



Sociology & Political Science

TENNESSEE TECH

Social Work Minor (SOSW-MIN)

This minor provides a strong foundation in social work practice, human behavior, and social justice, with a focus on real-world issues such as poverty, inequality, mental health, and public policy. It's an excellent complement to majors like sociology, psychology, criminal justice, nursing, education, and more—enhancing your ability to work with individuals, families, and communities.

Interested in making a difference in people's lives?

The Social Work minor at Tennessee Tech is a 15-hour undergraduate program designed for students from any major who want to explore careers in helping professions or prepare for graduate study in social work.

The Social Work minor includes a combination of foundational and advanced courses.

Why choose the social work minor?

- Build skills in helping, advocacy, and community engagement.
- Explore careers in mental health, social services, healthcare, education, and justice systems.
- Prepare for admission into a Master of Social Work (MSW) program.
- Gain a strong foundation in social issues that matter.

Program Requirements (15 credit hours)

- SW 1800 – Introduction to Social Work (3 hrs)
- SW 2010 – Human Behavior in the Social Environment I (3 hrs)
- SW 2020 – Human Behavior in the Social Environment II (3 hrs) or SW 4000 – Substance Misuse, Addiction, and Recovery (3 hrs)
- SW 4110/5110 – Poverty, Inequality, & Social Justice (3 hrs)
- SW 4175/5175 – Introduction to Social Welfare Policy (3 hrs)

Note: SW 1800 and SW 2010 are prerequisites for upper-level courses.

MSW Pathway (Fast Track Option) (18 hrs)

Want a head start on graduate school? The MSW Pathway allows you to begin working toward your Master of Social Work while still completing your undergraduate degree.

How to Apply to the MSW Pathway

To be eligible for the MSW Pathway, students should be currently pursuing the Social Work minor (SOCSW-MIN). To apply during their junior year through the Department of Sociology and Political Science

Requirements:

- Minimum 3.0 GPA
- Two faculty recommendations
- A short essay outlining your interest in social work and future MSW study

Through this option, you can:

- Earn up to 9 graduate credit hours while an undergraduate
- Take dual-credit courses (4000/5000 level)
- Complete one additional graduate course in your senior year

Dual-Credit Courses (6 hrs) / Graduate Course (3 hrs):

- SW 4110/5110 – Poverty, Inequality, & Social Justice
- SW 4175/5175 – Introduction to Social Welfare Policy
- SW 4005: Rural Social Work (3 hrs)
- SW 4010: School Social Work (3 hrs)
- SW 4015: Medical Social Work (3 hrs)
- SW 4020: Forensic Social Work (3 hrs)
- SW 4025: Social Work with Children & Youth (3 hrs)

* If receiving financial aid, this course should be taken along with a full course load (12 hrs.), which would bring the total credit hours for the semester to 15 hours.

Questions?

Please reach out to Dr. Steven Seiler (sseiler@tnitech.edu) or Mr. Matt Silvey (msilvey@tnitech.edu)



Note: Admission to the MSW Pathway does not guarantee admission to the MSW program. However, students admitted to the MSW program may apply up to 9 graduate credits (earned with a "B" or higher) toward their degree.