INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

The Social Welfare major provides undergraduate students with a broad-based introduction to America’s social welfare problems and social policies within a social science context. The curriculum focuses both on the history and institutions of social work as a field of activity, and on the welfare state as a collective enterprise addressing human need. Students gain knowledge of organized networks of public and private social services, and the basic practice methods associated with the social work profession.

The major is a designated “group major” grounded in the liberal arts, rather than specialized training in the profession of social work. Students who successfully complete the major program are awarded the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree.

ADMISSION TO THE MAJOR

Social Welfare is a capped major and prerequisites and enrollment controls for required courses are in place to manage student demand. Students interested in declaring should complete the prerequisite entry requirements as soon as possible. In order to declare, students must complete all prerequisites with a C or better, have a minimum GPA of 2.0, and have taken less than 80 units (including in progress classes).

Students should also be aware of application deadlines and complete the e-form as soon as all of the prerequisites have been completed.

MY FAVORITE THING ABOUT THE SOCIAL WELFARE MAJOR IS THE PEOPLE I’VE MET ALONG THE WAY. IT’S GREAT TO BE AROUND PEOPLE WHO ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE FIELD AND LOVE WHAT THEY DO!

– Monica Poblano, Class of 2022

ADVISING

Students can email the Undergraduate Major Advisor with any questions or to schedule an appointment at swundergrad@berkeley.edu.

For more information and the most up-to-date drop-in hours, please see: socialwelfare.berkeley.edu/academics/bachelor-arts-social-welfare/declaring-basw-major.

CONNECT WITH US

Golden Bear Orientation
Join your peers in the campus-wide UC Berkeley orientation program for all new students.

Events
Attend department events with students, staff, and faculty. Visit socialwelfare.berkeley.edu for news and updates.

HOW TO USE THIS MAP

Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UC Berkeley, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone’s Berkeley experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.

Visit vcue.berkeley.edu/majormaps for the latest version of this major map.
WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

Social work addresses the barriers, inequities and injustices that exist in society. It responds to crises and emergencies as well as to everyday personal and social problems. Social work utilizes a variety of skills, techniques, and activities consistent with its holistic focus on people and their environment.

Jobs and Employers

- Administrative Asst., Interface
- Engineering Advisor, UC Berkeley
- Business Development Coordinator, Oracle
- Community Health Worker, MLK Hospital
- Community Organizer, LAUSD
- Counselor Support, Alta Mira
- Recovery Centers
- Family Advocate, YMCA
- Healthcare Operations, Kaiser
- Permanente
- Home Health Aide, In-Home Support Services
- Residential Counselor, Larkin Street
- Youth Services
- Youth Specialist, Americorps

Graduate Programs

- Clinical Psychology
- Educational Administration
- Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences
- Hospitality Administration
- Public Health
- Public Policy
- Social Welfare
- Sociology
- Speech Language Pathology

Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.