****

Dear Prospective Student,

I am pleased to know of your interest in applying for the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program in the School of Social Work at Aurora University. Accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, our BSW program enables graduates to sit for the state social work licensing exam and to use the title “social worker”.

Attached you will find application forms and admissions instructions for the School of Social Work. **Please note that if you are accepted to the BSW program, you will be required to complete a background check within 7 days of receiving your admission letter. There is a fee to complete the background check of approximately $40 to $50. You will receive additional information with your status letter after the completed application is received**. Reading these materials will help guide you through the application and admissions process.

We have designed our admissions process to give you as much information as possible about our BSW program. If at any point you have additional questions about the admissions process or the BSW program itself, feel free to contact me by e-mail at [aarendt@aurora.edu](mailto:aarendt@aurora.edu) or by phone (630) 844-5793.

Thank you for your interest in Aurora University’s School of Social Work. We look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,

Alison Arendt

Alison S. Arendt, MSW, LCSW

BSW Program Director, School of Social Work



**Bachelor of Social Work**

**Admissions Instructions for Transfer Students**

**Read carefully the steps outlined here which will facilitate your timely admission to the School of Social Work.**

1. Complete the BSW Application forms and submit these forms to the School of Social Work. Please be thoughtful with your responses on these application forms since our admissions process is designed to enable us to appropriately counsel you regarding your entrance into the BSW program.

**BSW application materials should be submitted via link to BSW on Aurora.edu website.**

1. Once you have been accepted into the University and your BSW application materials have been received, you may, 1) receive a letter within ten days informing you of the admission decision; **or** 2) be contacted to arrange for a personal interview with a social work faculty member. During this interview you will be asked to elaborate on your written responses to the questions on the BSW application forms. You will also have an opportunity to have your concerns and questions about the program addressed A letter regarding the admission decision will be mailed to you within ten days of the interview.
2. If you are a student on the Aurora Campus, after being accepted to the BSW program, you will register for social work course work with your advisor. Ms. Kendra Trudo (Crouse Center), Ms. Kerby Mickelson (Crouse Center), Ms. Amy Neff (Woodstock) Ms. Jennifer Everhart (AU Online) or another advisor, will assist you with the process. At that time, an academic plan will be developed with you that will ensure your timely graduation. A copy of this plan will be given to you for your records.



**School of Social Work**

**Criteria for Admission to the Bachelor of Social Work Program**

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be accepted into the BSW program:

* Have earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 point scale;
* Have earned or are planning to have earned approximately 60 semester hours prior to beginning the fall required social work course work;
* Completion of the following social work supportive liberal arts prerequisites or their equivalent

PSC 1300 U.S. Government or an equivalent Political Science course

PSY 1100 General Psychology

SOC 1100 Principles of Sociology

(After an administrative review, students may be admitted to the BSW program and complete one course concurrently with social work courses if necessary);

* Be willing to adhere to the social work Code of Ethics;
* Have a career goal that is consistent with the BSW program’s philosophy and curriculum;
* Legally be able to qualify for the state social work license (prior arrest and convictions may disqualify an applicant);

****

**School of Social Work**

**B.S.W. Program**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Is the BSW program accredited?**

*The BSW program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The program has been accredited by CSWE since 1974, which was the first year undergraduate programs were accredited. We have maintained our accreditation for over 40 years.*

**Why is an accredited program important?**

*In order to be eligible to be a licensed social worker, a student must graduate from a CSWE accredited school. Many agencies that employ social workers require social workers to be licensed.*

**When should I apply for admission to the School of Social Work?**

*Most applicants complete the admissions process during the spring and early summer of their sophomore year. Part-time or adult degree completion students in our online program or our Woodstock campus can apply and begin the program during any term.*

**Can I begin the BSW Program course work at any time?**

*Once admitted to the BSW program, students can begin social work courses in the fall semester.  If a student is admitted to the BSW program for the spring semester, he/she should use the spring semester to complete any necessary pre-requisites or electives. Starting the program in the spring term may result in a 5 semester progression plan, or a 4 semester progression plan depending on the student’s transferable credits.*

**Can I complete the BSW degree on a part time basis?**

*Students can complete the BSW program part-time over a three or four-year period. Considerations of when courses are available and how students use financial assistance to pay for tuition are factors in choosing part-time or full-time enrollment.*

**Do I need an Associates of Arts (A.A.) or Associates of Science (A.S.) Degree?**

*Applicants do not need to have earned an A.A. degree or an A.S. degree to gain admission to the BSW program. Please note that students are considered junior status if they transfer in 60 credits or more. Students who have not earned either of these degrees must meet the university’s general education graduation requirements.*

**How can I find out what courses I should take prior to transferring to Aurora University to ensure completion of my BSW degree requirements within two years?**

*Students planning on transferring to Aurora University should contact the Admissions Office on the Aurora, Woodstock, Orchard Center, George Williams College campus, or online to ensure that the courses they are taking or plan to take at their current academic institution will facilitate the transfer process and prepare them for the BSW course work*. *The Admissions Office phone number on the Aurora Campus is (630) 844-5533. The George Williams College Campus Office of Admissions phone number is (262) 245-8586.*

**Can I apply to the BSW program prior to completing my sophomore year or 60**

**semester hours?**

*Students can apply and will be accepted provisionally into the BSW program if they plan on completing 60 semester hours prior to beginning the required social work course work. Evidence of a current class schedule with pending credits will also be reviewed. Students who will have completed slightly fewer semester hours prior to beginning the social work required course will be accepted provided they are willing to develop a plan to complete these hours.*

**What if my cumulative grade point average is below the require 2.5 on a 4.0 point scale?**

*Students who have a cumulative grade point average slightly below the required minimum should consider taking courses that will compliment the BSW program until a 2.5 has been achieved. Some students benefit from retaking courses that were completed with a lower grade. BSW students need to be prepared to manage rigorous academic expectations in order to achieve competence in social work skills.*

**Can I receive social work credits for life or work experience?**

*The Council on Social Work Education, the social work accrediting body, does not permit life or work experience to be used for either required or elective social work courses.*

**Can I transfer social work or human service courses into the university and have them apply to the required social work course work?**

*Only courses taken in an academic institution accredited by the Council on Social Work Education can be used to meet* ***required*** *social work course work. Such non-accredited courses can, of course, be used to meet the 120 semester hour general university degree requirement.*