

SOCIAL SERVICE WORKER

Program Outline

Major:	SSWK
Length:	2 Years
Delivery:	4 Semesters
Credential:	Ontario College Diploma
Effective:	2013-2014
Location:	Orillia
Start:	Fall (Orillia), Winter (Orillia)

Description

The Social Service Worker Program will provide the opportunity for students to gain knowledge and skill development required to effectively assume the role of a helping professional in the diverse and complex field of social services. Students will be challenged to examine their own beliefs and values; to develop their interpersonal communication skills; and to promote the values of social justice, human dignity, and equality. The program philosophy is based upon the fundamental belief in the dignity, worth and potential of all people, emphasizing core knowledge and skill development in: interviewing, counselling and relationship building; effective membership and leadership in group settings; working with families; and creating and maintaining helping relationships. Students will practice the processes involved in case management, community development and advocating for social change.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the program will have an understanding of and a commitment to the values and ethics that lead to a philosophy of empowering individuals and communities to utilize their own strengths to solve problems, access resources and promote social justice and equality. Graduates will meet the educational requirements for registration as a Social Service Worker in the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers. A variety of career opportunities are available to graduates.

Program Learning Outcomes

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

- develop and maintain professional relationships which adhere to professional, legal, and ethical standards aligned to social service work;
- identify strengths, resources, and challenges of individuals, groups, families, and communities to assist them in achieving their goals;
- recognize diverse needs and experiences of individuals, groups, families, and communities, to promote accessible and responsive programs and services;
- identify current social policy; relevant legislation; and political, social, and/or economic systems, and their impacts on service delivery;
- advocate for appropriate access to resources to assist individuals, families, groups and communities;
- develop and maintain positive working relationships with colleagues, supervisors, and community partners;
- develop strategies and plans that lead to the promotion of self care, improved job performance and enhanced work relationships;
- integrate social group work and group facilitation skills across a wide range of environments, supporting growth and development of individuals, families and communities;
- work in communities to advocate for change strategies that promote social and economic justice and challenge patterns of oppression and discrimination.

The Program Progression:

Fall Intake - Orillia

Sem 1	Sem 2	Sem 3	Sem 4
Fall 2013	Winter 2014	Fall 2014	Winter 2015

Winter Intake - Orillia

Sem 1	Sem 2	Sem 3	Sem 4
Winter 2014	Summer 2014	Fall 2014	Winter 2015

Articulation:

A number of articulation agreements have been negotiated with universities and other institutions across Canada, North America and internationally. These agreements are assessed, revised and updated on a regular basis. Please contact the program co-ordinator for specific details if you are interested in pursuing such an option. Additional

information can be found on our website at
<http://www.georgianc.on.ca/academics/articulations/>

Admission Requirements:

You must meet ONE of the following requirements to be eligible for admission to these programs:

Secondary school applicants:

- OSS curriculum: OSSD or equivalent, with Grade 12 English (C) or (U) (ENG4C, ENG4U)

Non-Secondary school applicants (19 years or older):

- Any credit Communication course taken at Georgian College
- College preparatory programs including those taken at Georgian College: Human Service Foundation, General Arts and Science*
- Equivalent courses in English taken through secondary school or Independent Learning Centres (at the general, advanced, college or university level)
- Academic and Career Entrance Certificate (ACE) program with communications
- Mature student testing in English that meets the minimum standards for admission (available through most testing services)*
- Ontario High School Equivalency Certificate (GED)
- English, Literature or Communication credit courses from accredited colleges/universities

Home school applicants:

- Applicants can write the mature student testing in English that meets the minimum standards for admission (available through testing services)*

* available from Georgian College. For a complete listing please contact the Office of the Registrar.

Non-secondary school applicants who are 19 years of age or over by the first day of classes, and who lack the academic entrance qualifications, may be considered for entrance to an appropriate post-secondary diploma or certificate program as mature applicants. Mature applicants must meet all program specific prerequisites including all selection criteria; equivalencies are stated above. Applicants who are unsure whether they meet admission requirements should contact the Office of the Registrar. In addition, those applying as mature students and having no documentation of Grade 12 education must supply, if required, proof of age, such as a copy of an official birth certificate or driver's licence. Refer to Section 2.5 and 2.6 of the Academic Calendar for further details.

Credit transfer and course exemptions:

Applicants who have taken courses from a recognized and accredited post-secondary institution and/or have relevant life/learning experience may be eligible for credit transfer/course exemptions. Courses/experience must match at least 80% of the learning outcomes of a Georgian College course with a minimum grade of 60% or C achieved in previous coursework; some program exceptions apply (see program outline). For further information please visit the Credit Transfer Centre website: georgiancollege.ca/admissions/credit-transfer/

Criminal Reference Check:

Placement agencies require an up-to-date clear criminal reference check and vulnerable sector check prior to going out on placement. Students should obtain their criminal reference check approximately one month prior to placement; checks conducted earlier may not be considered current. As some jurisdictions require longer lead-time for processing, please check with the program co-ordinator to ensure you allow for sufficient turn-around time. Students are required to provide these checks prior to placement start.

NOTE: A record of criminal offences, for which a pardon has not been granted, may prevent the student from completing their placement, thereby affecting their ability to graduate.

Additional Information:

Applicants must have an up-to-date immunization record, Standard First Aid and CPR certification before proceeding on field placement. It is recommended that First Aid training is completed prior to program entry.

Graduation Requirements:

- 18 Mandatory Courses
- 2 Communications Courses
- 2 Field Placements
- 3 General Education Courses

Graduation Eligibility:

To graduate from this program, the passing weighted average for promotion through each semester, from year to year and to graduate is 60%. Additionally, a student must attain a minimum of 50% or a letter grade of P (Pass) or S (Satisfactory) in each course in each semester.

Mandatory Courses

GNED2016 Social Psychology
 GNED2035 Abnormal Psychology
 PSYL1001 Introduction To Psychology
 SSWK1000 Human Development Across the Lifespan
 SSWK1001 Introduction to Social Service Worker
 SSWK1002 Family Sociology for Social Work
 SSWK1003 The Principles of a Helping Relationship
 SSWK1005 Dynamics and Processes of Group Counselling
 SSWK1006 Process and Practices for Social Service Workers
 SSWK1009 Field Placement Preparation
 SSWK2000 Social Work Practice Across Peoples and Cultures
 SSWK2001 Practical Techniques in the Helping Relationship
 SSWK2002 Administrative Issues in Social Service Work
 SSWK2005 Ethics, Professionalism and Wellness in the Social Services
 SSWK2006 Community Development: Advocacy for Social and Economic Justice
 SSWK2007 Consolidating The Counselling Relationship
 SSWK2009 Field Placement Seminar 1
 SSWK2010 Field Placement Seminar 2

Communications Courses

To be selected at time of registration from the College list, as determined by testing.

Field Placements

SSWK1014 Introductory Field Placement
 SSWK2015 Field Placement 1

General Education Courses

To be selected from College list

Course Descriptions:

GNED2016 Social Psychology 42.0 Hours

This course provides students with a working knowledge of the central theories and everyday applications of social psychology. Students explore the ways in which others affect our personal and professional lives by focusing on both classic and contemporary studies in social perception, cognition, influence, interpersonal attraction, race relations, and aggression. As a result, social psychology provides students with sound insights to help them understand and manage their interpersonal relationships in both work and social life.

GNED2035 Abnormal Psychology 42.0 Hours

This course provides an introduction to the psychology of abnormal behaviour. Students explore definitions of psychopathology and investigate various perspectives pertaining to abnormal behaviour. Students learn the connection between causal explanations for behaviour and treatment approaches. The main psychological perspectives are then applied to understanding the major categories of psychological disorders.

PSYL1001 Introduction To Psychology 42.0 Hours

This course provides an introduction to the concepts and theories of psychology and to their application to real life situations. Topics include history, research methods, sensation, perception, consciousness, stress and coping, learning, memory, motivation and emotions.

SSWK1000 Human Development Across the Lifespan 42.0 Hours

The student will explore the individual, relational and cultural influences on identity formation over the lifespan. The student will examine the major psychological developmental theories, and explore and contrast these with newer theories. These more recent approaches understand adult development and identity formation as dynamic and multifaceted, reflecting the multiple and varied roles each person adopts in adulthood.

SSWK1001 Introduction to Social Service Worker 42.0 Hours

This course introduces the continuum of social services available in our communities and the role of the professional Social Service Worker in delivering these services. The student will recognize and access appropriate resources for professional practice including the body of knowledge that informs the profession. The student will discover the legal and ethical rights and responsibilities of the Social Service Worker. The student is encouraged to develop a fundamental belief in the dignity, worth and potential of all people.

SSWK1002 Family Sociology for Social Work 42.0 Hours

The multiple variations in family structure, as well as the problems and issues facing families in the twenty-first century will be addressed. Family development and family functions will be examined in the context of environment; work, school and leisure. Approaches to prevention of family violence, sexual abuse and elder abuse will be explored. The student will be encouraged to conceptualize the study of family dynamics from a perspective of strength and resiliency using a systems framework.

SSWK1003 The Principles of a Helping Relationship 42.0 Hours

Using the counseling labs, the student will explore the qualities embedded in an effective professional helping relationship. The course is focused on understanding and applying active listening skills, including attending, questioning, paraphrasing, and empathic reflection. Emphasis is placed on the values which form the basis of client-

centered, strengths-based, and ecological approaches, including: respect, genuineness, empathy and, empowerment.

SSWK1005 Dynamics and Processes of Group Counselling 56.0 Hours

Fundamental theories, techniques and dimensions of group work will be examined. Using the labs, role playing, case studies and simulations, students will experience the stages of group development. Students will examine the impact of interpersonal communication skills, including feedback and self-disclosure skills, and the impact of intervention techniques and conflict resolution strategies on the effectiveness of a working group. Students will identify personal strategies that contribute to effective group work.

SSWK1006 Process and Practices for Social Service Workers 42.0 Hours

This course examines professional processes and practices in the context of case management in human service organizations. Included are principles and applications of interviewing and assessment, documentation, report writing and appropriate referral protocols. The student will continue to examine the legal and ethical rights and responsibilities of clients and workers in the field of Social Services.

SSWK1009 Field Placement Preparation 28.0 Hours

Students will examine the Ontario College of Social Work and Social Service Workers Code of Ethics to identify and reliably display the skills, values and knowledge required to be a successful, professional Social Service Worker. Students will develop personal learning goals and research community agencies to serve as field placements to help further individual goals. Students will develop an administrative portfolio and complete required documentation in preparation for field placement.

P- SSWK1001 Introduction to Social Service Worker and P- SSWK1003 The Principles of a Helping Relationship

SSWK2000 Social Work Practice Across Peoples and Cultures 42.0 Hours

Cultural concerns, the changing nature of the family, community, gender age, race, disability, ethnicity as well as issues of concern to aboriginal peoples will be examined within the context of the social service delivery. Students will gain knowledge of the National and Provincial Human Rights Codes, and will investigate systemic barriers facing vulnerable populations. Students will examine how a variety of issues affect access and utilization of social services in Canadian society.

SSWK2001 Practical Techniques in the Helping Relationship 56.0 Hours

Students will continue to integrate the skills of establishing consumer centred helping relationships. In the lab setting, students will be exposed to the theoretical and practical skills necessary to properly assess situations and intervene appropriately. Intervention strategies for crisis intervention, and for people dealing with mental health problems, drug and alcohol addiction, cognitive impairment will be examined and practiced in the labs.

SSWK2002 Administrative Issues in Social Service Work 42.0 Hours

This course will provide an overview of the funding, structure and administration of community organizations and social services that operate within Ontario and Canada. The course will give students an overview of the roles and responsibilities of administrators in the non-profit sector. Topics of study will include the Human Rights Codes, volunteer recruitment and management, fundraising, budgeting and human resource functions. Students will learn about grant applications.

SSWK2005 Ethics, Professionalism and Wellness in the Social Services 42.0 Hours

This course will promote self-awareness through analysis of students' values, beliefs, biases and fears. Establishing realistic professional goals while creating balance in one's life will be emphasized. An introduction to Psychoneuroimmunology (PNI) will provide the basis for understanding wellness in terms of the mind-body connection and will lead to an examination of the impact of the spiritual perspective. Cultural, ethical, legal and gender issues that relate to professionalism will be examined.

SSWK2006 Community Development: Advocacy for Social and Economic Justice 42.0 Hours

Canada's social policy framework, and community development models, will be examined. Students will be encouraged to think of innovative and creative ways to involve individuals, groups and communities in advocacy and social change processes. Students will practice writing proposals for grant applications. Students will be expected to examine the vulnerable populations in their own community and apply advocacy and community development strategies to create an effective action plan with one or more of these groups.

SSWK2007 Consolidating The Counselling Relationship 42.0 Hours

Working in the labs, students will refine and consolidate more advanced helping skills. The student will demonstrate effective and contributory skills as a member of a learning group. Students will focus on assessment, intervention, consumer welfare and ethical issues. Students will consolidate listening and feedback skills, reframing and intervention strategies, and will concentrate on developing appropriate problem solving plans that build on the individual's or community's strengths and resources to meet those identified needs.

SSWK2009 Field Placement Seminar 1 42.0 Hours

Students will begin to articulate their own strengths and limitations and will be encouraged to integrate theory with practice. The role of supervision and personal responsibility in problem solving will be examined. Through discussion of examples from actual experience, students will develop their assessment, planning and problem solving skills in the context of their field placement. Students will reliably and consistently demonstrate professional and ethical conduct consistent with the values of social service work.

P- SSWK1001 Introduction to Social Service Worker and P- SSWK1003 The Principles of a Helping Relationship and P- SSWK1009 Field Placement Preparation

SSWK2010 Field Placement Seminar 2 42.0 Hours

This seminar allows students to consolidate problem solving, and self assessment skills. Application to the Ontario College of Social Service Workers will complement development of a final professional portfolio that will assist students to apply for positions in the field. This seminar will focus on the student's transition from practicing to becoming a professional Social Service Worker, and the student will reliably and consistently demonstrate the professional behaviour expected of a Social Service Worker.

SSWK2015 Field Placement 1 42.0 Hours

The student will identify with the demands of a professional Social Service Worker by integrating theory with the values, attitudes and professional behaviours required by the agency. The student will reliably and consistently demonstrate an understanding of the expectations of the placement agency, while working collaboratively and communicating effectively with colleagues and consumers of the agency's services. The student will focus on solutions to problem areas related to the field experience through effective use of supervision.

Course Description Legend

P = Prerequisite; C = Concurrent prerequisite; CO= Corequisite

Information contained in College documents respecting programs is correct at the time of publication. Academic content of programs and courses is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance to changing educational objectives and employment market needs. The college reserves the right to add or delete programs, options, courses, timetables or campus locations subject to sufficient enrolment, and the availability of courses.