

**NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL
STATE UNIVERSITY**
Department of Social Work and Sociology
Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) Program
2017 – 2018 Department Fact Sheet on Steps toward Graduation

STEP I: Entering the Department

- All entering Freshmen and transfer students may declare social work as their major on their application/admissions form. They will then automatically be assigned to the social work program for advisement.
- Current NCAT students who wish to change their major to social work from another major must have a minimum overall GPA of 2.6. They need to complete the necessary paperwork by obtaining required signatures (Deans and Chairs of both majors) on a Change of Major form from the Registrar's Office.

STEP II: Entering the Program*

- All social work majors must be officially accepted into the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) Program through a formal admission process.
- This admission process may take place during either the fall or the spring semester (typically during the sophomore year), as students meet the eligibility criteria.
- Students are eligible to apply for the social work program when they have earned a minimum of 45 credits, have taken MATH 101 and BIOL 100, have successfully completed SOWK 133 and SOWK 134 with a grade of "C" or higher, have completed or are currently enrolled in SOWK 230/430 and SOWK 285, and have earned a 2.6 GPA or higher.
- The following student packet items will be part of the formal admissions process; all items must be submitted to the student's faculty advisor.
 1. Submit an unofficial transcript
 2. Submit a brief (2-3 page, double-spaced, typewritten) essay that
 - presents factors that contributed to your selection of social work as a major
 - describes past work experiences, leadership and volunteer activities,
 - describes your support systems,
 - identifies your potential strengths and growth areas, and
 - identifies and describes any physical or emotional limitation(s) that may impede your ability to practice social work.
 3. Attend an Information Session with a faculty member (these will be posted); at the end of this session, you and the interviewer will sign the Undergraduate Student Admissions Contract.
- After the completed student packet has been reviewed by the BSW Faculty, a letter will be e-mailed to each student advising of the acceptance, acceptance with provisions, or denial status of the application. Typically these letters will not be distributed until after the end of the semester in which one applies. Keep this documentation as it is are required for you to take the HBSE courses as well as for admission into Field Education.

***NOTE: Students will not be accepted into the BSW program unless they have earned a “C” or higher in the four core social work courses (SOWK 133, 134, 230 and 285). Students must maintain a 2.6 (or above) GPA to remain in the BSW Program and graduate with a BSW degree. No academic credit is granted for life experiences or previous work experiences.**

In addition to a GPA below 2.6, reasons for program denial include, but are not limited to:

- Noncompliance in turning in completed application during the acceptance period
- Lack of attendance in an Information Session
- Demonstration of behavior (s) and attitude(s) that limit one’s success in the social work profession.

STEP III: Junior Year Interview and Field Placement Assignment

All social work majors who have reached the status of Junior, **must**, during a designated period in January (as outlined in the annual calendar), prepare for their field practicum that takes place both fall and spring semesters of their senior year. Students must complete all pre-requisite courses before interviewing for a field placement and must satisfactorily pass these courses before beginning an internship. The process includes:

- attending an orientation,
- participating in an agency fair,
- completing the Field Application Packet (which includes a written narrative, resume’, proof of previous volunteer hours, copies of program admissions letter, driver’s license, and auto insurance),
- shadowing a current intern,
- interviewing with the Field Director,
- receiving a tentative placement assignment,
- interviewing in the practicum site and
- being accepted in the internship for the following year.

STEP IV: Senior Seminar

All BSW applicants for graduation, during the spring of their senior year, must take the capstone course SOWK 497 (Senior Seminar). This course allows graduating seniors to compile projects, essays, training, field experiences, and sample works for display in a portfolio. Students are asked to submit a paper in APA format that demonstrates their ability to integrate the foundation courses together in a coherent manner as they describe how the courses and assignments have led to mastery of the nine (9) Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) competencies.

Note: Students are required to join and participate in the Social Work Society as part of their matriculation in the BSW Program at NCAT.