

SOCIAL SERVICE WORKER

Program Outline

Major:	SSWK
Length:	2 Years
Delivery:	4 Semesters
Credential:	Ontario College Diploma
Effective:	2015-2016
Location:	Orillia, South Georgian Bay
Start:	Fall (Orillia, South Georgian Bay), 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, South Georgian Bay

Sem 1	Sem 2	Sem 3	Sem 4
Fall 2015	Winter 2016	Fall 2016	Winter 2017

Winter Intake - Orillia

Sem 1	Sem 2	Sem 3	Sem 4
Winter 2016	Summer 2016	Fall 2016	Winter 2017

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.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/credit-transfer/>

Admission Requirements:

OSSD or equivalent with
- Grade 12 English (C or U)

Mature students, non-secondary school applicants (19 years or older), and home school applicants may also be considered for admission. Eligibility may be met by applicants who have taken equivalent courses, upgrading, completed their GED, and equivalency testing. For complete details refer to: www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/policies-procedures/

Applicants who have taken courses from a recognized and accredited post-secondary institution and/or have relevant life/learning experience may also be considered for admission; refer to the Credit Transfer Centre website for details: www.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 three months 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 coordinator to ensure you allow for sufficient turn-around time. It is the students responsibility to provide the completed document prior to placement start.

NOTE: A record of criminal offences, for which a pardon has not been granted, may prevent students from completing their placements, 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 unless otherwise stated on the course outline.

Mandatory Courses

- SSWK1000 Human Development Across the Lifespan
- SSWK1001 Introduction to Social Service Work
- SSWK1002 Family Sociology for Social Service Work
- SSWK1003 Principles of a Helping Relationship
- SSWK1006 Case Management
- SSWK1010 Field Placement Preparation
- SSWK1011 Group Facilitation and 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
- 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 Work 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. Students recognize and access appropriate resources for professional practice including the body of knowledge that informs the profession. Students discover the legal and ethical rights and responsibilities of the Social Service Worker. Students are encouraged to develop a fundamental belief in the dignity, worth and potential of all people. Students examine social issues facing communities and social service agencies.

SSWK1002 Family Sociology for Social Service Work 42.0 Hours

The multiple variations in family structure, as well as the problems and issues facing families in the twenty-first century are addressed. Family development and family functions are examined in the context of environment; work, school and leisure. Approaches to prevention of family violence, sexual abuse and elder abuse are explored. Students are encouraged to conceptualize the study of family dynamics from a perspective of strength and resiliency using a systems framework. Students are introduced to the use of evidence-based practice and information literacy within the framework of Family Sociology.

SSWK1003 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 the human service organization. Included are principles and applications of interviewing and assessment, documentation, report writing and appropriate referral protocols. Students continue to examine the legal and ethical rights and responsibilities of clients and workers in the field of Social Service Work.

SSWK1010 Field Placement Preparation 42.0 Hours

Students 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 develop personal learning goals and research community agencies to serve as field placements to help further individual goals. Students develop an administrative portfolio and complete required documentation in preparation for field placement. Students explore the importance of self-care and wellness in the social service field.

SSWK1011 Group Facilitation and 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 42.0 Hours

This course promotes self-awareness through analysis of students' values, beliefs, biases and fears. Establishing realistic professional goals while creating balance in one's life is emphasized. Students develop an understanding of core ethical and moral principles, and explore standards of practice that impact on potential issues related to professional conduct. This course introduces ethical decision making models, which promote inquiry-based learning and evidence based practice. Cultural, ethical, legal and gender issues that relate to professionalism are 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. Students are 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. Students discuss social entrepreneurial strategies and creative ways to involve individuals, groups and communities in advocacy and social change processes. Students practice the skills and techniques of grant writing, logic modeling, and project evaluation.

SSWK2007 Consolidating Techniques in the Helping Relationship 42.0 Hours

Students refine and consolidate advanced helping skills while demonstrating effective and contributory skills as a member of a clinical team. Students consolidate active listening and feedback skills and concentrate on developing appropriate service plans with clients that build on individual and community strengths and resources to meet

identified needs. Students also focus on assessment, intervention, client welfare, and ethical issues.

SSWK2009 Field Placement Seminar 1 42.0 Hours

Students begin to articulate their strengths and limitations and are encouraged to integrate theory with practice. The role of supervision and personal responsibility in problem solving is examined. Through discussion of examples from actual experience, students develop their assessment, planning and problem solving skills in the context of their field placement. Students reliably and consistently demonstrate professional and ethical conduct consistent with the values of social service work. Students explore critical self-reflection methods to further develop their understanding of how reflective practice relates to professional development and practice, and personal wellness.

P- SSWK1001 Introduction to Social Service Work and P- SSWK1003 Principles of a Helping Relationship and (P- SSWK1009 Field Placement Preparation or P- SSWK1010 Field Placement Preparation) and P- AID5 First Aid - SSWK Program and P- IMM5 Immunization - SSWK

SSWK2010 Field Placement Seminar 2 42.0 Hours

This seminar allows students to consolidate their skills in the areas of problem solving, self-assessment, reflection and development of personal wellness strategies.

Application to the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (OCSWSSW) complements the expansion of a final portfolio that will assist students to apply for positions in the field. This seminar focuses on the students' transition from practicing to becoming a professional Social Service Worker, with students reliably and consistently demonstrating the professional behaviour expected of a Social Service Worker. Students review the self-assessment tool and professional development plan through the OCSWSSW Continued Competency Program.

P- SSWK1001 Introduction to Social Service Work and P- SSWK1003 Principles of a Helping Relationship and (P- SSWK1009 Field Placement Preparation or P- SSWK1010 Field Placement Preparation) and P- AID5 First Aid - SSWK Program and P- IMM5 Immunization - SSWK

SSWK2013 Practical Techniques in the Helping Relationship 42.0 Hours

Students continue to refine the basic skills of client-centred helping relationships, and develop more advanced helping skills. Another primary focus is the development of skills for working on teams, including giving and receiving feedback, understanding the use and impact of self in a team setting, and dealing with conflict. Students are also exposed to the theoretical and practical skills necessary to deal with difficult situations. They learn to identify and appropriately address mental health issues and addictions within the SSW scope of practice, including case management assessment and referral protocols.

SSWK2014 Community Practice in Social Service Work 42.0 Hours

This course provides an overview of the funding, structure and administration of community organizations and social services that operate within Ontario and Canada. The course gives students an overview of the roles and responsibilities of administrators in the non-profit sector. Students examine non-profit governance, volunteer recruitment and management, resource development, finance management, and human resource functions.

SSWK2015 Field Placement 1 224.0 Hours

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

P- SSWK1001 Introduction to Social Service Work and P- SSWK1003 Principles of a Helping Relationship and (P- SSWK1009 Field Placement Preparation or P- SSWK1010 Field Placement Preparation) and P- AID5 First Aid - SSWK Program and P- IMM5 Immunization - SSWK

SSWK2016 Field Placement 2 224.0 Hours

Students are expected to build on their previous field experience and assume increasing levels of responsibility. Students develop their abilities to apply classroom skills, ethics, values and knowledge with the client group, the agency teams, and other community agencies. Students consolidate professional attitudes, skills, and abilities in more sophisticated helping, communication, planning, and problem solving.

P- SSWK1001 Introduction to Social Service Work and P- SSWK1003 Principles of a Helping Relationship and (P- SSWK1009 Field Placement Preparation or P- SSWK1010 Field Placement Preparation) and P- AID5 First Aid - SSWK Program and P- IMM5 Immunization - SSWK

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.