

Social Service Assistant

Program Description

The Social Service Assistant A.A.S. degree program is designed to prepare students with foundational knowledge of developing the communication and critical thinking skills necessary to deliver basic services within diverse populations when entering the workforce as a community and/or social science assistant in the areas of behavioral health, family services, and/or substance treatment programs. Students who pursue this degree will be introduced to psychological and sociological theories, ethics within the helping profession, and encouraged to explore cultural sensitivity based on self-reflection.

The curriculum within the Social Service Assistant degree program focuses on preparing students with introductory level competencies and skill levels to gain a perspective on working with the whole person in relationship to that person's environment. It is designed to prepare students to work in public and private social service agencies and organizations. Students enrolled in this program will have the foundational knowledge and skills to assist Social Workers, counselors, and other helping professionals in developing, organizing, and conducting programs to prevent and resolve problems relevant to substance abuse, human relationships, rehabilitation, or dependent care.

Career Opportunities

Successful graduates of this degree program can seek employment in entry-level positions such as:

- Advocate
- Caseworker
- Community Coordinator
- Family Support Worker
- Home Based Assistant
- Human Services Program Coordinator
- Outreach Specialist
- Social Services Assistant

Program Objectives

Upon completion of the program, the student will be able to:

1. Identify the values of the helping professional at an introductory level.
2. Demonstrate a basic set of helping skills for entry level employment in the field of addictions counseling (i.e. interviewing skills, monitor/record client progress).
3. Assess lifespan development in a multicultural context, and the significance of intersections of people and their environments.
4. Demonstrate cultural sensitivity, critical thinking, and ethical characteristics of a helping professional.
5. Demonstrate the ability to work with diverse populations.

Obtaining the Degree

To earn the Associate of Applied Science degree, students must:

- Matriculate into the program.
- Satisfactorily complete all degree requirements, including General Education and Major Requirements.

Pathway: Social Sciences & Criminal Justice

Type: Associate of Applied Science

General Education Requirements

Course Code	Title	Credits
ACP 100	Academic and Career Planning	1
BIO 102	Life Science	3
CIT 100	Microcomputer Applications	3
COM 110	Interpersonal Communication	3
ENG 105	Effective Writing for the Workplace	3
LIF 111	Health and Wellness	3
MAT 110	Business Mathematics	3
PSY 100	General Psychology**	3
SOC 100	Introduction to Sociology**	3
SOC 200	Contemporary Social Issues	3
	Elective - Humanities or Social Science	3
	Elective - Humanities or Social Science	3

Social Science/Humanities Electives

Choose 2 courses:

Course Code	Title	Credits
ANT 100	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology**	3
ART 101	Introduction to Art History**	3
ART 105	Drawing Fundamentals	3
ART 110	Introduction to Painting and Sculpting**	3
ASL 101	American Sign Language I	3
CRJ 110	Introduction to Criminal Justice	3
HIS 100	U.S. History I: Discovery through Reconstruction**	3
HIS 110	U.S. History II: Reconstruction to Present**	3
FLM 110	Introduction to American Cinema	3
GOV 100	Introduction to American National Government**	3
MUS 100	Introduction to Music	3
MUS 200	Popular American Music in the Twentieth Century	3
PHI 100	Critical Thinking	3
PHI 110	Introduction to Philosophy**	3
PHI 235	Philosophy of Religion	3
REL 100	World Religions/Religious Studies	3
REL 200	Understanding the Bible	3
REL 235	Philosophy of Religion	3

Substance Abuse Technician Certificate Track Elective Courses*

*After completing these 3 courses in addition to ENG105 or ENG110, SWK100, and SWK225, you are eligible to apply for graduation with the Substance Abuse Technician Certificate.

Course Code	Title	Credits
SOC/ADD 115	Chemical Dependency & Addictions	3
SOC/ADD 125	Drugs in Society	3
PSY/ADD 225	Introduction to Chemical Dependency Counseling	3

Direct Support Professional Certificate Track Elective Courses*

*After completing these 3 courses in addition to ENG105 or ENG110, CIT100, and PSY130, you are eligible to apply for graduation with the Direct Support Professional Certificate.

Course Code	Title	Credits
SWK 117	Beginning Interviewing Skills & Documentation	3
SWK 120	Health Information for the Social Sciences	3
PSY 140	Principles of Behavior Management	3

Major Requirements

Course Code	Title	Credits
PSY 130	Human Development Across the Lifespan	3
PSY 210	Psychology of Aging	3
SOC 205	Race, Class, and Gender in Society	3
SWK 100	Introduction to Social Work	3
SWK 135	Families in Society	3
SWK 225	Ethics in the Social Sciences	3

Course Sequencing

Semester 1

Course Code	Title	Credits
ACP 100	Academic and Career Planning	1
	ENG 105 or ENG 110	3
SOC 100	Introduction to Sociology**	3
SWK 100	Introduction to Social Work	3
CIT 100	Microcomputer Applications	3
MAT 110	Business Mathematics	3

Semester 2

Course Code	Title	Credits
PSY 100	General Psychology**	3
COM 110	Interpersonal Communication	3
	Elective - Substance Abuse Technician Track or Direct Support Professional Track	3
	Elective - Humanities or Social Science	3
	Elective - Humanities or Social Science	3

Semester 3

Course Code	Title	Credits
LIF 111	Health and Wellness	3
SOC 200	Contemporary Social Issues	3
SWK 135	Families in Society	3
SWK 225	Ethics in the Social Sciences	3
	Elective - Substance Abuse Technician Track or Direct Support Professional Track	3

Semester 4

Course Code	Title	Credits
PSY 130	Human Development Across the Lifespan	3
BIO 102	Life Science	3
SOC 205	Race, Class, and Gender in Society	3
PSY 210	Psychology of Aging	3
	Elective - Substance Abuse Technician Track or Direct Support Professional Track	3
	Total credits:	61