BACHELOR of SOCIAL WORK (BSW)

Application Package for ON-CAMPUS AND DISTANCE DELIVERY

Including the Dalhousie University Undergraduate Application Form and BSW Supporting Documents

Application Deadline Date:  FEBRUARY 15th  annually

Program Start Date: Fall Term annually

IMPORTANT

The BSW application procedure differs from the general submission instructions in that the undergraduate application form and fee are sent to the Registrar's office and all other supporting documents (including official transcripts go to the School of Social Work. All documents must be received post marked as of February 15th.

Applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline date. In the event that the deadline date falls on a weekend or a holiday, please be advised that your application must still be postmarked by the deadline date.

Please follow all instructions included in this BSW application package.

It is recommended to start the application process at least three months prior to the deadline.

CAMPUS OR DISTANCE DELIVERY

The BSW degree is offered on campus or distance delivery. The program is available on a part time or full time basis. Online study is available to Canadian residents, residing in Canada. Admission requirements are the same for both distance and campus applicants.

Mailing/courier address:
School of Social Work Dalhousie University
1459 LeMarchant Street, Suite 3201
PO Box 15000
Halifax, NS  B3H 4R2
Canada

www.socialwork.dal.ca

We appreciate your interest in our program and invite you to submit your application for consideration by our Admissions Committee. Please note, possession of admission requirements does not guarantee admission due to limited number of spaces available.
**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK: VISION**

The School of Social Work, Dalhousie University, is committed to building a socially just society, defined as one that upholds and validates the values of equality, diversity, inclusiveness, democracy, and concern for human welfare. We manifest and advance curricula, scholarship, and school culture that are congruent with these values.

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**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK: MISSION**

The School of Social Work, Dalhousie University, engages in teaching, research, community initiatives and other scholarly activity to promote social justice. To this end, we educate students and collaborate with others to advance change within the social work profession, social institutions, and the broader society.

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**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK: GUIDING PRINCIPLES and BELIEFS**

We believe in:

- The importance of understanding and addressing inequitable social structures and conditions for advancing individual and collective welfare and development.
- The importance of supporting the struggles for social justice and social well being of historically disadvantaged peoples and communities.
- The importance conceptualizing the spaces of social work field in broad terms, as including local, national, and international arenas, and individual, community, policy, and political-institutional contexts.
- Building a diverse and inclusive school environment. Towards that end, we recognize the importance of altering the cultural context of the School in ways that are welcoming to the cultures and belief systems of historically marginalized groups and communities.
- The importance of accessible education; respectful and collaborative approaches to working with groups and communities; academic and intellectual freedom; and collegiality; open, democratic, and inclusive decision-making.

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**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY**

The School of Social Work has an affirmative action policy for applicants who are Acadian, Aboriginal, African Canadian, members of other racially-visible groups, persons with disabilities and for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Two Spirited, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI) people. To request this option, see Social Work Statement Cover Sheet in this application package.

The School is committed to admitting and graduating the highest possible number of students who qualify under this policy.
ADDITION REQUIREMENTS (Campus and Distance)

1. ACADEMIC

Applicants cannot apply directly from high school.

There are no specific course content requirements for the BSW program. Recommended programs for providing relevant preparation for social work are a Bachelor of Arts degree with a concentration in one or more of the social sciences or a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Suggested (not required) university level courses include English, psychology, sociology, political science, criminology, women studies, history and other social science based courses.

An initial screening is made on the basis of academic eligibility. Please note, we do not consider community college credits for this program. We consider credits taken at an educational institution belonging to the Association of Universities and Colleges Canada (AUCC) or equivalent for international institutions. Please check www.aucc.ca for your educational institution before applying.

If applying with the minimum five university credits (30 credit hours) or one full year of university, a minimum average of B- (70%) is required. (The BSW degree will take approximately 3 years to complete.) Distance delivery applicants applying with the minimum requirements may be required to complete course work on an approved letter of permission at other universities.

If applying with a university degree or almost completed degree, a minimum average of B- (70%) in the last 10 most recent credits completed (60 credit hours) is required. (The BSW degree will take approximately 2 years to complete.)

The School of Social Work has an Affirmative Action policy for applicants who are Acadian, Aboriginal, African Canadian, members of other racially-visible groups, persons with disAbilities and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Two Spirited, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI) people. Members of these groups who have five full university credits or 10 half university credits that average B- are eligible to apply under this policy. Applicants make their request in a place provided on the Social Work Statement cover sheet, which is part of the BSW application package. Each candidate is considered individually on the basis of her/his qualifications, rather than in relation to other applicants. The admission requirements are otherwise the same for all candidates.

2. RELEVANT WORK/and or VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Experience in areas of social or human service is a definite asset; most volunteer positions are considered with the exception of food preparation and canvassing. Applicants normally have two years of experience and/or a minimum of 200 volunteer hours.

3. REFERENCES

Two different types of references are required. Academic and/or Work and/or Volunteer

4. SOCIAL WORK STATEMENT

Candidates write a statement that discusses a current social issue and their motivation to study social work, please follow guides on cover sheet.

APPLICATION PROCESS

It is ok to send application materials in separately or in one envelope

All application materials must be received post marked as of the Feb 15th deadline.

Incomplete and late applications are not considered

The online distance delivery option is available only to residents of Canada who are currently residing in Canada.
Applicants indicate if they wish to apply for campus or online distance study, you cannot apply for both delivery modes.

The BSW application package includes:

1. The Dalhousie Undergraduate Application form and application fee
2. Official university transcripts (High school transcripts are not required)
3. Two references (two out of the three references are required)
4. Work/volunteer summary forms
5. Applicant Checklist
6. Social work statement cover sheet (attach to paper)

The BSW application is a self-managed process. Applicants submit the Dalhousie Undergraduate Application form and application fee to the Registrar's Office. All other supporting documents should be sent to the School of Social Work.

Interviews are not part of the admission process unless specifically requested by the Admissions Committee.

SELECTION PROCESS

The following are considered in the selection process:

- Academic performance
- Social Work experience, including work and volunteer
- Strength of Social Work Statement
- Personal suitability for the study and practice of social work
- Strength of References

Personal Suitability for Social Work

Aptitude and fitness for the profession of social work, as determined by the BSW Admissions Committee, is a requirement for admission. The study and practice of social work places clients in a position of special trust. Certain types of conduct may be considered unsuitable for the acceptance of an applicant. The following list illustrates examples of criteria used to assess unsuitability in aptitude and fitness. Other behaviors may also be considered:

- Unethical behavior (as defined by the Nova Scotia Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics).
- Persistent substance abuse (e.g. alcoholism, drug addiction, use of illegal drugs).
- Conviction of criminal activity (e.g. sexual assault, fraud and drug trafficking).

In considering the applicant's qualifications, including personal suitability for the study and practice of social work, the Admissions Committee observes the principles of confidentiality, natural justice, and due process.

Important notes about selection:

- Possession of admission requirements does not guarantee an offer of admission
- Each applicant is notified by mail or email in mid-May of the Admissions Committee's final recommendation to the Dalhousie University Registrar. Acceptances are conditional on the approval of the Registrar.
TRANSFER CREDIT POLICY

The five admission credits that form the minimum academic admission requirement for the BSW application reduces the 20-credit BSW program requirement to 15 credits for all students.

These 15 credits may be further reduced by the amount of transfer credit for which a student is eligible. Suitable university credits that have been completed with a minimum grade of 70% or B- are eligible for transfer credit consideration. Community College credits, diploma and certificate work are not eligible for consideration. The following procedures guide the assignment of transfer credit:

1. Transfer credit may be awarded to accepted applicants when applying with more than the five minimum required credits. A maximum of 5 transfer credits (30 credit hours) can be awarded. Transfer credits are assigned towards the elective requirements in the program. No transfer credit is given towards BSW core courses.

2. No transfer credit is awarded to accepted applicants when applying with the five minimum required credits.

3. Transfer credit for students accepted with an almost completed BSW degree from another accredited institution may be assigned transfer credit following an individual file review. An assessment of the student's previous course outlines and grades will determine equivalency of content and credit value within the School of Social Work, Dalhousie University curriculum. Transfer credit is assigned as fairly and appropriately as possible, although some loss of credit usually occurs. Students who transfer from other BSW degree programs are governed by the regulation that any student with a previous degree is required to complete a minimum of six credits (36 credit hours) under Dalhousie instruction, and that any student without a degree is required to complete a minimum of 7.5 credits (45 credit hours) under Dalhousie instruction.

Transfer credit assessment is completed after the admission process, and only for successful applicants. Transfer credit is assessed on an individual basis at the School of Social Work.

Accepted students will be advised from the Student Services Coordinator on their program requirements, schedule, and course load. An orientation package is sent to newly accepted students before the new academic year commences.

Please visit www.socialwork.dal.ca for complete program information.
Please visit www.dal.ca for calendar and tuition.

STUDYING BY DISTANCE DELIVERY

Taking a social work online distance degree in your own community will give you access to a challenging, top quality, accredited education in social work. You will have access to a well-structured web based learning environment and have opportunities to apply new learning in supervised field work.

Distance study is completed on a pre-determined schedule that includes a two week residency period on the Dalhousie University campus. Students are expected to participate in ongoing discussions in the courses. This requires students to post comments on the course discussion boards, to respond to other students’ postings, and to work in small groups as required. The web based courses provide the opportunity for a high-level of interactivity amongst students and between students and instructors. Access to a computer with high speed internet is essential for effective interactivity in your courses. For more information on the distance delivery method, including additional course fees associated with this delivery method, please see www.socialwork.dal.ca.
PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the BSW program, students will:

a) Have acquired the knowledge base which enables them to understand human development and social conditions, as well as the skills to analyze policies and political forces that influence human lives, including their own and those of users of social services, and which also shape health and social welfare services. This includes an understanding of systemic inequality in resources and power rooted in diverse factors such as class, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, disability, age, and regional underdevelopment.

b) Be aware of a range of social work theories and practice methods.

c) Be able to practice in accordance with social work values and ethics.

d) Use their knowledge, analytical abilities and values to develop a beginning competence in social work interventions that are effective and demonstrate accountability to users and providers of services and to professional standards and ethics.

e) Have integrated theories, values, analytical and practice methods into a framework or approach to social work practice, which they can articulate and use as a foundation for ongoing learning and professional development.

f) Be prepared for generic Social Work practice that incorporates fundamental concerns for social justice.