The mission of the Department of Social Work at Western Carolina University is to provide the knowledge and skills necessary to practice at the generalist (BSW) and advanced generalist (MSW) levels of Social Work practice. Congruent with the University’s mission to improve individual lives and enhance community development in the predominantly rural Western North Carolina region, the department seeks to prepare professionals who are committed to the core Social Work values of respect for all people and advancement of social and economic justice.

At Western Carolina University, Social Work students enjoy a personalized learning environment. Our dedicated faculty works with students in the classroom and in field internships to help them gain the knowledge and skills needed to succeed academically and throughout their professional careers. Social Work graduates find employment in a wide variety of fields, including health and mental health, child and family welfare, school social work, gerontology, corrections, disaster relief, advocacy, and human services policy.

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
College of Health and Human Sciences

The College of Health and Human Sciences is committed to providing high quality educational programs for talented and motivated students. Our graduates are prepared in a dynamic learning environment that promotes inter-professional collaboration, evidence-based practice, scholarship and community engagement. Our expert faculty are passionate about their professions and facilitating a student-centered focus in the classroom. Great faculty, state-of-the-art resources and a beautiful mountain setting combine to provide an exceptional educational experience. We look forward to meeting you to talk about your future at Western Carolina University!

For more information about our Social Work program, Dr. Pat Morse, at 828-227-7112 or pmorse@email.wcu.edu or visit the program’s website at socialwork.wcu.edu or about the College of Health and Human Sciences visit our website at: chhs.wcu.edu
UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN
Social Work
Accredited by the Council on Social Work Education

Undergraduate Degree (BSW, Bachelors in Social Work)
WCU offers a four year undergraduate degree in Social Work. In addition to the university liberal studies requirements, the Social Work major requires courses in diversity, social work practice, human behavior, social policy, and research. Students initially declare pre-Social Work as their major and are eligible to formally apply to the Social Work major when they:
- Have attained a 2.8 or better GPA
- Have completed 35 credit hours and are enrolled in SOCW 253: Interviewing
- Demonstrate the ability to meet Social Work professional and technical standards

Undergraduate Field Internship: Students participate in a field practicum in the community throughout their last semester of study. The field practicum is a dynamic, engaged experience where students are able to apply the knowledge, values, and skills obtained in the classroom to practice settings. Upon completion of the course of study, students will have attained core competencies as identified by the CSWE.

Graduate Degree (MSW, Masters of Social Work)
Full-Time, Part-Time and Advanced Standing – The full-time MSW Program consists of two years of coursework including three semesters of field education. The part-time program can be completed in either three or four years. The Advanced Standing MSW Program is open to a limited number of exceptional students who have received a BSW degree from a CSWE-accredited university within the past five years and who meet rigorous criteria for acceptance. The Advanced Standing MSW Program allows students to complete course work and field internship and earn the MSW in one year. The Advanced Standing Program is not available as a part-time option.

Criteria for acceptance into the MSW program include:
- A 3.0 overall GPA is preferred
- A satisfactory score on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE)
- A minimum of three academic and/or professional references
- An essay: a brief statement is required for the Graduate School application, and a longer, more comprehensive statement is required for the MSW Program Application Volunteer or work experience is not required but valued. An application will not be reviewed until all required materials have been received. Please see the website for application deadlines, socialwork.wcu.edu.

Graduate Field Internships: Students participate in a field practicum at area community agencies during their program of study. Full-time program students complete a foundation level internship during their second semester of study and a concentration level internship during their third and fourth semesters of study. Advanced Standing Program students complete an internship during their Fall and Spring semesters of study.

Substance Abuse Certificate: Students accepted into the MSW Program may apply for the Substance Abuse Studies Certificate Program. This certificate enables students to complete all of the coursework and one year of practice requirement for substance abuse licensure in North Carolina.

School Social Work Certificate
Child Welfare Collaborative Program

FOR MORE INFORMATION | socw@wcu.edu
socialwork.wcu.edu | 828.227.7112