



## BSW ADMISSIONS ELIGIBILITY

### PART 1 – [University of Victoria undergraduate admission](#)

#### Academic Coursework & Grade Point Average

**Completion of 30 units at UVic or the equivalent in [transfer credits](#) from another institution** (UVic year 3 standing/the first two years of an undergraduate degree/competed undergrad degree).

Notes: 1.5-units is a single term course at UVic so 30 units is the equivalent of 20 single term courses. If you took your courses in BC, use the [BC Transfer Guide](#) to see if your courses transfer to UVic.

**SOCW 200A and SOCW 200B, or equivalents** must be completed or in progress at the time of application. These courses can be in addition to, or part of, the 30 units. Pre-requisite courses or equivalents must be completed by April 30th of the intake year, including the 30-unit minimum requirement. A final grade must be included on your official transcripts, submitted by the UGA deadline of June 1st.

**A minimum of a 3.5 on the UVic 9-point scale** (approximately a B- average) on the last 12 units of transferable coursework at the time of application.

Notes: See the [UVic GPA conversion guide and grade scale conversion table](#) if your school uses a different grading scale. In certain cases, a human service diploma average may be used in the calculation instead.

Note: Other UVic Requirements

UVic has [minimum technical requirements](#) for student to participate in online learning environments and an [English language requirement](#).

### PART 2 – [School of Social Work admission](#)

In addition to being academically evaluated by UVic Undergraduate Admissions or Records (transfer credits/GPA), applicants will be evaluated by faculty for admission to the School of Social Work.

**[Supplemental Application](#)**: The purpose of the supplemental application is to outline your waged and unwaged experience as well as your education and provide an opportunity to express yourself in writing and to share who you are and where you come from.

**[Equity Admissions](#)**: In our admissions decisions, we will apply a decolonial equity framework which includes an intersectional lens and will prioritize applicants who are Indigenous, Black, and other racialized people.

We acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

## MORE ON THE PRE-REQUISITE COURSES

As mentioned above, there are two specific pre-requisite courses required for entry into the program. These courses must be in progress or completed at the time of your application:

SOCW 200A: An Introduction to Social Work Practice and

SOCW 200B: Introduction to the Critical Analysis of Social Welfare in Canada.

Additionally, here are some common transfer equivalent options offered by other schools in Canada:

1. UVIC offers both SOCW 200A and SOCW 200B every semester by distance education and often on campus as well. If you are not a UVic student, you must [complete a separate application](#) for Social Science: Undeclared or Social Science: Pre-Social Work in order to take these courses.
2. [Thompson Rivers University – Open Learning](#) offers equivalents of these courses by Distance Education across Canada with open, ongoing start dates (SOCW 2061 = UVIC SOCW 200A and SOCW 2121 = UVIC SOCW 200B- previously, SSWP 200 = UVIC SOCW 200A and SSWP 212 = UVIC SOCW 200B).
3. [Camosun College](#) offers equivalents of these courses on campus (SOCW 211 = UVIC SOCW 200A and SOCW 212 = UVIC SOCW 200B; in addition, as of May 2015: IST 205 = UVIC SOCW 200A and IST 206= UVIC SOCW 200B).
4. [Vancouver Island University](#) offers equivalents of these courses on campus (SOCW 200A = UVIC SOCW 200A and SOCW 200B = UVIC SOCW 200B).
5. [North Island College](#) offers digital equivalents of these courses (SSW 120 = UVIC SOCW 200A and SSW 122 = SOCW 200B).

Notes: Other courses are possible equivalents. If your courses were taken at a College or University/College check the [BC Transfer Guide](#) for course transferability to UVIC. If you are outside BC, Undergraduate Admissions will have your courses checked for official transfer when you apply.

## HOW DOES UVIC EVALUATE MY COMPLETED DEGREE/DIPLOMA/CERTIFICATE?

### Individual Courses

If you are coming from another institution, [transfer credit](#) is determined by an Undergraduate Admissions process on a course-by-course basis once you have applied - it is not determined by the School of Social Work.

Below are general guidelines about how completed degrees, diplomas, and certificates may transfer.

### Completed Degrees

- A four-year Bachelor's degree from an accredited educational institution receives 30 units of transfer credit, so you are eligible to apply to the BSW program.

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- A three-year Bachelor's degree from an accredited education institution will be evaluated on a course-by-course basis although these will usually equate to 30 units as well, which would make you eligible to apply to the BSW program.
- Associate degrees from a BC College are generally awarded 30 units of transfer credit, which would make you eligible to apply to the BSW program.

### **Completed Diplomas – also see discretionary credit**

In general, if you have completed a social service worker diploma (such as those done at a Canadian college of applied arts and technology) and have not done additional academic university/college coursework you will not have the 30 [transfer credits](#) required to apply to the BSW program.

“Traditional” academic courses in subjects such as liberal arts/social sciences/sciences/humanities are the ones that usually receive transfer credit to UVic and further, these types of courses are required for the breadth requirement for a social work degree.

How this works is if you successfully completed a course as part of your diploma that is similar to a course offered at UVIC, it will be evaluated for possible transfer credit. You may also receive discretionary credit for your completed diploma (see below).

### **Discretionary credit – completed diplomas and certificates**

To better recognize human service coursework that is not normally considered transferable, a completed diploma or certificate may be evaluated for discretionary credit.

- A completed Social Service Worker diploma may receive 6-units of discretionary credit if the program is 2 or 3 years in length with at least 2 practicums. Any university transferable courses taken as part of the diploma will also be evaluated for possible transfer credit.
- A completed Social Service Worker Certificate may receive 3-units of discretionary credits if the program is at least 1 year in length with at least 1 practicum.

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*An example of applying with a 2-year social service worker diploma:*

*What you applied with:*

- *You completed a 2-year diploma in human service work at a local university and sent in your application to the BSW program.*

*What was evaluated by UVic:*

- *Undergraduate admissions reviewed your diploma, and it turns out that 10 of the courses you took are transferable. At 1.5 credits each, this means that you will be*

*granted 15 of the 30 transfer credits needed. This is the maximum amount allowed for this type of diploma transfer.*

- *Because your diploma was in human service work, it was also evaluated for discretionary credit. Your diploma was 2 years long and had at least 2 practicums, so you are granted 6 discretionary credits.*

*Total transferable credits:*

- *You have a total of 21 transfer credits out of the 30 needed.*

*What to do next:*

- *You will need to take 6 more courses that are transferable to UVic (equivalent of 9 UVic credits) to meet minimum eligibility for the BSW program.*

## WHAT SHOULD I TAKE IF I AM NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY AT THIS TIME?

If you haven't completed the minimum number of academic courses to apply, we recommend that students take a wide range of transferable liberal arts, social science, science, and humanities courses.

Courses from other accredited/recognized institutions will usually receive credit if they are similar to courses offered at UVIC. This is only determined by Undergraduate Admissions at the time of application.

### BC Institutions

If you are taking your first 30 units from a BC institution other than UVIC, ensure your [courses transfer](#) to UVIC.

### Institutions outside of BC

If you are from outside BC, you can get a general sense of what courses might be transferable by consulting the [UVic Academic Calendar](#) to see if there are similar courses offered at UVic. However, courses will only count for transfer credit if you apply to UVic, and they are officially evaluated as transferable.

## READY TO APPLY?

Be sure to follow the most recent [BSW application](#) process when you are ready to apply. Applications open on the School of Social Work website in early December each year. The program begins each year in September and the deadline to apply is January 31st.

Have further questions about eligibility and the admissions process? Contact [swadmit@uvic.ca](mailto:swadmit@uvic.ca) .

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