Social Service Worker

Ontario College Diploma (2 Years - 4 Semesters) (1203)
705.759.6700 : 1.800.461.2260 : www.saultcollege.ca : Sault Ste. Marie, ON, Canada

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Are you interested in being part of a profession that works to improve the lives of individuals, families, groups and communities? Are you ready to learn through classroom and hands-on field placement experiences? Join us in the Social Service Worker program to develop your knowledge and skills to assume the challenging and rewarding role of a helping professional.

The core skills that you will learn in the program involve taking strengths-based, ethical, problem solving approaches that promote social justice and social well-being. You will develop strong interpersonal, group and community capacity building skills that will enable you to provide support to individuals, groups, families and communities. You will gain an understanding from a social work perspective of the needs and strengths of diverse populations, and barriers to meeting these needs. You will learn theories that are based on an anti-oppressive approach to social work, and that involved empowerment and systems based approaches. You will expand and deepen your understanding of the multiple factors involved in both creating and addressing social inequities. Throughout the second year of the program you will experience approximately 500 hours of agency field placement which provides the opportunity to apply classroom learning within a community based organization.

If you are a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and currently unemployed, you may qualify for second career funding for this program! To learn more about your options and how to get started, contact us at studentrecruitment@saultcollege.ca.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

A graduate of the Social Service Worker Program at Sault College will reliably demonstrate the ability to:

1. develop and maintain professional relationships which adhere to professional, legal, and ethical standards aligned to social service work.
2. identify strengths, resources, and challenges of individuals, families, groups, and communities to assist them in achieving their goals.
3. recognize diverse needs and experiences of individuals, groups, families, and communities to promote accessible and responsive programs and services.
4. identify current social policy, relevant legislation, and political, social, and/or economic systems and their impacts on service delivery.
5. advocate for appropriate access to resources to assist individuals, families, groups, and communities.
6. develop and maintain positive working relationships with colleagues, supervisors, and community partners.
7. develop strategies and plans that lead to the promotion of self-care, improved job performance, and enhanced work relationships.
8. integrate social group work and group facilitation skills across a wide range of environments, supporting growth and development of individuals, families, and communities.
9. work in communities to advocate for change strategies that promote social and economic justice and challenge patterns of oppression and discrimination.
ACTIONS

MINIMUM ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Ontario Secondary School diploma with Grade 12 English (C) ENG4C, or mature student status. You are encouraged to look at the High School Program Pathway Chart available online in the Program Overview for recommended courses that will help you be more prepared for the SSW program.

ACADEMIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Social Service Work is a challenging profession that requires the ability to relate to others in a respectful and non-judgmental manner. Your success in the program will be promoted by professional communication skills (verbal and written), and a belief in social justice and social change. Given your work with diverse and vulnerable people, you will be best suited for the profession if you are emotionally and socially skilled and prepared to develop meaningful relationships with others. The ability to work both independently and within a team environment is critical. We suggest that you visit or meet with a Social Service Worker to learn more about the profession.

CAREER PATHS

Within the province of Ontario, Social Service Work is a regulated profession. Upon your successful graduation from the program, you will receive a Social Service Worker diploma, and be eligible for registration with the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (OCSWSSW). Social Service Workers are employed in community-based organizations, social service agencies, educational, health and corrections settings. Past graduates have been employed with developmental services, educational settings, social services, income security programs, mental health, addictions and concurrent disorder programs, long term care facilities, and others. SSW graduates are well prepared to apply the generic Social Service Work skills learned to the job market, responding to the unique mandate of each organization. For further information on the profession and potential employment opportunities, visit the OCSWSSW website at www.ocswssw.org.

MANDATORY FEES

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<th>Domestic</th>
<th>International</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
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<td>$14,838.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ancillary</td>
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These fees are for the 2019-2020 academic year (year 1 of study) and are subject to change. Please visit your Student Portal to view your Schedule of Fees.

CLINICAL/LAB OR FIELD PLACEMENTS
There is a field placement component to the program during the second year of the program which involves 14 hours per week in the third, fall semester and 21 hours per week in the fourth, winter semester.

All applicants will be required to submit documentation of completion of the placement eligibility procedures prior to entering field placement. If the appropriate documentation is not received by the SSW program deadline in the second semester, you may not be registered in the fieldwork component. To be eligible for fieldwork and in accordance with SSW community partners that facilitate the learning opportunities, all students must complete the following (all costs associated with these requirements are the responsibility of the student):

(I) A current Police Records Search. This is required by students as they will be enrolled in a program during which they may have unsupervised access to vulnerable persons. For detailed information regarding the specifics and process, please refer to the link titled Criminal Records Check/Placement requirements.

(II) Immunization & Health Record Form: This form includes the following immunization requirements:

a) Two-step TB test Immunity against measles, mumps, and rubella. b) Current tetanus-diphtheria.

We strongly recommend that students, for their own personal safety, have the Hepatitis B vaccine prior to entering into the program. Students are also encouraged to have a current influenza immunization as this may be a requirement of some fieldwork settings.

(III) Current Certification in CPR (Level C) and First Aid

(IV) Completion of the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)(IV) The student must also sign a SSW Program Statement of Confidentiality Form prior to field placement.

**EDUCATIONAL PATHS**

Social Service Worker graduates can pursue further education through a variety of pathways. University education can be pursued at Algoma University and other select Ontario universities through established articulation agreements. Graduates have pursued degrees in Social Work, Psychology, Sociology, Community Development, and other areas. For further information on the options, visit the Algoma University website at [www.algomau.ca](http://www.algomau.ca).

There are also developed pathways with Queensland, Australia, leading to Bachelor of Social Work or Human Services degrees. For further information, click here.

University of Windsor also offers a block transfer with an overall B average into their Honours BA in Disability Studies program. For further information, see the University of Windsor website, or contact Shelagh Towson at [towson@uwindsor.ca](mailto:towson@uwindsor.ca).

SSW graduates can also earn a three year Child and Youth Care diploma in only two years. This dual diploma option is available using a predetermined educational map that provides you with advanced standing. For further information, contact the CYC or SSW coordinators and refer to the laddering options section.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

For more information contact Program Coordinator Leanne Murray at 705.759.2554, ext 2567 or email [leanne.murray@saultcollege.ca](mailto:leanne.murray@saultcollege.ca)
PROGRAM OF STUDY

SEMESTER 1
CMM110-3 College Communication Skills
PSY120-3 Lifespan Development
SSW101-3 Introduction to SSW Helping Skills
SSW102-3 Introduction to Concurrent Disorders
SSW105-3 Foundations for SSW Practice
SSW121-3 Social Welfare - Policy & Practice
SSC102-3 Introduction to Aboriginal Peoples of Canada

SEMESTER 2
CMM225-3 Human Services Communication
SSW203-3 Strengths-Based SSW Practice Skills
SSW205-3 Concurrent Disorders II: SSW Practice Skills
SSW207-3 SSW Community Resources & Fieldwork Preparation
SSW209-3 SSW Practice with Specialized Populations
SSW212-3 SSW Group Practice Skills
SSW221-3 Ethics and Professionalism

SEMESTER 3
SSW217-3 Social Service Work with Families
SSW300-3 Community Organization: Creating Sustainable Communities
SSW301-2 Seminar for Social Service Work
SSW302-14 Fieldwork for Social Service Work
GEN100-3 Global Citizenship

Select one of the following:
GAS101: Rituals, Idols and Controversies in Sports
GAS103: What in the World is Going On?
GAS109: Music and Pop Culture
GAS116: Your Two Cents
GAS120: Canada Eh!
GAS125: Food and Wine Pairings
GEN110: Student Selected General Education
HDG122: Personal and Academic Success Strategies
Note: *Students must choose one of the identified Student Selected General Education Courses

SEMESTER 4
SSW222-3 Crisis Intervention and Resolution
SSW400-3 SSW Advocacy in a Multi-cultural society
SSW401-2 Seminar II for Social Service Work
SSW402-21 Fieldwork II for Social Service Work

Course Descriptions

Semester 1

College Communication Skills (CMM110) (3 credits)
This course is designed to help students develop the skills necessary to communicate effectively in their programs and at the college level. Students will think critically to capture the meaning of messages and respond appropriately; produce coherent, clear paragraphs and essays; and purposively research and
responsibly integrate credible sources into their own writing. Emphasis is placed on the writing process, from planning to revising, while providing opportunities to explore various modes of communication.

**Lifespan Development (PSY120) (3 credits)**

The purpose of this lifespan development course is to examine the interrelationship of the biopsychosocial aspects of ages and stages from birth to late adulthood. Developmental psychology is the study of the processes that shape human development. The goals of studying life span development are description, explanation and optimization of human development throughout a person’s entire life. Students will study the interaction between cultural, social and historical impacts and biological maturation to gain a holistic understanding of human development. In addition, to studying human development in a systematic way, students will gain a personal understanding of their own lives in the context of lifespan development.

**Introduction to SSW Helping Skills (SSW101) (3 credits)**

Essential to Social Service Work practice is the ability to develop collaborative helping relationships with others. This course is designed to introduce students to effective interpersonal communication and interviewing skills that promote the helping process. Students can expect a strong emphasis in reflective practice (self-awareness), integration of theory and application of concepts to promote personal and professional skill development.

**Introduction to Concurrent Disorders (SSW102) (3 credits)**

This course will provide introductory knowledge to assist students to better understand concurrent disorders and their impact on individuals, families and communities. Students will become familiar with signs and symptoms of common mental illnesses along with common substance abuse patterns. Students will also gain knowledge of mental health and the concept of resilience, strength, risk and protective factors related to concurrent disorders.

**Foundations for SSW Practice (SSW105) (3 credits)**

This course is designed to prepare students for Social Service Work practice by introducing the profession of Social Work and the practice frameworks (theories and models) used to create change. Students will be introduced to the basic knowledge and skills required within the profession.

**Social Welfare - Policy & Practice (SSW121) (3 credits)**

This course will provide an introduction to Canadian Social policy, social work practice and service. Social Service Workers are involved directly in the provision of services under social policies; therefore, familiarity and knowledge about the history, development and implications of social polices are critical to effective practice. Students will examine the history of social welfare, relevant social policies, and the profession of social work in various fields. Students will examine their own values relative to current social policies and practices and will develop beginning skills to critically analyze current social welfare policies and practices. Throughout the course, human rights and advocacy are emphasized.

**Introduction to Aboriginal Peoples of Canada (SSC102) (3 credits)**

This course will provide participants with an introduction to the history and cultural survival of Canada’s Aboriginal people. Aboriginal worldview will be identified and discussed in both historical and modern perspectives. Students will review colonization, government policies and legislation, which provide a foundation for understanding modern Aboriginal life in Canada.

**Semester 2**

**Human Services Communication (CMM225) (3 credits)**

This course prepares students for employment in the human service professions. Emphasis is placed on
career exploration and the production of a variety of written and oral communications suited for the various purposes and audiences relevant to this profession. In this course, the principles of writing are taught through the writing process.

**Strengths-Based SSW Practice Skills (SSW203) (3 credits)**

Students in this course will be introduced to resiliency research and evidence based helping models that will further develop their knowledge and ability to intervene from a person-centred approach with marginalized people. Students will learn to adopt a philosophical and value stance within an anti-oppressive and empowerment framework. Students will develop and apply strengths-based engagement, assessment, and intervention skills relevant to the helping field. This course will provide opportunities to integrate theory and application of concepts and skills through experiential exercises and role-plays.

**Concurrent Disorders II: SSW Practice Skills (SSW205) (3 credits)**

This course will develop skills and knowledge in the assessment of concurrent disorders and effective interventions. Focus will be on evidence-based intervention strategies within the scope of practice of the SSW and knowledge of community resources.

**SSW Community Resources & Fieldwork Preparation (SSW207) (3 credits)**

This course will provide current and comprehensive knowledge of the broad range of community resources accessed by the individuals, families and communities that Social Service Workers support. Students will also become prepared for field placement provided in second year.

**SSW Practice with Specialized Populations (SSW209) (3 credits)**

This course offers theoretical, research and practical information regarding selected vulnerable populations in Canada. The course will provide students the opportunity to learn about the needs, barriers and strengths of various populations within Canadian society. Students will develop an understanding of the populations studied and the ability to adapt assessment and intervention strategies to address client needs at an individual, family and community level. Emphasis will be on older adults, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ community.

**SSW Group Practice Skills (SSW212) (3 credits)**

Group work is an essential practice modality of social service work. Students will integrate and apply theoretical and practice models of group work required for professional practice. The course will emphasis experiential learning and skill development in group facilitation, leadership and ability to prepare, plan and implement appropriate group interventions that respect client needs, strengths and goals.

**Ethics and Professionalism (SSW221) (3 credits)**

This course introduces students to the ethical standards of the Social Service Work profession. Applications to case situations will be highlighted. As well, the course will focus on the formation and maintenance of professional relationships, with colleagues and supervisors.

**Semester 3**

**Social Service Work with Families (SSW217) (3 credits)**

Currently and historically, the social work profession has been instrumental in providing support and interventions to families in need. This course will provide students the necessary knowledge and skills to assess and intervene with diverse families in the community. Specifically, the course will promote students’ ability to foster family resilience through a variety of best practice interventions.

**Community Organization: Creating Sustainable Communities (SSW300) (3 credits)**

This course introduces students to community development practice approaches. Students will develop
skills in effective community assessments, mobilizing community resiliency and experience with community capacity strategies that promote social change. Significant engagement in project based work is expected.

**Seminar for Social Service Work** (SSW301) (2 credits)

This course is designed as a co-requisite to Fieldwork and is intended to support student learning and professional growth within their placement setting. The course is designed to assist the students development of professional self and understanding the role of SSW within the human services field. Examination of social work micro, mezzo and macro level skills are promoted through active participation and group discussion. Evidence of integration social service knowledge and skills are expected.

**Fieldwork for Social Service Work** (SSW302) (14 credits)

This course is the practicum for the Social Service Worker Program. Students will be placed in a community setting where, under supervision, they will carry out social service work duties as defined by them, their supervisor and the program faculty.

**Global Citizenship** (GEN100) (3 credits)

The world we are living in is one in which local, national and international issues are interwoven, and the need for us to understand the impact these issues can have on our lives has never been greater! Using a socio-cultural, political and environmental lens, students will view how the world is changing and how to become active agents of change from the local to international level. Important issues such as social injustice, poverty, environmental protection, resource scarcity, sustainability, and health will be addressed. Global citizenship is an opportunity to ‘Be the Change’. This course meets the Civic Life and Social and Cultural Understanding General Education themes.

**Rituals, Idols and Controversies in Sports** (GAS101) (3 credits)

This course gives students the opportunity to examine the many rituals, idols, and controversies surrounding the world of sports. Students will debate, discuss, and present a variety of popular topics in sports such as athlete salaries, performance-enhancing drugs and athlete product endorsement. This course will explore the impact these issues have on social and cultural aspects of human behaviour.

**What in the World is Going On?** (GAS103) (3 credits)

This course will give you the opportunity to build a strong awareness of current global issues. You will explore various media such as radio, TV, Internet, newspaper, and magazines. Through discussions, debates, and presentations, students will focus on the main international headlines. Students will discover and develop a view of and understanding of the impact of events related to music, entertainment, fashion, sports, politics, economics, world issues, and human-interest stories.

**Music and Pop Culture** (GAS109) (3 credits)

This course will give students the opportunity to think creatively and critically about the influence of popular music. Students will explore different music genres (rock, metal, hip hop, and rap), their development and social significance. Students may explore music in film, commercials, war and protest, social and civil rights movements, and the contributions of specific artists to contemporary culture. The ways in which popular music has contributed to the current culture and, in turn, how culture has shaped popular music will be examined.

**Your Two Cents** (GAS116) (3 credits)

No matter one’s lifestyle, income, or background, each person has experienced and developed practices to how we relate to money. This course explores our relationship and personal understanding with money, and its place and value in our culture and individual lives.

**Canada Eh!** (GAS120) (3 credits)

What does it mean to be Canadian? This course will examine the people of Canada and aspects of life, such as food, music, television, art, language, etc. By examining our diversity, we will come to understand that
there is more than one Canadian identity.

**Food and Wine Pairings (GAS125) (3 credits)**

Become a wine enthusiast and decipher the many complexities revealed in wine by developing the ability to pair food and wine in today’s culinary world. Whether planning to entertain in the comfort of one’s home, preparing for a business dinner meeting or developing food and wine menus for restaurants or special events, understanding how to pair food and wine is invaluable and a life skill. This course will explore the significance of food and drink by examining fundamental concepts of wine history, tradition and culture. Students will learn about terroir, wine terminology, production, storage, selection and how wine is properly served.

**Student Selected General Education (GEN110) (3 credits)**

For Transfer Credit Purposes only.

**Personal and Academic Success Strategies (HDG122) (3 credits)**

This course will prepare you for the rigors of academic life and enable you to develop a personal profile for college and career success. The main focus of this course will include accepting personal responsibility, discovering self-motivation, mastering self-management, employing interdependence, gaining self-awareness, adopting lifelong learning, and developing emotional intelligence. In addition, you will develop and produce a ‘Personal Profile’ that will identify your personal learning style, communication style, and personality style to enable you to achieve success in learning about, understanding, and choosing the courses and careers that will lead to personal and professional satisfaction.

**Semester 4**

**Crisis Intervention and Resolution (SSW222) (3 credits)**

The course is designed for Social Service Worker Students to increase knowledge and skills for crisis intervention practice with individuals, families, groups and communities. Students will study evidence-based applications of theory to practice with identified at-risk populations. Recent research supports a resiliency based approach to promote crisis resolution particularly in a multi-cultural society. Application, analyses and discussion will center on crisis intervention as it applies to social work practice.

**SSW Advocacy in a Multi-cultural society (SSW400) (3 credits)**

This course engages students from an anti-oppressive framework to examine effective advocacy and change strategies that promote inclusion, equity, and social justice. Students will identify and analyze patterns of discrimination and oppression in order to develop entry level multi-culturally competent social service work skills. The course will explore knowledge of divergent worldviews and variables such as sexism, ageism, racism and ableism that promote effective helping and advocacy skills with diverse populations.

**Seminar II for Social Service Work (SSW401) (2 credits)**

This course is designed as a co-requisite to Fieldwork and provides students with the opportunity to further develop graduating level SSW vocational and employability skills required for the community service field. Students are expected to actively engage in the course demonstrating the core competencies of the profession.

**Fieldwork II for Social Service Work (SSW402) (21 credits)**

This course is the final practicum for the SSW Program. Students expand and develop their professional knowledge and skills in a community setting under supervision.