

## **Proposal for Change in Prerequisites and Co requisites for BSW Majors**

**November 6, 2015**

The faculty of the School of Social Work proposes the following changes:

(1) SOW 3302 (Professions of Social Work) must be taken either before or concurrently with SOW 3232 (Social Welfare Policy and Provisions).

(2) In addition, SOW 3302 must be taken prior to or concurrently with SOW 4101 (Human Behavior in the Social Environment 1) and SOW 4102 (Human Behavior in the Social Environment 11).

(3) If a student fails SOW 3302, no further core social work courses may be taken until he/she passes the course on the second attempt. Between the first and second attempt, the student is strongly encouraged to take ENC 3213 (Professional Writing). This course also satisfies a requirement for a Group 2 elective.

(4) Students may not take Professions more than twice so that a failing grade on the second attempt will result in dismissal from the Social Work program.

Rationale:

SOW 3302 (Profession of Social Work) is a WAC course that challenges the student's communication and critical thinking skills. Each semester approximately 10-15% of students enrolled in this course either fails it or withdraws, deciding to enroll at a later time. With the present prerequisite system, the students continue to take courses in the major, collecting a large number of credit hours. Then, upon taking SOW 3302 a second time, they find the material too challenging and fail again. By this time, students have invested time and money in the major, making the decision to change course very difficult. By the third attempt, the students may pass the course through their familiarity with the assignments, without having mastered the writing skills they will need in the upper level courses and field of practice. The faculty has also found an increase in the incidence of plagiarism among students taking the course more than once.

Conclusion:

The School of Social Work aspires to prepare students for the field of practice with skills that will enable them to be competent, employable professionals. If the student is not ready or able to demonstrate competence in the coursework, choice of a different undergraduate major is better made at an early stage in the required coursework.

A minimum grade of "C" is required for all SOW-prefixed courses. If a grade below "C" (such as "C-") is earned in a SOW-prefixed course, the course will not count toward any portion of the minimum 120-credit degree program.

All social work courses must be completed within the five-year period prior to graduation. (For example, students enrolled in Field in fall 2011 must have begun core social work coursework no earlier than fall 2006.)

Social Work Major Requirements - 39 credits		
Introductory Statistics or Intermediate Statistics or Experimental Design and Statistical Inference	STA 2023 or STA 3163 or PSY 3234	3
Profession of Social Work	SOW 3302*	3
Social Welfare Policy and Provisions	SOW 3232*(1)	3
<b>Human Behavior and the Social Environment 1</b>	<b>SOW 4101 (1)</b>	3
<b>Human Behavior and the Social Environment 2</b>	<b>SOW 4102(1)</b>	3
Social Work Practice 1	SOW 4300 (2) +	3
Social Work Practice 2	SOW 4313 (3) +	3
Social Work Practice 3	SOW 4343(3)+	3
Research Methods in Social Work	SOW 4403 (1) +	3
Field Education in Social Work	SOW 4510(5) +	12

\* Social Work Majors only

(1) SOW 3302 is the prerequisite or co requisite.

(2) + SOW 3302 and SOW 3232 are the prerequisites. SOW 3302 and SOW 3232 are the prerequisites or co requisites. FAU GPA of 2.5 to enroll.

(3)SOW 4300 is the prerequisite. FAU GPA of 2.5 to enroll.

(4) SOW 3302 is the prerequisite. + A statistics course, such as STA 2023, is recommended prior to SOW 4403

(5) See the Director of Field Education Internships.

+ Students must have a minimum FAU GPA of 2.5 to enroll.

~~Note: SOW 3232 and 3302 must be completed with a "C" or better prior to SOW 4300,. SOW 4101 and 4102 may be completed prior to or concurrently with SOW 4300. These five courses are prerequisites for SOW 4313 and SOW 4343.~~

**SOW 3302 must be taken prior to or concurrently with SOW 3232, SOW 4101 and 4102.**

<b>Approved by:</b> _____ <i>ju</i>	<b>Date:</b>
Department Chair: _____ <i>Bruce J. Omerlow</i>	12-1-15
College Curriculum Chair: _____ <i>Bruce J. Omerlow</i>	12/02/2015
College Dean: _____ <i>Wesley Hamilton</i>	12/03/2015
UUPC Chair: _____ <i>JEH</i>	12/4/15
Undergraduate Studies Dean: _____ <i>[Signature]</i>	12/7/15

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University Faculty Senate President

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Provost's Office

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