

About the Major

The social work program prepares beginning level, professional practitioners who possess the knowledge, values, skills, and ethics necessary to intervene effectively on behalf of clients. The curriculum also prepares for graduate schools of social work offering advanced professional education. Students who graduate with a good academic standing are eligible to consider a Master of Social Work graduate program which prepare beginning-level practitioners for practice in clinical, administrative, and community settings. Most mental health services in the country are provided by social workers with master's degrees.

Social work is set apart from other "helping professions" by its focus on **improving individual well-being in a social context and enhancing the well-being of society**. Students at Shepherd University are united by a passion to help others. They seek an undergraduate social work degree to gain the knowledge to pursue work in a field that **promotes social justice and social change with and on the behalf of others**, particularly those populations which are oppressed, vulnerable, and living in poverty.

Accreditation

The social work program at Shepherd University is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). CSWE is responsible for establishing and maintaining national degree standards for baccalaureate degree programs in social work. **Shepherd's social work program has been continuously accredited since 1976.**

Careers

Social work graduates can expect **an increasing demand for the professional practitioner** in the field.

- Employment of child, family, and school social workers is expected to **grow by 20 percent** from 2010 to 2020, faster than the average for all occupations.
- Employment of healthcare social workers is expected to **grow by 34 percent**, much faster than the average for all occupations.
- Employment of mental health and substance abuse social workers is expected to **grow by 31 percent**, much faster than the average for all occupations.

Get Involved

Social Work Association

The Social Work Association is a Student Government Association recognized organization, consisting of social work students. The intent of SWA is to promote fellowship between social work students and give students further opportunity to be active in the community. Over the years, SWA has participated in many community service activities including participated in clothing and food drives, adopted families at Christmas, Day of Caring, and campus vigils. The group has brought speakers and exhibits to campus.

Points of Pride

- The social work program has been designated as a **Program of Distinction** by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission.
- Our field education program requires a **600-hour senior internship** throughout two semesters in a regional social service agency.
- Graduates who take the licensure exam have a **92 to 100 percent pass rate** which far **exceeds the national average** of 71 percent.

Contact

For more information about the program, contact:

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