APPROVAL FORM FOR

DEGREE PROGRAMS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

NOTE: This form is a cover sheet that must accompany the degree program change proposal. The actual proposal should be prepared in accordance with format requirements provided in the *Guide and Format for Curriculum Proposals* published by the UCCC. Both cover sheet and proposal should be submitted to UCCC Mail Stop 9702 (281 Garner Hall), Phone: 325-9410.

College Arts and Sciences **Department:** Sociology

Contact Person: Jada Johnson **Mail Stop:** 9562 **E-mail:** jjohnson@socialwork.msstate.edu

Nature of Change: Modification **Date Initiated:** 11/15/2024

Current Degree (BS, MS, etc.): BSW

Current Major: Social Work

Current Concentration(s): _____

Current Campus(es): ☑ Starkville ☐ Meridian ☐ Distance ☐ Gulf Coast*

*Gulf Coast campus for Bagley College of Engineering on

New Degree (BS, MS, etc.): _____

Effective Date:

Semester	Year
Fall	2025

**Any new program or modification desiring a starting semester other than fall must include a justification

Proposed Major: _____

Proposed Concentration(s): _____

Proposed Campus(es)

☑ Starkville
☐ Meridian
☐ Distance
☐ Gulf Coast*

*Gulf Coast campus for Bagley College of Engineering

Summary of Proposed Changes:

A summary of the proposed changes includes: (1) a deletion of three courses from the admission criteria, but not the program curriculum outline; (2) an addition of a recently approved course to the list of electives on the program curriculum outline, and (3) a deletion of a restriction regarding a humanities elective.

Approved:	Date:
Nicole Reed Department Head	1/2/25
Dawn Forfill Director of Academic Quality	1/3/25
Alicia Hall Chair, College or School Curriculum Committee	1/25/25
Melissa Delp Dean of College or School	2/3/25
Chair, University Committee on Courses and Curricula	
Chair, Graduate Council (if applicable)	
Chair, Deans Council	

FOR OIRE USE ONLY

- ☐ Substantive Change to SACSCOC
- ☐ Notification to SACSCOC
- ☒ No significant departure

OIRE Representative Initials

DEGREE MODIFICATION OUTLINE FORM

Use the chart below to make modifications to an existing undergraduate degree outline. If any General Education (Core) course is acceptable in the category, please indicate by saying "any Gen Ed course". There is no need to type in the whole list. All deleted courses and information should be shown in *italics* and all new courses and information in **bold**. Include the course prefix, number, and title in both columns. Expand this table as needed.

CURRENT Degree Description	PROPOSED Degree Description
Degree: Bachelor of Social Work Major: Social Work	Degree: Bachelor of Social Work Major: Social Work
The Social Work Program at Mississippi State University is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Social work is a challenging and rewarding profession with the primary goal of enhancing individual functioning and promoting human rights and social and economic justice. The Bachelor of Social Work graduate is prepared to pursue graduate social work education or to work as a generalist social work practitioner in a variety of practice settings. These include, but are not limited to the following: child welfare service agencies, family services, medical hospitals, mental health clinics, public health clinics, home health agencies, nursing homes, industries, juvenile and family court, shelters for battered women and children, neighborhood and community services. The Social Work curriculum is grounded in a liberal arts perspective. This liberal arts perspective enhances the person-in-environment focus of generalist social work practice. A student may declare social work as a major at any time in his or her academic career. There is a formal admission process into the program. Some upper division courses are restricted to students who have been admitted to the program. To be eligible for admission to the social work program students must: 1. Have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 with a 2.5 GPA for all social work courses; 2. Complete two of the following social work courses with a minimum grade of "C": SW 2303 Social Welfare Policy I, SW 3003 Social Work with At-Risk Populations, and SW 3013 Human Behavior in the Social Environment I; 3. Complete SW 2313 Intro to Social Work (including 30 hrs of service learning experience) with a minimum grade of "B"; 4. Complete an "Application for Admission" including three references on the designated program form; 5. Participate in a personal interview with Social Work Admissions Committee. The following liberal arts courses must be completed prior to petition for admission to the major: • EN 1103 English Composition I 3	The Social Work Program at Mississippi State University is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Social work is a challenging and rewarding profession with the primary goal of enhancing individual functioning and promoting human rights and social and economic justice. The Bachelor of Social Work graduate is prepared to pursue graduate social work education or to work as a generalist social work practitioner in a variety of practice settings. These include, but are not limited to the following: child welfare service agencies, family services, medical hospitals, mental health clinics, public health clinics, home health agencies, nursing homes, industries, juvenile and family court, shelters for battered women and children, neighborhood and community services. The Social Work curriculum is grounded in a liberal arts perspective. This liberal arts perspective enhances the person-in-environment focus of generalist social work practice. A student may declare social work as a major at any time in his or her academic career. There is a formal admission process into the program. Some upper division courses are restricted to students who have been admitted to the program. To be eligible for admission to the social work program students must: 1. Have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 with a 2.5 GPA for all social work courses; 2. Complete two of the following social work courses with a minimum grade of "C": SW 2303 Social Welfare Policy I, SW 3003 Social Work with At-Risk Populations, and SW 3013 Human Behavior in the Social Environment I; 3. Complete SW 2313 Intro to Social Work (including 30 hrs of service learning experience) with a minimum grade of "B"; 4. Complete an "Application for Admission" including three references on the designated program form; 5. Participate in a personal interview with Social Work Admissions Committee. The following liberal arts courses must be completed prior to petition for admission to the major: • EN 1103 English Composition I 3

or EN 1104 Expanded English Composition I

- EN 1113 English Composition II 3
  or EN 1173 Accelerated Composition II
- *MA 1313 College Algebra* *3*
- *BIO 1004 Anatomy and Physiology* *4*
- PS 1113 American Government 3
- PSY 1013 General Psychology 3
- SO 1003 Introduction to Sociology 3
- *EC 2113 Principles of Macroeconomics* *3*

Before enrolling in any social work classes, it is the responsibility of the student to consult with their social work advisor regarding any prerequisites for social work classes.

The criteria for remaining in the program include:

1. Maintain an overall GPA of 2.0, with a 2.5 GPA for all social work courses.
2. Must earn a minimum of a "C" in each social work course.
3. Continue to demonstrate an aptitude for a social work career.
4. Adhere to all academic expectations of the university and the social work program.
5. Adhere to the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics.

or EN 1104 Expanded English Composition I

- EN 1113 English Composition II 3
  or EN 1173 Accelerated Composition II
- PS 1113 American Government 3
- PSY 1013 General Psychology 3
- SO 1003 Introduction to Sociology 3

Before enrolling in any social work classes, it is the responsibility of the student to consult with their social work advisor regarding any prerequisites for social work classes.

The criteria for remaining in the program include:

1. Maintain an overall GPA of 2.0, with a 2.5 GPA for all social work courses.
2. Must earn a minimum of a "C" in each social work course.
3. Continue to demonstrate an aptitude for a social work career.
4. Adhere to all academic expectations of the university and the social work program.
5. Adhere to the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics.

CURRENT CURRICULUM OUTLINE	Required Hours
English Composition:	
EN 1103 English Composition I or EN 1104 Expanded English Composition I	3
EN 1113 English Composition II or EN 1173 Accelerated Composition II	3
Foreign Language:	
Foreign Language I	3
Foreign Language II	3
Humanities:	
Literature– A&S core	3
History– A&S core	3
PHI 1103 Introduction to Philosophy or PHI 1113 Introduction to Logic or PHI 1123 Introduction to Ethics	3
Literature Elective	3
History Elective	3
Humanities Elective [1]	3
Mathematics:	
ST 2113 Introduction to Statistics	3
Students who do not meet the ACT	

PROPOSED CURRICULUM OUTLINE	Required Hours
English Composition:	
EN 1103 English Composition I or EN 1104 Expanded English Composition I	3
EN 1113 English Composition II or EN 1173 Accelerated Composition II	3
Foreign Language:	
Foreign Language I	3
Foreign Language II	3
Humanities:	
Literature– A&S core	3
History– A&S core	3
PHI 1103 Introduction to Philosophy or PHI 1113 Introduction to Logic or PHI 1123 Introduction to Ethics	3
Literature Elective	3
History Elective	3
Humanities Elective [1]	3
Mathematics:	
ST 2113 Introduction to Statistics	3
Students who do not meet the ACT	

prerequisite for MA/ST 2113 will first need to successfully complete either MA 1103, MA 1313, or MA 1213. The course chosen to meet the prerequisite for MA/ST 2113 will count toward free elective hours.		*prerequisite for MA/ST 2113 will first need to successfully complete either MA 1103, MA 1313, or MA 1213. The course chosen to meet the prerequisite for MA/ST 2113 will count toward free elective hours.*	
Fine Arts: A&S core	 3	Fine Arts: A&S core	 3
Natural Sciences: BIO 1004 Anatomy and Physiology Physical Science w/ lab– A&S core Natural Science Elective– A&S core	 4 3-4 3-4	Natural Sciences: BIO 1004 Anatomy and Physiology Physical Science w/ lab– A&S core Natural Science Elective– A&S core	 4 3-4 3-4
Social Sciences: SO 1003 Introduction to Sociology PS 1113 American Government SW 3003 Social Work with At-Risk Populations PSY 1013 General Psychology EC 2113 Principles of Macroeconomics AN 1103 Introduction to Anthropology or AN 1143 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	 3 3 3 3 3 3	Social Sciences: SO 1003 Introduction to Sociology PS 1113 American Government SW 3003 Social Work with At-Risk Populations PSY 1013 General Psychology EC 2113 Principles of Macroeconomics AN 1103 Introduction to Anthropology or AN 1143 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	 3 3 3 3 3 3
Major Core: See advisor for course sequencing. SW 2303 Social Welfare Policy SW 2313 Introduction to Social Work/Social Welfare SW 2323 Social Welfare Policy II [2] SW 3013 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I SW 3023 Human Behavior and the social Environment II [2] SW 4613 Child Welfare Services SW 3213 Research Methods in Social Work [2] Choose one of the following: SW 3033 Seminar on Resilience SW 3043 Military Social Work SW 4623 Social Work with the Aged SW 4633 Social Work in Health Care SW 4643 Social Work Services in Schools SW 4533 Substance Abuse and Addictions in Social Work Services SW 4653 Social Work Family Violence SW 4713 Social Work Senior Seminar [2] Students must successfully complete a formal admissions process prior to taking	 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	Major Core: See advisor for course sequencing. SW 2303 Social Welfare Policy SW 2313 Introduction to Social Work/Social Welfare SW 2323 Social Welfare Policy II [2] SW 3013 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I SW 3023 Human Behavior and the social Environment II [2] SW 4613 Child Welfare Services SW 3213 Research Methods in Social Work [2] Choose one of the following: **SW 2023 Trauma Informed Social Work Practice** SW 3033 Seminar on Resilience SW 3043 Military Social Work SW 4623 Social Work with the Aged SW 4633 Social Work in Health Care SW 4643 Social Work Services in Schools SW 4533 Substance Abuse and Addictions in Social Work Services SW 4653 Social Work Family Violence Students must successfully complete a	 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

the following courses: SW 3513 Social Work Practice I [2] SW 3523 Social Work Practice II [2] SW 3533 Social Work with Communities and Organizations Field Work includes full-time placement for one semester in a supervised agency setting. SW 4916 Social Work Field Practicum/Seminar I [2] SW 4926 Social Work Practicum/Seminar II [2] SW 4713 Social Work Senior Seminar [2]	3 3 6 6 3	formal admissions process prior to taking the following courses: SW 3513 Social Work Practice I [2] SW 3523 Social Work Practice II [2] SW 3533 Social Work with Communities and Organizations Field Work includes full-time placement for one semester in a supervised agency setting. SW 4916 Social Work Field Practicum/Seminar I [2] SW 4926 Social Work Practicum/Seminar II [2] SW 4713 Social Work Senior Seminar [2]	 3 3 3 6 6 3
Oral Communication: CO 1003 Fundamentals of Public Speaking or CO 1013 Introduction to Communication	3	Oral Communication: CO 1003 Fundamentals of Public Speaking or CO 1013 Introduction to Communication	3
Jr/Sr Writing: Satisfied with SW 4713 in the major		Jr/Sr Writing: Satisfied with SW 4713 in the major	
Computer Literacy: BIS 1012 Business Information Systems or TECH 1273 Computer Applications	2-3	Computer Literacy: BIS 1012 Business Information Systems or TECH 1273 Computer Applications	2-3
General Electives: Consult advisor	1-7	General Electives: Consult advisor	1-7
Total Hours	124	Total Hours	124
Note: Students must complete 31 upper division hours in A&S in residence at MSU. [1] Humanities elective must be course in A&S. *Any History course 1000-4999* [2] Course has prerequisite. Check course description in back of this catalog or consult advisor.		Note: Students must complete 31 upper division hours in A&S in residence at MSU. [1] Humanities elective must be course in A&S. [2] Course has prerequisite. Check course description in back of this catalog or consult advisor.	

JUSTIFICATION AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The majority of changes in this request involve the eligibility requirements of students to petition for admission to the social work program and are not program curriculum changes.

Two changes to the admission criteria include deleting two liberal arts courses from the admission criteria—although, not from our program curriculum—to avoid delays with student petitions for admission. Our social work students are largely community college transfers, who many times have not taken EC 2113 and BIO 1004 prior to transferring. The proposed deletions to the admission criteria support current programmatic practices. In recent years, our faculty have voted on allowing these two exceptions to the admission criteria on a semester-by-semester basis, then notified our majors. After tracking and assessing impact of this exception practice, we are ready to move

forward with making these deletions from the published admission criteria, whilst retaining both courses for completion in our program curriculum. The other change to our admission criteria involves deleting the math requirement from the admission criteria—although, not from our program curriculum. In June 2023, our program made changes to our math requirement, as did most disciplines in our College; these changes were addressed at that time in the curriculum outline but not in the admission criteria.

Our sole proposed addition to the curriculum outline contained in the request regards a course just recently approved, SW 2023 Trauma Informed Social Work Practice. The course was approved in September 2023, after an initial contingent passing in November 2022, with an effective date of fall 2023. Although it's a 2000-level course, while the other electives for this requirement are 3000-level and 4000-level, we affirm its value in being offered as a social work elective for degree credit and program completion. The selection of the 2000-level course code for SW 2023 was for consistency with complementing an existing course in another degree program—specifically a Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) course, HDFS 2023—as part of an interdisciplinary endorsement for Trauma Informed Child Advocacy (TICA).

The only other noted change in the proposed program modification includes deleting language we believe was previously added in error that involves restricting the humanities elective requirement to only include any History course 1000-4999.

There will not be any modification to student learning outcomes, as they remain consistent with learning competencies outlined by our accrediting body, the Council on Social Work Education. The change requests reflected in this program modification proposal should benefit students for a variety of reasons. For one, updating our language to reflect current practices will help with student advising as they work their way through the program. Students will have a clearer understanding of what is expected of them in our program. Additionally, by offering another elective for our students, we strengthen our program's reach in meeting the educational needs and interests of our diverse student body. Plus, it affirms students being able to pursue the TICA endorsement, while concurrently meeting the social work elective requirement for the social work degree. All proposed changes support alignment across the catalog listing, Degree Works, and current advising and programmatic practices. Our University mission is supported by these changes that support access for learners by increasing consistency in our published content, enhancing efficiency in our petition for admissions process, and broadening the courses offered for degree credit.

SUPPORT

A letter of support from the department is attached.

PROPOSED 4-LETTER ABBREVIATION

SWPS

CIP NUMBER

440701

EFFECTIVE DATE

Fall 2025

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

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December 6, 2024

Dear University Committee on Courses and Curriculum,

On behalf of the Department of Sociology, please accept this letter of support for the program modification to the B.S.W in Social Work. The Social Work program seeks to modify its admission criteria and curriculum to better align with current practices and support student success. These updates enhance student advising, clarify expectations, and expand elective offerings, supporting diverse educational interests while aligning with the Council on Social Work Education's learning competencies. The proposed changes also promote consistency across the catalog, Degree Works, and advising practices, advancing the University's mission of increasing access and efficiency for learners. During our faculty meeting on Friday, December 6th, the Department of Sociology faculty voted unanimously to support this program modification to the Social Work program.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact Dr. Ashley Vancil-Leap, Chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum and Policies Committee, at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Department of Sociology, Criminology and Social Work
Undergraduate Curriculum and Policies Committee

Ashley Vancil-Leap (Chair)

Raymond Barranco

Robert Boyd

Dana Dillard

Margaret Ralston