ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Admission to the program requires completion of 30 units of an undergraduate program at the University of Victoria, or the equivalent transfer credits and standing from another university or community college with an overall minimum average (or equivalent of) at least 3.5 (on the UVIC 9.0 point scale – this is equivalent to a B-) on the last 12 units of university-transfer coursework (note: in certain cases, a human service diploma average may be used in this calculation instead).

For GPA conversion guide/further information see bottom of page at: https://www.uvic.ca/registrar/students/policies/calc/index.php.

Also note that a 1.5 unit course at UVIC is a semester course. 30 units is the equivalent of 20 semester courses.

AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Applicants offered admission will be expected to have 30 units (including SOCW 200A and SOCW 200B or equivalents) completed in order to commence the BSW program – specific conditions to be noted on the offer of admission email. Both Distance education and On-campus program starts are available in September.

We will have a limited amount of seats available in the May 2020 semester at UVIC for SOCW 200A and SOCW 200B via distance. Students who are offered conditional admittance to our program can be enrolled as pre-social work to take these courses prior to commencing the BSW program in September. If these courses are not completed, your offer of admission will be revoked. If you are a new student and are interested in taking these courses at UVIC, you must complete a separate application for Social Science: Pre-Social Work: https://www.uvic.ca/BAN1P/bzsklogn.p_display_login

WILL I RECEIVE CREDIT FOR A COMPLETED 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.

Four year Bachelor’s degrees from accredited educational institutions receive 30 units of transfer credit. A three year Bachelor’s degree will be evaluated on a course by course basis- if from an accredited educational institution, these will normally equate to 30 units as well. Normally, Associate Degrees completed at a BC College are awarded 30 units of transfer credit.

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 online (www.bctransferguide.ca) to get a general idea of their course by course transfer credit to UVIC.

As a general rule, applicants from recognized institutions will usually receive specific or level credit if the courses successfully completed are similar to the courses offered at UVIC.

** 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.

**Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology (CAAT):**
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.*

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.*

*Note that the 6.0 units 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.

**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. It is recommended that these be taken prior to BSW application – however, these two courses are not required for application to the program but MUST be completed prior to the start of 3rd year Social Work courses.

Here are a few options for taking SOCW 200A and SOCW 200B (aside from taking them in the May semester at UVIC):

1. UVIC offers both SOCW 200A and SOCW 200B every semester by distance education and often on campus as well.

2. Thompson Rivers University – Open Learning (http://www.tru.ca/distance.html) 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 (www.camosun.bc.ca) also 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 (http://www.viu.ca) also 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, with some exceptions. Please go to the British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfers website at http://www.bctransferguide.ca/ if your courses were taken from a College or University/College within BC (first and second year only, 1995 on) to check for transferability to UVIC.

Course descriptions:
SOCW 200B: https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2019-09/CDs/SOCW/200B.html

**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:

1. **Grades:** Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 4.0 out of 9.0 (a B-) on the UVIC scale on their most recently completed 12 UVIC units or University Transfer units at the time of application to be considered for admission. Applicants with a GPA below this minimum will not be considered.

2. **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.

3. **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 SHOULD I TAKE IF I AM NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY AT THIS TIME?**

If you haven't completed the first 30 units (2 years)/do not meet minimums for BSW 2019 application listed above we recommend that students take a wide range of transferable liberal arts, social science and humanities courses to complete these first 30 units, 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 via UVIC it would have to be as a general student attending on-campus.

If you are taking your first 30 units from another institution other than UVIC, ensure your courses transfer to UVIC. You may use the BC Transfer Guide online http://www.bctransferguide.ca/ if your courses are taken from a College or University/College in BC. Otherwise, as a general rule, courses from other accredited/recognized institutions will usually receive specific or level credit if the courses successfully completed are similar to the courses offered at UVIC.

BSW degree students should have a minimum of 24 units of general education (Arts and Sciences courses) to fulfill program requirements.

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.