University of South Dakota - Social Work Department
Bachelor of Science in Social Work (BSSW) Application

Application Deadline is October 10th every year.

The University of South Dakota, School of Health Sciences is committed to an environment of inclusiveness in classroom and clinical settings that honors the richness of diverse perspectives and inter-professional practice through valuing diverse traditions, heritages, and experiences.

If you are a prospective student with a disability and need assistance or accommodations during the admission/application process, please contact the Director of Disability Services, University of South Dakota, 414 East Clark Street, Vermillion, SD 57069. Phone: 605-677-6389 Fax: 605-677-3172 Email: dservice@usd.edu

Thank you for your interest. If you have any questions about the application process, please call us at 605-658-5940 or e-mail at socialwork@usd.edu. We look forward to receiving your Application for Admission.

Personal Information

1. Name: ____________________________
   Last               First               Middle

2. Other name(s), if any, that may appear on academic records ____________________________

3. USD ID Number: ______________________

4. Gender Identity: ____________________

5. Race/ Ethnicity: _____________________

6. What is your state of residency? ________________ Number of years? ________

7. Date of Birth: _______________________
   Month/ Day /Year
8. Current Address

______________________________
Street

______________________________
City

______________________________
State    Zip Code

9. Permanent Address, if different

______________________________
Street

______________________________
City

______________________________
State    Zip Code

10. Cell Phone: __________________________

12. USD E-mail: __________________________  Alternate E-mail: __________________________

**REQUIREMENTS of the Program:**

Successful completion of social work and non-departmental courses with a “C” or higher grade. Good standing (50 or more credit hours by the end of the current fall semester). Overall G.P.A. of at least 2.3. *Include recent transcript from all universities attended.*

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<th>Expected Completion</th>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 101</td>
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<td>POLS 100</td>
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<td>PHIL 220, or REL 250 or</td>
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<td>ADS 412</td>
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<td>BIOL 103 or</td>
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<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology or</td>
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<td>meets the Human Biology</td>
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<td>Work <strong>but will not count</strong></td>
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<td>as a lab science)</td>
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<td>SOCW 200</td>
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<td>SOCW 340</td>
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• A letter supporting you have completed 60 hours of volunteer or paid social/human service experience. The letter from your paid or volunteer experience supervisor must verify the hours and activities you participated in.

• A letter of reference from a current or former non-social work professor or employer.

• Your Personal Statement (See Guidelines for Preparation on page 5 of application)

Additional Requirements

1). The USD School of Health Sciences requires the completion of all Immunizations listed on the separate Immunization Form prior to beginning a Professional Program. Students are to provide proof of Immunizations to the University of South Dakota’s Student Health Representative located at the Sanford Student Health Clinic. Students must also sign the Release of Information Form (ROI) allowing the University representative to inform the program of Immunization completion or deficits. The School of Health Sciences Immunization policy is in the BSSW Program Student Handbook. The ROI and Immunization Form is provided in a separate attachment.

2). The USD School of Health Sciences Policy is that every student admitted to an educational preparation program in the School of Health Science must submit to a Criminal Background Check. The Criminal Background check will be initiated by you only after you have received notice of your admission to the social work program. The policy, procedures and instructions on how to complete a criminal background check will be provided at that time. Please note felony convictions and numerous misdemeanors may complicate eligibility for social work licensure as well as a capacity to obtain liability insurance as a student or professional.

Please indicate your willingness to submit to and pay for a criminal background check if you are accepted into the social work program. All background checks must be completed by the first week of August. Indicate yes or no in the space provided below.

.   _____ Yes   _____ No

3). I understand it is my responsibility to comply with the BSSW Program Student Handbook. I further understand my successful completion of the program is dependent upon said compliance.

.   _____ Yes   _____ No

If you have concerns or objections to the Immunization requirements for the Program or questions about the possible consequences of criminal activities, please discuss such concerns with Dr. Jay Memmott, Chair of the Department of Social Work. Jay.Memmott@usd.edu
Please complete the following questions relative to your background.

BEFORE RESPONDING, PLEASE READ EACH QUESTION CAREFULLY

Have you ever been convicted, pled guilty or no contest, or been granted a deferred judgment or sentence, or suspended imposition of sentence, with respect to a misdemeanor or felony offense including drug and alcohol convictions.

_____ Yes  _____ No

If yes, please provide the details.

____________________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________

Do you have any criminal charges, misdemeanor or felony, currently pending against you in any state or country?

_____ Yes  _____ No

If yes, please provide the details.

____________________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________
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____________________________________________________________________________________________________

The School of Health Sciences health professions programs reserve the right to deny admission to any applicant based on the best interest of the profession.

I certify that all of the information contained in these application materials is complete and correct. I understand that any false, misrepresented or missing information may be cause for denial of my application for admission to the Social Work Major. Further, in the event that my acceptance into the program has been granted prior to the discovery of false, misrepresented, or missing information, such discovery may be cause for dismissal from the Social Work Major. I also understand that admission or graduation from a health professions program does not guarantee obtaining a license to practice. Licensure requirements and the subsequent procedures are the exclusive right and responsibility of the state Boards regulating professional practice. I also verify I am familiar with the BSSW Student Handbook where maintaining good standing is defined and consequences of failure to do so are explained. I commit to uphold such standard in the completion of the BSSW Program.

______________________________________________________________
Student Signature      Date
Guidelines for Preparation of Personal Statement

Application for Admission to the

Social Work Major

Please limit your personal statement to no more than two double spaced typewritten pages (approximately 500 words). The accuracy and quality of writing in this statement will be evaluated as evidence of the candidate's potential for professional written communication.

1. Discuss your reasons for wishing to enter or continue in the field of Social Work. Discuss factors and, or experiences you believe will be helpful to you as a student in Social Work. Areas of:
   a. Employment, and Volunteer service
   b. Education and Special interests
   c. Family and Cultural experiences
   d. Personal experiences with diverse groups

2. Discuss your understanding of professional social work values and how those values are congruent with your own values.

3. Comment on your strengths and areas in which you wish to grow academically and professionally. Include an assessment of your communication skills (verbal, listening, and writing) in this discussion.

4. Indicate your career interests and your present ideas about job possibilities and the satisfaction and challenges you expect to find in a Social Work career.

5. Discuss your experiences working with diverse community members or addressing issues of social justice.

All required materials are to be mailed or returned to:
The Social Work Department
University of South Dakota
Julian Hall Room 253
414 East Clark Street
Vermillion, South Dakota 57069-2390
AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE REFERENCE INFORMATION

I hereby authorize the University of South Dakota, Department of Social Work, to release information regarding my academic and field work performance within the Social Work Program to prospective employers and/or academic institutions. Release of such information will be made only to those individuals, agencies and/or institutions that I specifically authorize to receive information. This authorization may be revoked at any time by written request.

NAME: _______________________________     ________________________________
(Printed Clearly) SIGNATURE

DATE: _____________________

AUTHORIZATION FOR INFORMATION RELEASE

I hereby authorize the University of South Dakota, Department of Social Work, to use my limited personal information such as address, telephone, e-mail, photo, and job placement for marketing purposes only. This authorization may be revoked at any time by written request.

NAME: ________________________________     ________________________________
(Printed Clearly) SIGNATURE

DATE: _____________________