

SOCIAL SERVICE WORKER

Program Outline

Major:	SSWK
Length:	2 Years
Delivery:	4 Semesters
Credential:	Ontario College Diploma
Effective:	2014-2015
Location:	Orillia
Start:	Fall (Orillia), Winter (Orillia)

Description

The program provides the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills required to effectively assume the role of a helping professional in the diverse and complex field of social services. Students are challenged to examine their beliefs and values; to develop interpersonal communication skills; and to promote values of social justice, human dignity, and equality.

The program philosophy is based on a fundamental belief in the dignity, worth and potential of all people, emphasizing knowledge and skill development in interviewing, communication, and relationship building; effective membership and leadership in groups; working with families; and utilizing evidence-based decision-making. Students practice the skills involved in case management, community development and advocacy. There will be opportunities to engage in the community through community service learning and field placement.

Career Opportunities

Graduates gain an understanding of the values and ethics that lead to the empowerment of individuals and communities, and they also meet the educational requirements for registration as a Social Service Worker in the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers. Employment opportunities are affiliated with community mental health, government, and non-profit agencies. Primary career categories include: programs serving children and families, community shelters, mental

health and disability services, employment resources, seniors' programs, housing, and education services.

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.
- employ environmental sustainable practices within the profession.
- develop social entrepreneur skills to foster positive social change in the community.

The Program Progression:

Fall Intake - Orillia

Sem 1	Sem 2	Sem 3	Sem 4
Fall 2014	Winter 2015	Fall 2015	Winter 2016

Winter Intake - Orillia

Sem 1	Sem 2	Sem 3	Sem 4
Winter 2015	Summer 2015	Fall 2015	Winter 2016

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:

- 17 Mandatory Courses
- 2 Communications Courses
- 3 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

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
SSWK1006	Case Management
SSWK1010	Field Placement Preparation
SSWK1011	Group Facilitation / Dynamics
SSWK1012	Mental Health and Addictions in Social Service Work Practice
SSWK1013	Social Welfare and Political Ideologies
SSWK2000	Diversity and Multiculturalism in Canada
SSWK2005	Ethics, Professionalism and Wellness in the Social Services
SSWK2006	Community Development: Advocacy for Social and Economic Justice
SSWK2007	Consolidating Techniques in the Helping Relationship
SSWK2009	Field Placement Seminar 1
SSWK2010	Field Placement Seminar 2
SSWK2013	Practical Techniques in the Helping Relationship
SSWK2014	Community Practice in Social Service Work

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
SSWK2016	Field Placement 2

General Education Courses

To be selected from College list

Course Descriptions:

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.

SSWK1006 Case Management 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.

SSWK1010 Field Placement Preparation 42.0 Hours

This course introduces the student to the expectations and administrative requirements of a successful field placement as a Social Service Worker. The student 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. This course will use a variety of methods to expose the student to the resources available in the community; including community service opportunities, research projects and guest lecturers. Personal wellness, self-care strategies and reflective practice will be explored as integral components of a Social Service Worker's

professional practice. The student will be introduced to the skills required to build a professional portfolio.

SSWK1011 Group Facilitation / Dynamics 42.0 Hours

Fundamental theories, techniques and dimensions of group work will be examined. Using the labs, role playing, case studies and simulations, the student will experience the stages of group development. The student 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. The student will identify styles and strategies that contribute to effective group work.

SSWK1012 Mental Health and Addictions in Social Service Work Practice 42.0 Hours

This course provides students with a working knowledge of mental health issues and addictions from an ecological perspective including basic terminology and concepts. Students explore various classifications of mental disorders, addictions, treatment options and best practice interventions within the SSW scope of practice. Students examine current trends in mental health and addictions service delivery, research and practice within the context of client empowerment, recovery and helping relationships. Prevention, resources and treatment options are examined, along with community response to mental health and addictions.

SSWK1013 Social Welfare and Political Ideologies 42.0 Hours

The course introduces the student to the political and social influences that shape the context of social service work. The student will examine and compare Canadian political ideologies in relation to the development and implementation of social welfare policy and programs. Current government funding models that support the social service system will be discussed. The student will explore the primary functions of social welfare including income supplement program, program delivery models and program eligibility issues. The student will research significant social welfare program related to vulnerable populations.

SSWK1014 Introductory Field Placement 42.0 Hours

The student will develop their planning skills and initiative to explore opportunities in the community in order to increase awareness of social service resources, build professional networks and participate in activities that promote self-care. The student will self-direct their participation in various activities that include participation fund raising event, professional workshops, training events, community meetings, community events, professional development workshops, conferences, series, panel discussion or college events. The student will capitalize on their experience and start to build their professional Social Service Worker portfolio.

SSWK2000 Diversity and Multiculturalism in Canada 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. The student will gain knowledge of the National and Provincial Human Rights Codes, and will investigate systemic barriers facing vulnerable populations. The student will examine how a variety of issues affect access and utilization of social services in Canadian society.

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. The student will develop an understanding of core ethical and moral principles, and explore standards of practice that impact on potential issues related to professional conduct. An introduction to decision making models will promote inquiry-based learning and ethical practice. 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

This course introduces the student to the social change process through community development strategies and practices. The student will be expected to examine community assets, gaps and needs and apply advocacy and community development strategies to create an effective and unique project that promotes social change. The student will discuss innovative and creative ways to involve individuals, groups and communities in advocacy and social change processes. The student will be introduced to and practice the skills and techniques of grant writing, logic modeling and project evaluation.

SSWK2007 Consolidating Techniques in the Helping Relationship 42.0 Hours

Working in the labs, the student will refine and consolidate more advanced helping skills and simulate full case planning, including intake, interviewing, team preparation, providing resources, referrals, and follow-up services as part of a team. The student will consolidate listening and feedback skills, intervention strategies, and will concentrate on developing appropriate solution-focused plans that build on the individual and community strengths and resources to meet client-identified goals. The student will also integrate program and placement experiences into case planning simulations through reflective practice.

SSWK2009 Field Placement Seminar 1 42.0 Hours

The student will begin to articulate their 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, the student will develop their assessment, planning and problem solving skills in the context of their field placement. The student will explore various self-reflection methods, to further develop their understanding of how reflective

practice relates to professional development and practice. The student 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 the student to consolidate their skills in the areas of problem solving, self-assessment, reflection, and personal wellness strategies. 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. The student will review the self-assessment tool and professional development plan through the OCSWSSW Continued Competency Program.

SSWK2013 Practical Techniques in the Helping Relationship 42.0 Hours

The student will continue to integrate the skills of establishing client centred, strengths-based helping relationships, and apply these skills to working in teams. In the lab setting, the student will be exposed to the theoretical and practical skills necessary to properly assess situations and intervene appropriately. Strategies for crisis intervention and for people dealing with mental health problems, drug and alcohol addiction, cognitive impairment and sexual abuse, will be examined and practiced in the labs.

SSWK2014 Community Practice 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 in Canada. The course will give the student an overview of the roles and responsibilities of administrators in the non-profit sector. The student will examine non-profit governance, volunteer recruitment and management, resource development, finance management and human resource functions.

SSWK2015 Field Placement 1 224.0 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.

SSWK2016 Field Placement 2 224.0 Hours

The student is expected to build on their previous field experience. The student is expected to assume increasing levels of responsibility and to develop their abilities to apply classroom skills, ethics, values and knowledge with the consumer group, the agency teams and other community agencies. Professional attitudes, skills and abilities will be displayed by the student, and the student will demonstrate the ability to use more sophisticated helping, communication, planning and problem solving skills.

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.