

New Proposal

Date Submitted: 10/13/25 12:33 pm

Viewing: : Doctor of Social Work

Last edit: 11/06/25 9:20 am

Changes proposed by: Melissa Iverson

In Workflow

- 1. U Program Review
- 2. 1783-SOC_W Head
- 3. LL Committee Chair
- 4. LL Dean
- 5. University Librarian
- 6. Grad_College
- 7. COTE Programs
- 8. Provost
- 9. Senate EPC
- 10. Senate
- 11. U Senate Conf
- 12. Board of Trustees
- 13. IBHE
- 14. HLC
- 15. DOE
- 16. Catalog Editor
- 17. DMI

Approval Path

- 1. 09/10/25 11:53 am
Brianna Vargas-Gonzalez (bv4):
Rollback to Initiator
- 2. 10/15/25 4:46 pm
Brianna Vargas-Gonzalez (bv4):
Approved for U
Program Review
- 3. 10/16/25 11:39 am
Cheryl Street
(street): Approved
for 1783-SOC_W
Head
- 4. 10/16/25 11:41 am
Cheryl Street
(street): Approved

for LL Committee
Chair

5. 10/21/25 4:13 pm
Janet Liechty
(jliechty): Approved
for LL Dean
6. 10/21/25 4:18 pm
Tom Teper (tteper):
Approved for
University Librarian
7. 11/05/25 10:51 am
Allison McKinney
(agrindly): Approved
for Grad_College
8. 11/05/25 11:38 am
Suzanne Lee
(suzannel):
Approved for COTE
Programs
9. 11/05/25 2:55 pm
Brooke Newell
(bsnewell):
Approved for
Provost

Proposal Type

Proposal Type: Degree (ex. BS, MS)

Administration Details

Official Program Name	Doctor of Social Work
Diploma Title	Doctor of Social Work
Sponsor College	Social Work, School of
Sponsor Department	Social Work
Sponsor Name	Janet Liechty
Sponsor Email	jliechty@illinois.edu

College Contact

Email

Yvonne Shaw

shaw14@illinois.edu

Melissa Iverson- miverso@illinois.edu

No

Effective Catalog 2026-2027

This DSW degree proposal (key 1276) is related to the Social Work major proposal (key 1309).

Program Justification

Provide a brief justification of the program, including highlights of the program objectives, and the careers, occupations, or further educational opportunities for which the program will prepare graduates, when appropriate.

The proposed Social Work major will support the launch of a Doctor of Social Work (DSW) program, expanding the academic offerings of our existing School of Social Work, which currently hosts undergraduate, MSW, and PhD programs. The DSW will provide an advanced practice-oriented pathway for seasoned social work professionals, focusing on leadership, evidence-based practice, and systemic change.

The proposed Doctor of Social Work (DSW) degree will address the growing need for advanced practice leaders in the field of social work, equipping professionals with the skills to tackle complex challenges in human services, nonprofits, clinical practice, and public systems. The program will prepare graduates to lead social change, advocate for equity and justice, and improve outcomes for diverse populations through evidence-informed decision-making, strategic leadership, and innovative practice. The degree will prepare graduates to excel in practice, leadership, and scholarship, bridging the gap between applied social work and systemic change.

The DSW degree aims to equip social work professionals with advanced practice, leadership, and critical thinking skills to address complex social issues. Graduates will develop expertise in evidence-based interventions, interdisciplinary collaboration, and systemic advocacy to promote social justice and improve outcomes for diverse populations.

Graduates with a DSW degree will be prepared for advanced practice roles, leadership positions in social service organizations, and faculty or research opportunities in higher education. They will also be equipped to drive policy innovation, advocate for systemic change, and lead initiatives that enhance equity and access in diverse settings.

Career and Educational Opportunities:

Graduates of this DSW program will be well-prepared for a variety of leadership roles within the social work and nonprofit sectors. Potential careers include executive director, program director, chief operating officer, senior clinical director, clinical program supervisor, behavioral health administrator, or senior management positions in social service agencies, healthcare organizations, and nonprofit entities. This degree will provide the skills and knowledge necessary to enter and excel in these leadership positions, driving organizational success, high-quality client care, and social impact.

Instructional Resources

Will there be any reduction in other course offerings, programs or concentrations by your department as a result of this new program/proposed change?

No

Does this new program/proposed change result in the replacement of another program?

No

Does the program include other courses/subjects outside of the sponsoring department impacted by the creation/ revision of this program? If Yes is selected, indicate the appropriate courses and attach the letter of support/ acknowledgement.

No

Program Features

Academic Level Graduate

What is the longest/maximum time to completion of this program?

3 years

What are the minimum Total Credit Hours required for this program?

48

What is the 3.0
required GPA?

Is this program part of an ISBE approved licensure program?

No

Will specialized accreditation be sought for this program?

No

Does this program prepare graduates for entry into a career or profession that is regulated by the State of Illinois?

No

Plan to Assess and Improve Student Learning

Delivery Method

This program is
available:

On Campus and Online - 2 program types. Students can receive the entire program either on campus or online. Students can choose to take courses in either modality.

Describe the use of this delivery method:

Students can take courses online or on campus.

Budget

Will the program or revision require staffing (faculty, advisors, etc.) beyond what is currently available?

No

Additional Budget
Information

Attach File(s)

Financial Resources

How does the unit intend to financially support this proposal?

Not applicable.

Will the unit need to seek campus or other external resources?

No

Attach letters of
support

Library Resources

Describe your proposal's impact on the University Library's resources, collections, and services. If necessary please consult with the appropriate disciplinary specialist within the University Library.

The proposed Doctor of Social Work (DSW) degree application does not require any library resources or services. Additional information regarding the library is available in the related proposals Major- Social Work (key 1309).

EP Documentation

EP Control Number EP.26.082

Attach Rollback/
Approval Notices

Non-EP Documentation

U Program Review
Comments

Rollback
Documentation and
Attachment

DMI Documentation

Attach Final
Approval Notices
Banner/Codebook
Name

Program Code:

Minor Code	Conc Code	Degree Code	Major Code
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Senate Approval
Date
Senate Conference
Approval Date
BOT Approval Date
IBHE Approval Date
HLC Approval Date
DOE Approval Date
Effective Date:

Program Reviewer **Mary Lowry (lowry) (08/28/24 1:45 pm):** Rollback: Rolling back per conversation 8-28-24.
Comments **Brianna Vargas-Gonzalez (bv4) (09/10/25 11:53 am):** Rollback: Per request from Melissa I.