



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK

Two-Year Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)

Information Session

Fall 2026 Admission



Acknowledgment

We acknowledge the homeland of the many diverse First Nations and Métis people whose ancestors have walked this land since time immemorial.

We do this to reaffirm our commitment and responsibility in improving relationships between nations and to improving our own understanding of local Indigenous peoples and their cultures.

We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territories of Treaty 6, 7 and 8 and the homeland of the Métis.



Equity, Racial Justice, Decolonization, and Inclusive Excellence

The Faculty of Social Work acknowledges the inequities experienced by racialized people, Indigenous people, and other marginalized populations. We aim to foster an environment that recognizes and celebrates diverse perspectives. Therefore, we are committed to eradicating all forms of injustices based on race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, socio-economic status, religion, and disability.

Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Why this BSW?
- What program options are there?
- What is involved in the application process?
- How is my application evaluated?
- We're here to help



Why UCalgary?

- We are the largest fully accredited School of Social Work in Canada and offer the BSW, MSW, PhD and Graduate Certificates
- We have national and internationally recognized scholars who are involved in many social justice & research projects, providing opportunity for students to be engaged in transformative learning and research.
- Our curriculum is current, topical, and informed by students, community, social work scholars and practitioners.
- Flexible and accessible blended and fully online programs (synchronous).
- Social work courses give you the small university feeling while you earn a big research university degree: Typical class have a maximum of 40 students, in person or online



Why a BSW from UCalgary?

Core Courses

Reflective of the
shifting social work
practice landscape

Field Education

Develop skills required
for social work
practice

Foundational Skills & Theories

Knowledge and skills
for diverse settings

Social Work Options

Explore emerging topics in
an area of interest

Why a BSW from UCalgary?

● Foundational Skills & Theories

- Explore the scope of social work practice in your community
- Build foundational knowledge and skills for practice and research
- Examine social work paradigms, theories and approaches

● Core Courses

- Multiple Dimensions of Mental Health
- Leadership for Social Justice
- Practice in an Interconnected World
- Green Social Work and sustainability
- Indigenous peoples histories, cultures, and healing practices
- Africentric Social Work Practice

Topics include addictions and recovery, human sexuality, gerontology, intimate partner violence, loss and grief, mental health and trauma, social work in health care or child welfare settings, and social work with immigrants and refugees.

● Social Work Options

Our field education model involves you in the community so you can integrate learning into social work practice.

● Field Education

What are my program options for the BSW?

UT BLENDED 20 months

Calgary | Edmonton | Lethbridge*

Both on campus and online classes

One full day/week on campus (day)

Online classes (at **set times** & own schedule)

Typically more courses per term than Online program

Year 3: Fall, Winter, & Spring
Year 4: Fall & Winter

30-35 hours or more per week to your study

*University Transfer only

ONLINE 24 months

Fully Online*

No on campus classes

Scheduled real time online classes
Mon. & Wed. evenings Sat. mornings

Other independent learning

Less courses per term than Blended program

Year 3 and 4: Classes year round - Fall, Winter, Spring & Summer

18-24 hours or more per week to your study

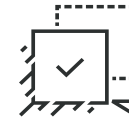
*except practicum



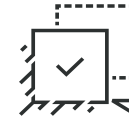
BOTH require reliable internet & consistent computer usage



BOTH are accredited



BOTH lead to the same parchment from UCalgary



BOTH are considered full-time for funding purposes

Diverse options for diverse learners

With the 4 program options you receive the same curriculum, same degree, same program!
There is overlap with exceptional instructors.

Lethbridge Blended

- Local instructors are connected to the local community.
- Campus's proximity to rural and Indigenous communities allows for reciprocal relationships with the Faculty of Social Work.
- Enjoy ULEthbridge and UCalgary student services. Many students are part of ULEthbridge clubs, events, etc.

Edmonton Blended

- Located in downtown Edmonton (Enterprise Square).
- Provincial capital advantage: unique access to policy, government, and non-profit-based opportunities.
- A research-heavy campus.
- Regular events connecting alumni, students, faculty, and community members.
- Enjoy UAlberta and UCalgary student services.

Calgary Blended

- On the main UCalgary campus with many supports available and main faculty head office.
- Classes are held in the state-of-the-art Hunter Student Commons.
- Many faculty events onsite and in the city.
- Kiipitakyoyis Indigenous Pipe Lodge are part of the faculty offices for all students to access.

Online

- Vibrant community that you can access from anywhere.
- Students create close relationships with each other, staff, and faculty members, just like the Blended program.
- Join faculty events in your area and online.



What about practicum placements?

Field Education

- All students are expected to attend their practicum in person for approximately 35 hours/week, usually during the day – Plan Accordingly!
- Where possible/ feasible, these can be completed in your home community in **Canada**.
- Refer to the detailed curriculum plans on our website for more details.

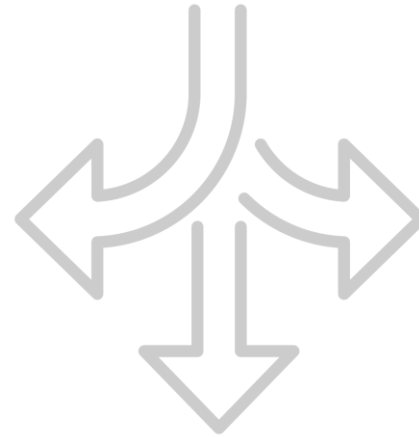


<https://socialwork.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate-students/bsw-students/curriculum-plans-udergraduate>

Can I apply? Two pathways

YES, if you have completed an **Approved Alberta Social Work Diploma**

- ✔ Completion of a minimum of 24 units transferable non-social work courses (normally as part of the diploma)
- ✔ AND have a grade point average of 2.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale
- ✔ Note: the estimated competitive GPA is 3.0
- ✔ NOTE: YOU AND English 30-1 or an acceptable equivalent (proficiency in English language)
- ✔ AND will have all courses completed by the end of the Winter term in the year of application (exception: practicum and associated social work courses where the institution has an agreement with UCalgary.
- ✔ Note: You are only eligible for the **online post-diploma route** even if you have other credentials



YES, if you have a minimum of 57 Units (Credits) of **Transferable University Courses** or a **Completed University Degree**

- ✔ AND have a grade point average of 2.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale
- ✔ Note: the estimated competitive GPA is 3.0
- ✔ AND English 30-1* or an acceptable equivalent (proficiency in English language)

**not applicable to after degree applicants*

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate>

Social services/social work diploma NOT from Alberta

- You **MAY** be granted on year of study so would **TYPICALLY** require up to 10 more courses

Non social work diploma (ie: child and youth care, rehab, etc)

- You **MAY** be granted on year of study so would **TYPICALLY** require up to 10 more courses

A degree/university work outside of Canada

- The faculty does **NOT** assess these
- **CONTACT ADMISSIONS**

Not sure if you have enough transferable courses

APPLY – the university admissions team will assess this. The faculty does **NOT**.

SOWK 201 Program Requirement (3 units)...



Social Work 201 Program Requirement

- SOWK 201 is offered online at UCalgary **every term**
- Current UCalgary students: self-register through your Student Centre
- Non-UCalgary students: apply to Open Studies to take the course

<https://socialwork.ucalgary.ca/future-students/bachelor-social-work/SOWK-201>

How do I apply?

If you have a Social Work Diploma from Alberta where there is an agreement with the UCalgary, you will **ONLY** be eligible for the online post-diploma admission route.

Step 1: Review detailed application instructions

<https://socialwork.ucalgary.ca/future-students/apply-now/bachelor-social-work>

Step 2: Review and prepare the Program Specific Questions

- You'll need your responses to submit your application

Step 3: Submit your online application and pay the application fee

- **Application deadline - March 1**
- **Transcript deadline - March 15**

If you're applying as a University Transfer or after degree applicant, you will be able to declare up to 2 program choices (i.e., Lethbridge, Edmonton, Calgary, online).





Program Specific Questions

- ⚠ Be clear & concise
- ⚠ Write in the First Person
- ⚠ Correct errors
- ⚠ Why Social Work?



Reflect on who you are as a person, your lived experiences and your life influences, and discuss how they have contributed to your pursuit of social work education.



Tell us about your community engagement, an issue you are most concerned about, and what you think are the root causes or contributing factors to the identified issue.



What do you hope to develop in our social work program and how do you see your future practice as a professional social worker?

I have submitted everything...Now what?


A white fountain pen with a silver clip and a silver laptop are positioned on a white marble desk. The laptop is open, showing its keyboard. A wooden clipboard with a white sheet of paper is partially visible on the left side of the frame.

Application Evaluation Criteria

Program Specific Questions (50%)

- There are 3 of these – with helpful tips on how to write/answer them available on our website.

Competitive GPA (50%)

- The calculation is based on the most recently completed 30 units, starting with courses completed prior to the application deadline.
- 
- A decorative footer consisting of a series of overlapping, colorful geometric shapes in shades of orange, yellow, green, and pink, creating a vibrant, abstract pattern.

When do I know if I am accepted into the BSW?

- Based on the evaluation by the admissions committee, the faculty will make a recommendation to UCalgary Admissions by **late March** (it is a competitive process so not all applicants are accepted).
- **Check your status in your Student Centre and monitor your emails for updates.**

The screenshot shows the UCalgary Student Centre application dashboard. On the left is a sidebar with navigation links: 'My Application' (with a building icon), 'Personal Info' (with a person icon), 'Exams and Grades' (with a ribbon icon), and 'My Financials' (with a dollar sign icon). The main content area features a banner with the text 'Discover award opportunities for new applicants' and 'It's never too early to start your application', with a 'Read More' button. Below the banner, it says 'Sample Only Test Studentb' and 'UCID: 00303229'. A 'To Do (15)' section is partially visible. At the bottom, the 'My Applications' section contains a table with columns for Program, Status, and Admit Term.

Program	Status	Admit Term
Faculty of Social Work		
Bachelor of Social Work	✓	Fall 2023

Buttons for 'Status', 'Letter', 'Decline', and 'Deposit Paid' are visible. A note states: 'Deadline to accept offer and pay deposit: May 21, 2023'.



Questions?

Email us:
fsw.studentservices@ucalgary.ca



Book an
appointment



Ask the
Associate Dean

FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK