



Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) Program
School of Social Work
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador
(709) 737-8165 <http://www.mun.ca/socwrk/home/>

THINKING OF BECOMING A SOCIAL WORKER?

Good idea! Social work is a challenging and exciting profession. Social workers help people improve their lives, relationships and communities. They address problems that contribute to injustice and provide assistance to people that experience difficult circumstances such as poverty, domestic violence, mental illness, and discrimination.

An undergraduate education (Bachelor of Social Work or BSW) in social work prepares students for a meaningful career in social, community and health services. Memorial's School of Social Work offers students a skills-based learning environment. Admission to MUN's BSW program provides students with the opportunity to gain social work knowledge and skills in areas such as assessment, counselling, case management, community development, advocacy, public policy and research, human rights and social justice.

WHAT ARE THE JOB PROSPECTS IN SOCIAL WORK?

There are many. MUN's BSW graduates are qualified to work in a variety of settings including child, youth and family services, long term care centers, corrections facilities, addictions services, hospitals, schools, and mental health programs in non-profit, community, government, and private sectors. And, despite the recent economic downturn that has increased the national unemployment rate to its highest point in ten years, especially among young people, the prospects for social work are promising.

There is an annual vacancy rate of 6.5% for social work positions in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, with anywhere from 25-50 social work positions available at a given time. Most of MUN's BSW graduates begin their careers working for the province's regional health authorities with starting salaries ranging from \$52,000 to \$58,000 annually.

Still not convinced? Consider this: the Newfoundland and Labrador Association for Social Workers and MUN's School of Social Work estimate that the provincial need for social workers will continue to increase steadily over the next ten years. At present, the professions' growth is already translating into a steadily increasing demand for our BSW graduates. By 2020, it is projected that the school will need to double its enrolment to keep up with the demand for social workers in NL. Current and future graduates can expect to benefit from competitive salaries, job security and choice, and recruitment incentives.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A SOCIAL WORKER?

A mixture of things. Social workers are individuals who are committed to helping vulnerable people and communities. They believe in working to protect human rights and dignity. Social workers are clinically skilled, caring, and ethical professionals. Eligibility Requirements to Memorial's BSW program include:

- (1) Academics (40%): 6.0 credit hours in English, Psychology 1000 and 1000, Sociology 1000, Social Work 1710 (min. 65% grade), and 12.0 credit hours of non-SCWK (max. of 6.0 from non- arts and sciences);
 - ✓ Minimum 65% overall average in required courses and last 10 (30.0 credit hours) courses
- (2) Work and/or Volunteer experience, Self Appraisal, and 3 References (30%)
- (3) BSW Admissions Exam (30%)
- (4) Personal Suitability for the Profession of Social Work (as assessed by exam and application)

The application deadline is March 1st of every year. Admission to the BSW program is competitive: in 2009, 60 students were accepted out of 140 applications. Prospective applicants must complete one "pre-social work" year (or equivalent) of undergraduate study before being eligible to apply to the program.

After admission, the program takes three years to complete, with a combination of course work and two 350 hour field internships. Required courses focus on theory, clinical skills, ethics, research, community development, and social justice; electives allow students to hone their knowledge in areas such as addictions, mental health, family violence, child welfare, gerontology, and rural social work. Field internships (or "placements") give students the chance to develop their skills in a challenging, applied setting. The School matches students to field internships where they are supervised by an experienced

social worker. Placement settings include hospitals, crisis centres and shelters, community mental health programs, and child welfare agencies, among other government and non-profit organizations.

WHAT MAKES MEMORIAL'S SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK STAND OUT?

Quality. The Bachelor of Social Work program at Memorial provides students with nationally recognized credentials. The BSW program fosters critical thinking and clinical mastery that qualifies graduates to be leaders in social, health, and government services. With the strong foundation they receive in the School's undergraduate program, some students also choose to go on to complete a Masters of Social Work or a PhD at Memorial. The BSW is taught by internationally recognized faculty with clinical experience and research interests in: child welfare, family therapy, organizational change, evidenced based practices, marginalized communities, youth engagement, identity formation, aging, and community-based research. In addition to teaching and research, the School maintains innovative partnerships with various communities, organizations and governments. With this, a core aspect of the BSW has been tailored to include Inter-Professional Education. This involves collaborative course work and tutorials with students and faculty from Memorial's Nursing, Pharmacy, Medicine, and Education departments.

WHO IS WELL SUITED FOR MUN'S BSW PROGRAM?

Students who work hard. Each year, the BSW program admits dedicated students from a range of educational backgrounds. The School accepts applicants with diverse educational and life experiences. They have often completed course work in education, psychology, sociology, political science, and women's studies. Students who excel in the program are committed to academic integrity, ethical standards, and competent social work practice.

The School also recognizes the importance of making social work education accessible. Transfer credits are available for courses taken at other post-secondary institutions (i.e. college) and some courses are available via distance education. Furthermore, students are strongly encouraged to complete at least one of the two placements in a rural or remote setting outside of St. John's and possibly in another province or country. The School also partners with the Blundon Centre for Students with Disabilities to ensure that students receive necessary accommodations and support to help them succeed.

Additionally, the School seeks to include qualified students from diverse backgrounds. BSW applicants are given the opportunity to identify any special needs that they want the Admissions Committee to consider in the assessment of their application. For students who meet the minimum grade and course requirements for the program, the School may, at its discretion, give these students preference in the admissions process. This effort is intended to help students who may experience barriers in gaining entrance to social work education despite their overall suitability for the profession.

WHAT OTHER INFO IS AVAILABLE ABOUT THIS PROFESSION?

Lots! If you would like to find out more about our programs or about the social work profession in general, the following sources will be helpful:

MUN School of Social Work	http://www.mun.ca/socwrk/home
Newfoundland and Labrador Association of SW	http://www.nlasw.ca/
Canadian Association of Social Workers	http://www.casw-acts.ca/
Canadian Association for Social Work Education	http://www.caswe-acfts.ca/
International Federation of Social Workers	http://www.ifsw.org/
Child Welfare League of Canada	http://www.cwlc.ca/
Canadian Council on Social Development	http://www.ccsd.ca/
Charity Village (SW job bank)	http://www.charityvillage.com/

For complete details of the admissions requirements and process, to find out how to get an application package or if you have any further questions about MUN's BSW program, please visit our website at <http://www.mun.ca/socwrk/home> or contact the Admissions Chairperson, Mary Beth Hutchens at (709) 737-2558 or mhutchen@mun.ca.

We look forward to hearing from you.