

## 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](mailto:studentrecruitment@saultcollege.ca).

## PROGRAM OUTCOMES

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

1. develop respectful and collaborative professional and interpersonal relationships that adhere to professional, legal, and ethical standards aligned to social service work.
2. record information accurately and communicate effectively in written, digital, verbal and non-verbal ways, in adherence to privacy and freedom of information legislation, in accordance with professional and workplace standards.
3. integrate a practice framework within a service delivery continuum, addressing the needs of individuals, families and communities at micro, mezzo, macro and global levels, and work with them in achieving their goals.
4. plan and implement accessible and responsive programs and services, recognizing the diverse needs and experiences of individuals, groups, families and communities, and meeting these needs.
5. examine current social policy, relevant legislation, and political, social, historical, and/or economic systems and their impacts for individuals and communities when delivering services to the user/client.
6. develop strategies and approaches that support individual clients, groups, families and communities in building the capacity for self-advocacy, while affirming their dignity and self-worth.
7. work from an anti-oppressive, strengths-based practice, recognizing the capacity for resilience and

growth of individuals and communities when responding to the diverse needs of marginalized or vulnerable populations to act as allies and advocates.

8. develop strategies and approaches to implement and maintain holistic self-care as a member of a human service profession.

9. work with individuals, groups, families and their communities to ensure that service provider strategies promote social and economic justice, and challenge patterns of oppression, discrimination and harassment, and sexual violence with clients, coworkers and communities.

10. develop the capacity to work with the Indigenous individual, families, groups and communities while respecting their inherent rights to self-determine, and to identify and address systemic barriers that produce ill-effects, developing appropriate responses using approaches such as trauma informed care practice.

## ADMISSIONS

### 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](http://www.ocswssw.org).

## MANDATORY FEES

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Domestic		International	
Tuition	Ancillary	Tuition	Ancillary
\$2,648.20	\$885.00	\$14,838.60	\$1,345.00

These fees are for the 2020-2021 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  
SSC110-  
SSW101-3 Introduction to SSW Helping Skills  
SSW102-3 Introduction to Concurrent Disorders  
SSW125-3 Introduction to Social Service Work Theory and Practice  
SSW126-3 Introduction to Trauma Informed Care  
GEN100-3 Global Citizenship

### SEMESTER 2

CMM235-3 S.S.W. Documentation and Record Keeping  
SSW207-3 SSW Community Resources & Fieldwork Preparation  
SSW212-3 SSW Group Practice Skills  
SSW221-3 Ethics and Professionalism  
SSW226-1 Non - Violent Crisis Intervention  
SSW227-3 SSW Essential Practice Skills  
PSY120-3 Lifespan Development

#### **Select one of the following:**

*GEN110: Student Selected General Education*

**Note:** \*This student-selected general education course code indicates a general-education course is taken in this semester. Students will choose from a selection of courses ([details](#)) prior to the semester in which the student-selected general education course is to be taken.

### SEMESTER 3

SSW301-2 Seminar for Social Service Work  
SSW303-3 Social Service Work Practice with Families  
SSW305-3 Social Welfare: Policy and Practice w/ Indigenous and O.P.  
SSW306-3 Human Behaviour and Social Environment  
SSW307-7 Fieldwork for Social Service Work

### SEMESTER 4

SSW401-2 Seminar II for Social Service Work  
SSW403-3 Trauma Informed Crisis Intervention  
SSW404-4 S.S.W. Essential Advocacy/Community Capacity Building Skills  
SSW405-11 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 purposefully 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.

(SSC110) ( credits)

### **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.

### **Introduction to Social Service Work Theory and Practice (SSW125) (3 credits)**

This course introduces students to social work theories that influence the practice of social service work. Students will be introduced to the roles and scope of practice of a social service worker, the profession of social work, and the theories that inform social service worker practice. Attention is given to anti-oppressive and empowerment perspectives with an emphasis on structural, feminist, indigenous, ecological and strengths-based theories. This theoretical foundation enables students to make the links between structural analysis and social service work practice and identify various forms of oppression, discrimination, and power and privilege. Students can expect to develop anti-oppressive practice stance that is consistent with professional values, ethics and standards of practice.

### **Introduction to Trauma Informed Care (SSW126) (3 credits)**

Social Service Work practice involves working with marginalized individuals, families, groups and communities on micro, mezzo and macro levels in a range of roles and within a variety of organizational and community contexts. The experience of trauma is not uncommon in the lives of those that SSW?s support, and in the communities that SSW?s strive to support and create positive change within. This course is introductory and will introduce the description and scope of trauma and its impact on individuals, families and communities. Subsequent courses will build on the foundational knowledge.

### **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.

## Semester 2

### **S.S.W. Documentation and Record Keeping (CMM235) (3 credits)**

Record keeping is essential to social service work practice, and reflects professional values and legal and ethical obligations. Documentation supports professional observations, assessment and intervention strategies, and promotes integrated care and delivery of services that address client goals. In this course, students critically approach client interactions and produce documentation that is objective, culturally safe, and client centred. Emphasis is placed on research and applied writing skills reflective of the SSW profession, workplace practices, and legal frameworks relevant to Ontario. Through documentation, students further develop their professional skills and competence in strengths-based, anti-oppressive practice.

### **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 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 emphasize 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.

### **Non - Violent Crisis Intervention (SSW226) (1 credits)**

### **SSW Essential Practice Skills (SSW227) (3 credits)**

Students will explore divergent approaches to case management with a particular emphasis on strengths-based, empowerment, trauma informed and anti-oppressive perspectives. Through practical case studies, practice demonstrations/case simulations students will demonstrate SSW skills in the roles and responsibilities assumed by case managers including intake, engagement, assessment, intervention & goal planning, documentation, service coordination and advocacy. Students will develop collaborative skills to mutually identify strengths, resiliency, resources, goals and challenges of clients within a variety of practice settings including addiction and mental health. Students can expect a strong emphasis in reflective practice, self-awareness and application of case management concepts.

### **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 persons 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.

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

For Transfer Credit Purposes only.

## Semester 3

### **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.

### **Social Service Work Practice with Families (SSW303) (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.

### **Social Welfare: Policy and Practice w/ Indigenous and O.P. (SSW305) (3 credits)**

This course examines major concepts, roots, and social, cultural, political and economic trends shaping social policy, social welfare and practice with an emphasis on Indigenous people and other racialized groups in Canada. Students will understand the historical, collective and intergenerational impact of trauma; colonization and assimilation policies have had on Indigenous peoples. Additionally, an examination of relevant social policies and programs relevant to other oppressed groups is emphasized. Using cultural safe practices, students will learn to identify community resources and needs to engage with diverse communities in ways which respect and support their worldviews, values and rights to self-determine. Students will be exposed to Indigenous and other alternative practice models to incorporate within their SSW practice. The roles of ?elder?, ?knowledge holders?, ?helpers? and ?allies? will be explored.

### **Human Behaviour and Social Environment (SSW306) (3 credits)**

This course is designed to provide knowledge and understanding of theory and practice issues related to human behavior as a bio-psycho-social-spiritual phenomenon. From an anti-oppressive perspective, the promotion of social and economic justice are examined in relation to the interaction of societal, biological, political, economic, historical, cultural and psychosocial variables. The impacts of racial, gender, orientation, age, and socio-cultural influences across individual, family, and community lifespans are developed. Through the lens of anti-oppressive perspectives, particular practice implications and skills with Indigenous populations, older adults, LGBTQ-I community and individuals with who are neuro-diverse or have disabilities are emphasized.

### **Fieldwork for Social Service Work (SSW307) (7 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.

## Semester 4

### **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.

### **Trauma Informed Crisis Intervention (SSW403) (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.

**S.S.W. Essential Advocacy/Community Capacity Building Skills (SSW404) (4 credits)**

This course focuses on the skills, knowledge and perspectives required to work effectively in communities and in social service practice areas requiring advocacy skills. Knowledge of what constitutes a healthy community, engagement of citizens to determine and realize community goals, social determinants of health and their relationship to engaged citizenship and social justice and optimizing community strengths will be emphasized. Students will become more familiar with definitions of community, methods of community engagement, and social justice as it applies to communities.

**Fieldwork II for Social Service Work (SSW405) (11 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.