



BSW ADMISSIONS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Courses

- Completion of 30 units (the first two years) of an undergraduate program at the University of Victoria, or the equivalent in transfer credits and standing from another university or community college.
 - At UVic, 1.5-units is a single term course. 30 units is the equivalent of 20 single term courses.
- 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 required units. See below for more information on taking these courses.

GPA

- A minimum of a B- average (3.5 on the UVic 9-point scale) on the last 12 units of transferable coursework at the time of application.
 - In certain cases, a human service diploma average may be used in the calculation instead.
 - See the [UVic GPA conversion guide and grade scale conversion table](#) for more information.

Technology Requirements

- UVic has [minimum technical requirements](#) for student to participate in online learning environments.

WHAT DOES THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK EVALUATE?

- Once students have been academically evaluated by UVIC Undergraduate Admissions or Records (GPA and units of credit), they will be evaluated 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.

WHAT IF I HAVE COMPLETED A DEGREE, DIPLOMA OR CERTIFICATE?

Official transfer credit is determined by Undergraduate Admissions or Undergraduate Records as part of the official application process - it is not determined by the School of Social Work.

A four-year Bachelor's degrees from an accredited educational institution receives 30 units of transfer credit. 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. Associate Degrees completed at a BC College are generally awarded 30 units of transfer credit.

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.



Social Service Worker Diplomas may receive 6-units of discretionary credit in addition to university transfer credit for individual courses. Social Service Worker Certificates may receive 3-units of discretionary credit in addition to university transfer credit for individual courses.

- Please note that with regard to human service diploma/certificate programs it is generally the liberal arts/social sciences/humanities courses and any transfer equivalents to UVic SOCW 200A and SOCW 200B that receive transfer credit to UVic. Discretionary credit is intended to recognize the human service coursework that does not normally transfer separately and is added to this total. As indicated, this is normally 3 units for a completed certificate (1 year in length with at least 1 practicum), and 6 units for a completed diploma (2 or 3 years in length with at least 2 practicums).
- Applicants to the BSW program who have completed a social/human services diploma at a BC college or university-college after 1995 or who have taken courses in a more general program can use the [BC Transfer Guide](#) to get a general idea of their course-by-course transfer credit to UVIC.
- Applicants from recognized institutions will usually receive specific or level credit if the courses successfully completed are similar to the courses offered at UVIC.

Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology (CAAT):

Of special note to Ontario College applicants: Applicants to the BSW program who have completed a diploma from an Ontario College of Applied Arts and Technology should be aware that transfer credit to UVIC will be extremely limited.

Applicants who have completed one full year of a diploma program at a CAAT with a cumulative average of A- are eligible for admission but no transfer credit.

Applicants who have completed a two-year diploma program (or two years of a three-year diploma program) with a minimum cumulative average of B are eligible for consideration. Normally, up to 7.5 units of credit is granted upon admission.

- Note that the 6-units of discretionary credit granted by the school of social work for completed diplomas is in addition to the university transfer courses (e.g., ENG, PSYC, SOCI) within them so actual possible maximum would be 13.5-units (if two-year diploma) or 21 units (if three-year diploma). If you have not done additional transferable coursework from another institution, you are NOT eligible to apply.

Applicants who have completed a three-year diploma program, with a minimum cumulative average of B, are eligible for consideration. Normally, up to 15.0 units of credit is granted upon admission.

Certificate programs are not considered for admission or transfer credit.

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PRE-REQUISITE COURSES

There are two specific pre-requisites for Social Work courses: SOCW 200A: An Introduction to Social Work Practice and SOCW 200B: Introduction to the Critical Analysis of Social Welfare in Canada. These courses must be in progress or completed at the time of your application.

Here are a few options for taking SOCW 200A and SOCW 200B:

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: 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](#), formerly Malaspina University College offers equivalents of these courses on campus (SOCW 200A = UVIC SOCW 200A and SOCW 200B = UVIC SOCW 200B).

Other possible equivalents are often found in Social Service Worker Diploma/Certificate programs, as well as through some universities. If your courses were taken at a College or University/College within BC (first and second year only, 1995 on) check the [BC Transfer Guide](#) for course transferability to UVIC.

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

If you haven't completed the minimum course requirements to apply, we recommend that students take a wide range of transferable liberal arts, social science, and humanities courses, including SOCW 200A and SOCW 200B or equivalents. Please note that UVIC does not offer general courses by distance education; therefore, if you want to take the first two years at UVIC it would have to be as a general student attending on-campus.

If you are taking your first 30 units from a BC institution other than UVIC, ensure your [courses transfer](#) to UVIC. Courses from other accredited/recognized institutions will usually receive specific or level credit if they are similar to courses offered at UVIC. This is only determined by Undergraduate Admissions at the time of application.

Be sure to get the most recent BSW application package when you are ready to apply in the future. Application packages are available on the School of Social Work website in early December each year. The deadline for application submission is January 31st for September entry.

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