Mission Statement

The Social Work Program at Westfield State prepares students for bachelor’s level social work positions by providing them with the values and ethics, critical thinking and practice skills, and the knowledge needed to practice in today’s complex world. The Program also prepares students for graduate level education in social work.

The Social Work Program includes both classroom work and a two semester (400 hour) internship. The Program’s curriculum is grounded in a liberal arts base and is focused around: (1) generalist social work practice, (2) social welfare policy and planning, (3) human behavior and the social environment, (4) research, and (5) the field practicum experience. Throughout the curriculum, the issues of diversity, culturally competent practice, promotion of social and economic justice, practice with populations at risk, the values and ethics of social work, and the changing knowledge base for social work practice are integrated.

The Baccalaureate Program in Social Work at Westfield State is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

Bachelor of Social Work Program

Westfield State University, through the full-time or part-time day programs, offers a Bachelor’s of Social Work Degree. With this degree, graduates are immediately eligible to take the Licensed Social Worker exam in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and are eligible for advanced standing in Masters in Social Work programs throughout the country.
Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) Requirements

All students who wish to complete a bachelor’s degree at Westfield State University must complete 120 credit hours of study. As part of the that 120 credits they must complete the college common core (liberal arts requirements) and one major. Prior to beginning social work major courses students are required to complete a work-related or volunteer experience of 60 hours of face-to-face human service activity. The Social Work major requires that students complete foundation and major courses. The foundation course requirements are designed to also meet college common core requirements. The major courses include a two day a week (16 hours per week) hands-on practicum during the final year of the program. In this practicum, students are placed in a local social service agency and have the opportunity to work under the supervision of a qualified social worker.

Social Work Foundation
SOCI 0101 Principles of Sociology
PSYC 0101 Introduction to Psychology
POLS 0101 American National Government
or
HIST 0132 US Hist. & Govt. since 1865
ECON 0101 Principles of Macroeconomics
BIOL 0103 Human Biology
or
BIOL 0106 Biology Today

Social Work Major
SOCW 0103 Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare (3)
SOCW 0204 Introduction to Research Methods in Social Work (3)
SOCW 0301 Advanced Research Methods (3)
SOCW 0241 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I (3)
SOCW 0242 Human Behavior and the Social Environment II (3)
SOCW 0243 Social Welfare Policy Analysis (3)
SOCW 0340 Introduction to Generalist Practice (3)
SOCW 0341 Generalist Practice with Communities & Organizations (3)
SOCW 0342 Gen. Practice with Individuals (3)
SOCW 0343 Generalist Practice with Families & Groups (3)
SOCW 0351 Social Work Practicum I (6)
SOCW 0352 Social Work Practicum II (6)

Completing the BSW Program

Full-Time Day Option
For students looking to complete a college degree in four years full-time. A student under this option takes a 15 credit load every semester (five classes per semester that meet for approximately three hours per week). Students who have completed credits at another college or completed an Associates degree can shorten the time they are at Westfield State University, but the Westfield State University Social Work program requires two years of on-campus course work.

Part-Time Option
For students looking to complete a college degree but are unable to enroll full-time. A student under this option takes up to 9 credits per semester (from 1 to 3 classes each semester). Under this option, students are allowed to complete their degree at their own pace. Academic advisors assist students with developing an individual course of study.

Transfer Students
For students who wish to transfer to Westfield State to complete a social work degree from another institution. Many credits completed at other institutions can transfer to Westfield State and count as general college credit; some may count as common core requirements, and, if the program the student is transferring from is a Council on Social Work Education accredited social work program; some courses may count toward the Westfield State social work major. Beyond general transfer of credits, Westfield State offers the Commonwealth Transfer Compact to students from community colleges across the Commonwealth and the Social Work Program is a joint admissions program for those schools. Community college students should contact the transfer coordinator at their school to learn about transfer agreements with Westfield State that are presently in place. As part of the decision to transfer to the Westfield State Social Work Program, students should consider that it will take them two academic years to complete the required course work.

Second Bachelor’s Degree
On occasion, a student who has completed a bachelor’s degree in another field sees the value of a BSW and wishes to enroll at Westfield State to complete a second Bachelor’s degree in Social Work. To complete a second Bachelor’s degree, students are required to complete all of the requirements of the major for the second degree. It will take two academic years to complete the required course work for the second degree.