Social Welfare Minor
(24 hours)

The Social Welfare minor will be directed to students who are interested in social welfare issues but are majoring in other disciplines. Minors can profit from understanding the welfare system and taking courses relevant to various groups who often are impacted by or are part of the welfare system. It offers students an opportunity to learn about the historical development of social welfare institutions, social welfare policies, programs and services, and the various contexts in which the helping professions are practiced. It also addresses major social problems and issues that challenge the helping professions. This information will serve as an enhancement to the students' major discipline and/or add to their knowledge as good citizens. Along with certain majors, additional knowledge about social welfare may improve employability, though social welfare minors will not be able to serve as social workers.

The Social Welfare minor offers an overview of pressing, current social problems, policies, and methods in the social welfare field include content on social welfare history, policy and services, human behavior and the social environment, social welfare practice, social welfare research, and cultural diversity. This minor will provide a foundation of the social welfare system, its history and current structure to better prepare students in the workforce. It will be a valuable complement to a variety of majors, including Political Science, Economics, Sociology, and others.

Required courses in the minor:

SOWK 130 Introduction to the Fields of Social Welfare--3 hours. Provides an overview of the social welfare system and its place in contemporary society. Opportunity to learn, through the literature and guest lecturers, about the operation of institutional structures and about the professionals that respond to complex human concerns. Thirty hours of volunteer work are required.

SOWK 240 Family and Child Welfare--3 hours. An examination of contemporary problems facing families and children. Evaluation of the adequacy of the policies, programs, and services in the context of changing life styles and social forces impacting the quality of life.

SOWK 252 Social Welfare and Social Work--3 hours. Knowledge base for understanding the social welfare system and its relationship to social work as a profession. A historical and contemporary focus is employed to examine the economic, social, and political forces as well as the values and beliefs which shape social policies and programs. Special attention is paid to inequities and deficiencies in the institutional policies and structures impacting on various oppressed population groups.

PSCI 201 American Government --3 hours. An introduction to national government and politics in the United States, emphasizing the basic institutions of the American federal system, the basic political behavior of the American people and the public policy-making process at the national level.

PSCI 305 State and Local Government--3 hours. Framework of government at the state and local levels in the United States; importance of state and local communities for fundamental problems of American society.

Econ 100 Basic Economic--3 hours. A brief overview of basic economic principles, with emphasis on the market system and its relevance to current economic issues and policies.

PSCI 330 Introduction to Public Administration--3 hours. An overview of public organizations and their managerial dimensions. These may include an analysis of political environment, organizational structure, personnel systems, budgeting, public relations, and program evaluation.

Choose 1 of the following:

Econ 331 Public Finance-3 hours. Introduction to government finance. Study of public expenditures; debt management; various types of revenue, including public domain, fees, special assessments, and taxes. Theories and principles of taxation. Prereq: Econ 100.

Econ 302 Economics of Health and Medical Care-3 hours. Relates institutional arrangements to economic efficiency and productivity in the provision of health and medical services.