited educational programs designed to merge the impulse to help others with the skill and knowledge needed to provide that help."

*"When I entered the University of Kentucky as a freshman, I was unsure about which major to choose. I knew that I was interested in the effects of inequalities in our society and wanted to pursue a career that would enable me to be an agent of change. The contagious spirit of academic and social activism that I found among the students and professors in the College of Social Work led me to explore the social work profession. UK's College of Social Work provided me with a valuable combination of challenging classroom material and experience-based field education. As I prepare for graduation, I am thankful to the College of Social Work for equipping me with a strong knowledge base as well a strong skills base from which to begin a career of service."*

– Bree Pearsall  
Class of 2006

### Program Accreditation

Both the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and the Master of Social Work degree programs are fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

### Licensing

Social work graduates are eligible for licensing from the State Board of Examiners of Social Work of Kentucky, PO Box 456, Frankfort, KY 40602, as follows:

- BASW graduates for license as "social workers"
- MSW graduates for license as "certified social workers"

### Undergraduate Program in Social Work

The University of Kentucky grants the following degree in the College of Social Work:

- Bachelor of Arts in Social Work

### THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM OF EDUCATION FOR SOCIAL WORK

The undergraduate program in social work was inaugurated in 1944. Effective July 1, 1969, its administration was transferred from the College of Arts and Sciences to the newly established College of Social Professions, which is now the College of Social Work. Freshmen and transfer students who elect social work as a major should arrange to register in the College of Social Work. Each student will be assigned a member of the faculty of the college as an advisor who will assist in the selection of appropriate courses and ensure that the requirements for the B.A. degree are met. Students who wish special information or a personal interview prior to

registration may make an appointment through the Office of the Director of the Undergraduate Program of the College of Social Work.

The principal objective of the undergraduate program is to prepare students for beginning social work practice. Additionally, it prepares students for graduate professional education.

All social work majors have actual experience in the field under faculty direction. These experiences are provided in teaching-learning centers in a variety of agencies located in or adjacent to Lexington.

Courses in social work contribute to the liberal education of all students and help prepare them to be more effective citizens in a complex society in which welfare issues and programs are of increasing importance to everyone.

These courses may serve one or more of the following purposes:

1. To enrich and broaden the knowledge of social problems and social issues.
2. To help develop effective interpersonal relations.
3. To provide basic knowledge of social services to students who are preparing for careers in other helping professions (i.e., special education, rehabilitation, nursing, law, medicine).

### Advising

Every student is assigned an academic advisor who assists them in preparing for registration each semester. Undergraduate advisors are assigned by the Director of the Undergraduate Program, 625 Patterson Office Tower, (859) 257-2350.