

THE UNIVERSITY OF FINDLAY SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The admission standards of the Social Work Program at the University of Findlay have been developed to ensure that students pursuing a social work education possess the qualities, both personal and academic, which will lead to successful, entry-level professional practice. The social work profession relies on educated and well-trained practitioners to provide services to clients. It is the obligation of The University of Findlay Social Work Program to admit and graduate only those students who can fulfill the profession’s mission.

Any student interested in a career in social work is encouraged to apply. No decision made by the Social Work Program with regards to curriculum, personnel decisions, or student recruitment and retention will be made based on race, color, ethnicity, gender, age, political or sexual orientation, marital or veteran status.

Admission Criteria

1. Any student at The University of Findlay who wishes to major in social work must make a formal application. Inquiries should be directed to the Chair of the Social Work Program.
2. In order to apply, the student must have successfully completed (grade C or better) SOWK 101, Introduction to Social Work, and (or be enrolled in) the other two introductory courses in the social work curriculum; SOWK 310, Field Placement I; and SOWK 360, Human Behavior in the Social Environment.
3. The applicant must have successfully completed (grade C or better) or be enrolled in English 106, or English 202 and any two lower-level courses from psychology or sociology.
4. The applicant must have a 2.75 for all courses taken within the area of social sciences. In addition, a 2.5 grade point average is required for all courses completed, either at The University of Findlay or elsewhere.
5. The student may make application for admission ay time after the conditions in “B” and “C” have been fulfilled, normally during the first semester of junior year.
6. The student must complete the standard application form.
7. The student must have submitted under separate cover three personal letters of reference in addition to the application. One reference should be completed by a full-time faculty member of the University of Findlay faculty. The remaining letters of reference may be completed by persons able to make significant judgments regarding the applicant’s professional and ethical behavior, the applicant’s commitment to diversity, and/or their academic record. A transfer student should seek one reference from a full-time faculty member from their previous institution in lieu of one from the University of Findlay.
8. In an autobiographical essay, the student should write in detail of their interest in the field of social work, career and personal goals (both short and long term), and an evaluation of their strengths and areas of opportunity in relation to their aspirations within the social work profession, their alignment with the Social Work Program mission, and commitment to anti-racist, diversity, equity, and inclusive practices. An outline to guide applicants in writing the essay is found within the admission packet.
9. After the completed application and letters of reference are completed, they are sent to the Chair of the Social Work Program and then an interview with the social work faculty will be scheduled. The interview allows the student and faculty members to share insights and feelings regarding career and personal objectives in order that a sound judgement regarding the admission to the program may be made.
10. Once admitted to the program, students must agree to join the NASW as a student member and obtain liability insurance once in the program, prior to the start of SOWK 410, Field Placement II.

Decision

Within five working days after the interview the student will receive notification on the decision made by the faculty with regards to the application for admission to the Social Work Program. The decision will be one of the following:

1. Full Standing – Permission granted to enter the Social Work Program and to complete degree requirements.
2. Conditional Admission – Permission granted to continue coursework within the program, with specific conditions to be met by the applicant within a prescribed period.

Reasons for conditional admission

1. A below-minimum grade point average within the area of social sciences. One semester will be given to correct the deficiency. At the end of that semester a one-time extension of a second semester may be granted if progress is shown but the deficiency has not been fully corrected.
2. A below-minimum overall grade point average. One semester will be given to correct the deficiency. At the end of that semester a one-time extension of a second semester may be granted if progress is shown but the deficiency has not been fully corrected.
3. Other requirements not completed, such as the psychology/sociology prerequisites. One semester will be given to correct the deficiencies. Any inability to correct or make satisfactory academic progress may result in the student’s suspension from the program.
4. No Admission – If, in the professional opinion of the Social Work Program, based upon all available information received, it is believed that the applicant does not possess those personal or academic characteristics to the extent required to become an effective entry level social worker, the application will be rejected, and the student will not be admitted to the social work program.

The applicant shall retain the right to have any decision reviewed if it is felt that the decision was rendered unfairly or unjustly.

Review Procedure

The following procedure has been established for the reconsideration of an application:

1. The applicant, within ten days of notification of an adverse decision, must make their objections known in writing to the Dean of the College of Health Professions with a copy forwarded to the Chair of the Social Work Program. This letter must detail the applicant’s reasons for requesting a review of the decision.
2. Within five days of the receipt of the review request, a meeting will be scheduled by the Chair of the College of Health Professions to include said Division Chair acting as a neutral party, the Social Work Program Chair, and the applicant. Both sides of the issue will be presented, allowing the neutral party to question each individual present.
3. Within five working days of that meeting, the Chair of the College of Health Professions will render a decision either supporting or reversing the original decision.

Transfer Students

Any transfer student wishing to major in social work who has completed less than 30 total semester hours of credit at any institution of higher learning must complete one semester (at least 12 hours) of coursework at the University of Findlay prior to applying to the Social Work Program.

Maintenance

A student will remain in good standing within the Social Work Program as long as they continue to uphold the personal and academic performance required by the profession and the program. The following specific requirements must be upheld:

1. Any student having completed 57 semester hours or less of coursework must maintain a 2.0 grade point average in all coursework.

Any student having completed more than 57 semester hours of coursework must maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average within the area of social sciences. An overall grad point average of at least 2.2 must be maintained from the time of admission to the program.

1. Personal attributes of the student social worker must be maintained at an acceptable level at all times.
2. The student must successfully complete all coursework in field instruction and associated requirements.

Deficiencies

If at any time it comes to the attention of the Chair of the Program that nay of these standards are not being met by an individual student, a conference involving the student and social work faculty will be held to determine whether or not the status of the student within the Social Work Program should be modified. If in the opinion of the Chair the student is found to be deficient in any area and a change is indicated, the student may be placed in one of the following categories:

1. Probation, Category I

Imposed upon any student whose grade point average falls below the minimum requirements or who’s personal attributes fall below the expected level. Usually, one semester is given to correct these deficiencies. The student is not permitted to register for any coursework in field instruction until the deficiency is removed.

1. Probation, Category II

Imposed upon any student who receives an unsatisfactory (U) grade for any portion of field instruction. If placed in this category, the student will be permitted to retake the field instruction course upon the recommendation of the social work faculty.

1. Suspension

Imposed only in the event it is deemed necessary to exclude the student from any further coursework or field instruction within the Social Work Program. Counseling will be offered to assist the student in reviewing options with regards to continuing academic work in another discipline.

If at any time a student is either placed on probation or suspended from the program that student shall maintain the right to a formal review of the decision as outlined in the section entitled “Review Procedure” earlier in this document.



Autobiographical Essay

A major part of your application for admission to the social work program is an autobiographical essay discussing your reasons for selecting social work a career. The content of this essay will be used to help the social work faculty in making a decision about your potential as a social worker. The essay itself will also assist the faculty in assessing your basic writing skills. In order to facilitate review, please follow the outline below in organizing your essay. You must address each of the points in the outline.

1. What are the major reasons why you are interested in social work as a career choice?
2. The mission of the social work program is:

The University of Findlay Social Work Program mission is to prepare baccalaureate-level social workers with the values, ethics, and skills for generalist social work practice through scientific inquiry, grounded in person-in-environment and global perspectives. The program utilizes an anti-racist and anti-oppressive lens to focus on identifying and honoring diversity, recognizing how systems of oppression impact equity, while promoting environmental justice for human and community well-being.

* 1. How do you see your ability to align with this statement?

1. Describe some of the successes you have achieved in school, work, and your personal life.
2. What barriers, if any, have you had to overcome in your pursuit of an education, employment, or personal goals?
3. Describe any experience you may have had working with people, both paid and voluntary. Include the type of setting, the clientele you worked with and the length of your experience.
4. The profession of social work places an emphasis on respecting anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion:
   1. What experiences have you had that demonstrate your ability to work effectively with people from diverse populations that reflect differences in religious, racial, ethnic, sexuality and gender identity, and socio-economic status?
   2. What specific difficulties do you think you might have in working with any of the above areas of diversity?

All essays should be typed and attached to the application.