

Social Work

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK DEGREE — CHILD WELFARE SPECIALIZATION

Why focus on child welfare while earning my Social Work degree?

You have a passion for social justice and have always been interested in social issues. You believe in human rights, and working towards a more just society. Of special interest to you are services for children and their families.

This specialization will prepare you for child welfare work in government and other settings. Once you've successfully completed the core and elective courses, and a fourth-year practicum in the B.C. Ministry for Children and Families (or delegated child-protection setting), you will graduate with a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree with a transcript notation of your specialization in child welfare.

WHY STUDY AT UFV?

UFV offers a unique program of studies that lead to a Bachelor of Social Work degree. The BSW degree program will prepare you for social work practice that reflects the principles of social justice, equality, and respect for diversity. With a commitment to lifelong learning and a critical analysis of oppression, you will — as a graduate — have the knowledge, skills, and professional social work values necessary to work collaboratively with individuals, families, groups, and communities in diverse and cross-cultural environments. The program contributes to the knowledge base of social work through partnerships with professional and local communities. An important part of the UFV BSW degree is its emphasis on identifying social barriers such as gender, race, and class. These barriers are the basis of inequality and inequitable treatment that prevent people from living to their full potential in a democratic society.



“Our programs will assist you in making a difference in the lives of others. From certificate to diploma to BSW, we have something for everyone.”

— JOHN HOGG,
Acting Director, UFV School
of Social Work and
Human Services.

Social Work



“My experience in the child welfare specialization of the BSW program was nothing but positive. The knowledge and experience of the instructors as well as the small class sizes and excellent practicum was something that I really value. This program has prepared me in every way possible for working in the field of child welfare.”

— SARAH PROCTOR, BSW Child Specialization, 2008.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

Based on egalitarian ideals, social work is dedicated to the promotion of individual, family, and community development, and seeks to ensure people have access to the economic, political, and social resources that promote participation and self-determination. To achieve these aims, social workers advocate for social change and social justice in the belief that the basic and continuing improvement of social conditions is fundamental to individual and family growth and development.

The UFV BSW program has a full seven-year accreditation with the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work. Changes may be made to the curriculum as a result of the accreditation process. You can study full- or part-time.

WHAT DO I NEED TO GET IN?

You must have Introduction to Social Work and Human Services (SOWK 110) and Social Welfare (SOWK 210), or an equivalent six credits. You must also have a minimum of 45 general university-transfer Arts and Science credits that may be applied to the BSW graduation requirements, with a GPA of 2.67. These 45 credits must include:

- three credits of course work in English composition
- three credits of course work in English literature
- three credits of Human Development
- three credits of Introductory Statistics

We also recommend that students have three credits of Sociology of the Family.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST? CAN I AFFORD TO TAKE THIS PROGRAM?

Consult the UFV calendar for a complete list of fees, keeping in mind that new fees are usually set in May. In addition to tuition fees, you should be prepared to cover additional costs of \$150 per course for books and other supplies. It's worth a visit to the UFV financial aid and awards office, which facilitates the disbursement each year of about \$12 million in federal and provincial student loans, grants, bursaries, scholarships, and awards to UFV students. A helpful budget planning worksheet is available online at www.ufv.ca/fineaid/budget.

WHEN SHOULD I APPLY?

To be considered for the summer semester, which begins in May, your application must be received by Dec. 31 of the year prior to application. To be considered for the fall semester, which begins in September, your application must be received by Jan. 31 of that year.

If you have completed a Social Services certificate or diploma program, you may be eligible to receive discretionary credits, as well as additional credits for any completed arts and science transfer courses (e.g. English, psychology, etc.). It's best to consult our website at www.ufv.ca/swhs or contact the department for a current list of qualifying arts and science courses. You must also be committed to the profession of social work, be willing to undergo a criminal record check, and have at least 400 hours of recent, supervised work experience in the human services field. You also need an aptitude for working with people, and a capacity for social analysis.

WHEN CAN I ENTER THIS PROGRAM?

We've designed the BSW program for entrance at the third-year level, after you've completed 60 credits (some of which include specific course work, and arts and sciences). See the UFV calendar at www.ufv.ca/calendar or Social Work and Human Services website at www.ufv.ca/swhs for complete details on entrance requirements.

I'M WORKING ON MY SOCIAL SERVICES DIPLOMA. CAN I TRANSFER INTO THIS PROGRAM?

Absolutely. Our Social Services diploma program is a two-year career-oriented program that prepares students to enter the workforce at the para-professional level. As a graduate of this diploma program, you can apply up to 54 credits into the degree program and complete the BSW either on a part-time basis while working, or as a full-time student.

WHAT TYPE OF COURSES WILL I TAKE?

Here's a basic program outline of the Bachelor of Social Work degree — Child Welfare specialization (years three and four):

THIRD YEAR/FALL SEMESTER

COURSE #	TITLE
SOWK 300	Social Work Practice with Individuals
SOWK 311	Social Work Theory & Ethics
SOWK 312	Legal Knowledge for Social Work Practice
SOWK 320	Anti-Racist and Cross-Cultural Social Work Knowledge and Practice
SOWK 394 ¹	Substance Misuse Issues

THIRD YEAR/WINTER SEMESTER

COURSE #	TITLE
SOWK 330	Practicum I
SOWK 380	Community Development
SOWK 392	Aboriginal Social Work
<i>Elective</i>	<i>Arts</i>

FOURTH YEAR/FALL SEMESTER

COURSE #	TITLE
SOWK 404	Research Methods and Evaluation
SOWK 410	Social Welfare Policy & Practice
SOWK 412	Legal Skills for Social Work Practice
SOWK 483	Family-centred Social Work
SOWK 491	Child Welfare

FOURTH YEAR/WINTER SEMESTER

COURSE #	TITLE
SOWK 430	Practicum II
SOWK 496	Disability Issues
<i>Elective</i>	<i>Arts</i>

I'M INTERESTED. WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP?

Check out our online calendar at www.ufv.ca/calendar or our website at www.ufv.ca/swhs. Visit the download centre and download the application forms. You can then either mail your complete application, along with the documents listed in the calendar and the \$45 processing fee, to any UFV campus or centre on or after Oct. 1 (for a start date the following September) or transmit it through the Internet at www.pas.bc.ca.

Early application is encouraged. Applications received after March 15 will be considered if spaces are still available in the program. It's also important to indicate whether you are applying for part-time or full-time studies.

¹ It's important to note that if you've completed SOWK 394 before entering the program you must substitute an appropriate arts elective. University-transferable arts electives must contribute to the breadth of your knowledge as a student and should be chosen with the advice of faculty.

CAN I GET ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE GAINED IN MY LIFE SO FAR?

Yes. UFV offers Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR), a flexible assessment process that evaluates your experiential learning (what you already know and can do) for post-secondary credit.

Experiential learning includes independent study, volunteer activities, non-credit courses, workplace learning, and military service. To find out more, check out the PLAR website at www.ufv.ca/plar or contact Susan Brown, Assessment Services Coordinator, PLAR at 604.851.6342 or susan.brown@ufv.ca.

WHAT SORT OF SUPPORT WILL I GET?

UFV BSW students can become members of the Bachelor of Social Work Student Association (SWSA). It is a student organization that strives to support, represent, and advocate for students in the BSW degree program. The SWSA provides a forum for students to voice their concerns, make suggestions, and socialize with peers. The Student Association also acts as an important communication link with the school and faculty, and ensures that students' voices are represented on the BSW Advisory Committee, faculty selection advisory committees, and curriculum evaluation committees.

For more information about support and student services at UFV, visit www.ufv.ca/student-services to learn about the broad range of services designed to help you learn about and adjust to the university environment.

SOUNDS GOOD. WHAT DO I DO NOW?

Apply right away. Visit www.ufv.ca/advising/prospective/enroll for a step-by-step process to becoming a UFV student. Have specific questions? You can also contact the School of Social Work and Human Services directly at 1-888-504-7441, local 4631, or 604-864-4631, or 604-702-2623, or visit www.ufv.ca/swhs.

CAN I SPEAK WITH SOMEONE ABOUT MY OPTIONS?

We want to hear from you. If you're unsure of your direction, contact Student Services at 1-888-504-7441 to connect with an educational advisor, or arrange for career counselling.

Also, feel free to contact the School of Social Work and Human Services directly at 604-864-4631 to discuss your options.



The information contained in this document is subject to change. Please refer to www.ufv.ca/swhs for up-to-date information. UFV reserves the right to cancel courses and programs.



About UFV

Nestled in the beautiful Fraser Valley just east of Vancouver, in B.C., UFV is a fully accredited, public university that enrolls more than 11,000 students each year. UFV has campuses in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Mission and regional centres in Hope and Agassiz, and a growing presence in Chandigarh, India.

UFV is committed to exceptional post-secondary instruction and a nurturing learning environment. We are large enough to offer variety, yet small enough to offer the personal attention that our students need to thrive. Our small class sizes and focus on teaching allow our students to get to know their instructors and learn in a hands-on setting.

We offer more than 80 programs, including 13 bachelor's degrees, a master's degree, and more than a dozen trades and technology programs. We believe that anyone who wants to go to university should be given the chance, so our admission policies are flexible, and we provide university prep courses and high school completion options. There are many options for learning: full-time, in class, online, as part of a structured program or one tailored specifically to your interests.

Many of our programs "ladder" into one another, allowing students to keep their options open. Our international programming makes for a culturally diverse student body and great opportunities to study abroad, while our continuing studies offerings make learning a lifelong experience.

UFV is recognized nationally for student success, an excellent learning environment, creative integration of programming, and our work with our local communities.

Get to know us better at www.ufv.ca.

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