IMPACT LIVES AND COMMUNITIES

Middle Georgia State University

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK

Read on to learn more about the BSW program at MGA .

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mga.edu/social-work

WELCOME FROM THE
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

I am excited that you have an interest in the Bachelor of Social Work Program (BSW) at MGA. Whether your goal is to serve your local community as an entry-level social worker or to pursue graduate education in social work, as a student in the MGA BSW you will develop the skills you need to succeed!

Accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, the MGA BSW offers a unique blend of experiential, community-based, and traditional classroom learning. Our vision is to be a leader in community-based experiential learning to prepare skilled generalist social workers to serve and advocate through direct and community practice within the region and beyond.

Third-year coursework integrates hands-on learning to cultivate a strong foundation for your social work practice. In your fourth year, you'll engage in a field education practicum, further developing your practical skills. This practicum involves 200 hours of field experience per semester. In your final semester, you will showcase your learning at the BSW Showcase. During this event, you will demonstrate your social work practice competency to faculty, fellow students, and members of the broader community.

The MGA BSW Program has much to offer you! I invite you to learn more about our program, faculty and staff, and student organizations. Please reach out to me so I can help you reach your social work education and career goals.

Yours in service,

Rebekah Hazlett

Rebekah Hazlett, PhD, LMSW, BSW
BSW Program Director & Associate Professor of Social Work

LEARN MORE

@MGASocialWork

www.mga.edu/programs/social-work

Contact:
socialwork@mga.edu

OUR STORY

The MGA Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) Program welcomed its first cohort in the fall of 2020, immediately engaging students in community-based learning. Our program strives to build impactful community partnerships and currently works with more than 20 community agencies to support student learning and community needs. Graduates of our program serve throughout the Middle Georgia region, and a majority have successfully continued their education by pursuing an MSW.

The MGA BSW program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

MISSION

The MGA BSW program prepares engaged, lifelong learners through community-based experiential learning. Students are equipped to apply generalist social work skills to address the needs of diverse individuals, families, and communities. The program grounds competency-based learning in the values of service, competence, the importance of human relationships, diversity, and social justice. The MGA BSW program is committed to developing competent professional social workers skilled in empowering individuals and advocating for social change within the region and beyond.

FIND YOUR PATH WITH SOCIAL WORK!

Social workers create a positive impact in many ways - from counseling to community change.

Health social workers practice in settings that range from hospitals and outpatient centers to hospice and clinics. Social workers in healthcare settings support patient needs and serve as an important part of interdisciplinary care teams.

School social workers practice in K-12 school settings to support students and their families; enhancing student emotional well-being and academic performance.

Forensic social workers practice in a wide range of justice system settings (e.g. police departments, prisons, courts). Social workers in the justice system focus on crisis assessment and intervention, mediation, and resource linkage.

Mental health workers practice in mental health clinics, outpatient facilities, and psychiatric facilities; providing case management, counseling, and therapeutic services.

Child and family social workers practice in settings that serve the needs of children and families, including child welfare and other social service agencies, counseling centers, and advocacy centers. Roles may span from case management to therapy.

Macro social workers practice as researchers, policy makers, administrators, community organizers, and program developers in governmental and private agencies.

Learn more at: https://www.socialworkers.org/Careers/Career-Center/Explore-Social-Work/Social-Work-Specialty-Occupational-Profiles

BENEFITS OF A BSW

- **Competency-based education** prepares you for *your* career.
- Generalist social work skills are **transferrable** to a wide range of settings and professions.
- **Learn directly** from **social workers** and community practitioners.
- Opportunity to apply to ***Advanced-Standing Master of Social Work** (MSW) programs - only available to **eligible BSW graduates**.
- Graduate with a solid **professional social work identity**.
- Join a **growing profession** - 7% between 2023 and 2033 (US Bureau of Labor Statistics).

***An advanced-standing MSW takes approximately 30 hours to complete compared to 60 hours for a traditional MSW or counseling program.**

IS YOUR GOAL TO BE A COUNSELOR?

Did you know that first completing a **Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)** may put you on the fast track to reaching your clinical goal?

Undergraduate students who complete their **BSW** in a program accredited by the *Council on Social Work Education* may apply for what is known as an **Advanced-Standing Master of Social Work (MSW).**

An **Advanced-Standing MSW** can be completed in **30-39 hours** while *traditional MSW*, *Master of Counseling*, and *Master of Marriage and Family Therapy* programs require a minimum of **60 hours.** ***This is usually the difference of a full academic year.***

Masters-level social workers can serve in a **wide range of roles** from clinical (counseling and therapy roles) to policy and administration. In Georgia, MSW-trained social workers can pursue LMSW or LCSW licensure.

The MGA BSW Program prepares students to apply for and succeed in **Advanced Standing MSW programs**. *Check out what our alumni have to say on page 12.*

Middle Georgia State University

Learn more at: Comparison of LPC and LCSW

Learn in a program that balances flexibility with in-person learning

PROGRAM FEATURES

1. Complete your **core curriculum and lower division field of study courses** from any campus or fully online.
2. **Service opportunities** are integrated into classes - **supporting your learning** and ability to give back.
3. Choose from fully in-person or hybrid classes in the formal program (years 3 and 4).
4. **Course offerings seek to** increase flexibility while supporting in-person connection.
5. **Part and full-time** plans of study are available.
6. Learn directly from social work **practitioners** and **community partners.**
7. **Gain hands-on experience in years 3 & 4 of the formal program.**
8. **Complete your field education practicum in** two semesters instead of one to support work-school balance.
9. **Cohort-based** learning = support and interaction!
10. Receive **support** for career and graduate school planning.

Formal courses prepare you for career and graduate study!

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Students complete Core IMPACT Curriculum in the following areas:	
42 Hours	• Communicating in Writing (Writing) • Mathematics • Institutional Priority • Arts, Humanities & Ethics (Humanities) • Political Science & U.S. History (Citizenship) • Technology, Mathematics & Sciences (STEM) (MATH 1401 recommended) • Social Sciences (PSYC 1101 recommended)
Lower Division Field of Study Requirements (program prerequisites)	
18 Hours	• PSYC 1101 or guided elective if PSYC 1101 completed in core curriculum • PSYC 2103: Introduction to Human Development • SOCW 2215: Introduction to Social Work • SOCW 2400: Critical Thinking and Writing for Social Work • SOCW 2700: Social Work and the Social Welfare System • Guided Elective
BSW Program Formal Program	
51 Hours	• SOCW 3000: Cultural Humility and Responsiveness in Social Work • SOCW 3100: Human Behavior and the Social Environment • SOCW 3200: Direct Social Work Practice I • SOCW 3400: Practice Lab I- Individuals, Families and Groups • SOCW 3500: Social Work Practice with Communities and Organizations • SOCW 3700: Social Welfare and Policy Practice • SOCW 3800: Practice Lab II: Change in Organizations and Communities • SOCW 4000: Direct Social Work Practice II • SOCW 4200: Social Work Professionalism and Practice Ethics • SOCW 4300: Social Work Practicum and Seminar I • SOCW 4500: Organizational and Community Change • SOCW 4600: Social Work Practicum and Seminar II • 9 *Hours of SOCW Electives*
9 Hours	**General Electives -** Social work students are encouraged to complete additional *SOCW Electives*

Progression requirements support your success!

Program acceptance occurs each fall

TRADITIONAL PLAN OF STUDY

1st Year - Social Work Major			
Fall Semester (16 hours)		Spring Semester (16 hours)	
☐ ENG 1101	3	☐ ENG 1102	3
☐ MATH elective	3	☐ PSYC 1101	3
☐ Institutional Priority	4	☐ STEM Lab Science	4
☐ Citizenship: Political Science	3	☐ **Field of Study Elective**	3
☐ Social Science Elective	3	☐ **SOCW 2215: Introduction to Social Work**	3
Cumulative Total	16	**Cumulative Total**	32

2nd Year - Social Work Major			
Fall Semester (16 hours)		Spring Semester (15 hours)	
☐ Humanities elective (Literature)	3	☐ Humanities elective	3
☐ STEM Lab Science	4	☐ **Field of Study Elective**	3
☐ Citizenship: American History	3	☐ STEM elective (MATH 1401 sug)	3
☐ **SOCW 2400: Critical Thinking and Writing for Social Work**	3	☐ **SOCW 2700: Social Work and the Social Welfare System**	3
☐ **PSYC 2103**	3	☐ Guided General Elective/Minor credit	3
Cumulative Total	48	**Cumulative Total**	63

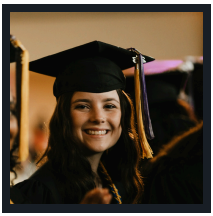
3rd Year – BSW Candidate			
Fall Semester (15 hours) *Submit application to program*		Spring Semester (15 hours)	
☐ SOCW 3000: Cultural Humility and Responsiveness in Social Work	3	☐ SOCW 3400: Practice Lab I- Individuals, Families and Groups	3
☐ SOCW 3100: Human Beh and Soc Envir	3	☐ SOCW 3700: Social Welfare and Policy Practice	3
☐ *SOCW 3200: Direct Social Work Pract I*	3	☐ SOCW 3800: Practice Lab II- Change in Comm and Orgs	3
☐ SOCW 3500: SW Practice with Communities and Organizations	3	☐ SOCW 4200: SW Prof and Prac Ethics	3
☐ Program Elective	3	☐ Guided Elective/Minor credit	3
Cumulative Total	78	**Cumulative Total**	93

4th Year – BSW Candidate			
Fall Semester (15 hours)		Spring Semester (12 hours)	
☐ SOCW 4000: Direct Social Work Pract II	3	☐ SOCW 4500: Comm & Org Change	3
☐ SOCW 4300: SW Practicum & Sem I	6	☐ SOCW 4600: SW Practicum & Sem II	6
☐ Program Elective	3	☐ Program Elective	3
☐ Guided Elective/Minor	3		
Cumulative Total	108	**Cumulative Total**	120

FAQS

Q	**Is the program available online?**
A	The formal BSW program is not fully online but does offer hybrid and online courses that reduce seat-time.
Q	**When do in-person classes meet?**
A	Students can choose to attend classes on Tuesdays/Thursdays between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm or Saturdays between 9:00 am and 5:30 pm.
Q	**How long does it take to complete the program?**
A	Once ready for the formal program (year 3), most students complete in four fall/spring semesters. Part-time students will take longer.
Q	**I work full-time. Can I still take classes?**
A	Most of our students work and find the option for weekday or Saturday classes helps them maintain work and school balance.
Q	**Is an internship required?**
A	Yes - field education is essential to social work education! A 400-hour internship requirement is built into the 4th year. Students complete 15 hours per week during their final two semesters.

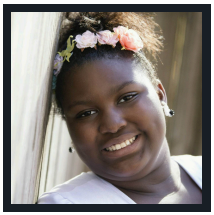
MEET A FEW OF OUR ALUMS



Jahcelyn Lanier

Spring 2023 MGA BSW Graduate

I started the *advanced-standing* MSW program at Valdosta State University just after MGA graduation. I am so thankful to have gained my BSW from MGA. Several times throughout my graduate school experience I realized how much the MGA BSW program prepared me for success in my education and future professional career. I will never forget the knowledge, support, and encouragement provided through the MGA BSW program.



Ja'Nicia Wilson

Spring 2023 MGA BSW Graduate

After my BSW graduation, I was promoted to Client Care Coordinator at my current job. I am also completing my practicum placement at a non-profit substance abuse and mental health facility for women as part of my advanced-standing MSW studies. The MGA BSW program was exceptional in setting a standard for students to excel in the field, explore various areas, and foster professional networking with colleagues. Thank you, MGA BSW, for everything you do!

Tyteonna Hart

Spring 2022 MGA BSW Graduate

I am currently a 10th-grade World History Teacher. I am almost complete with getting my Master's in Teaching to become a certified teacher. I have plans to go back to school to receive a Master's in Social Work as I have gained interest in becoming a School Social Worker or a NICU Social Worker. The MGA BSW program prepared me for my career as it has allowed me to understand the importance of meeting others where they are and the significance of building rapport with individuals.

Abby Hearst

Spring 2022 MGA BSW Graduate

After graduating from MGA, I attended Auburn and graduated with my MSW in May of 2023. I got my LMSW in August of 2023 and now work as a medical social worker in the emergency department. My favorite part about the BSW at MGA was how connected I was with the professors and my classmates. It made it much more personable. The MGA BSW program taught me the foundations of social work and prepared me for my future.

LEARN MORE

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www.mga.edu/programs/social-work

Contact:

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