INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

The Social Welfare major provides undergraduate students with a broad-based introduction to America’s social welfare problems and social policies within a social science context. The curriculum focuses both on the history and institutions of social work as a field of activity, and on the welfare state as a collective enterprise addressing human need. Students gain knowledge of organized networks of public and private social services, and the basic practice methods associated with the social work profession.

The major is a designated “group major” grounded in the liberal arts, rather than specialized training in the profession of social work. Students who successfully complete the major program are awarded the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree.

ADMISSION TO THE MAJOR

Social Welfare is a capped major and prerequisites and enrollment controls for required courses are in place to manage student demand. Students interested in declaring should complete the prerequisite entry requirements as soon as possible. In order to declare, students must complete all prerequisites with a C or better, have a minimum GPA of 2.0, and have taken less than 80 units (including in progress classes).

Students should also be aware of application deadlines and complete the e-form as soon as all of the prerequisites have been completed.

“ My favorite thing about the Social Welfare major is the people I’ve met along the way. It’s great to be around people who are knowledgeable about the field and love what they do! ”

– Monica Poblano, Class of 2022

ADVISING

Students can email the Undergraduate Major Advisor with any questions or to schedule an appointment at swundergrad@berkeley.edu.

For more information and the most up-to-date drop-in hours, please see: socialwelfare.berkeley.edu/academics/bachelor-arts-social-welfare.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

• Get involved with our undergraduate organization, the Social Welfare Association for the Greater Good.
• Enroll in a Social Welfare DeCal or facilitate one!
• Explore a social problem, intervention, or theory in-depth through the Honors Program in Social Welfare.
• Join Social Welfare students across the state for Lobby Days.

HOW TO USE THIS MAP

Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UC Berkeley, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone’s Berkeley experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.

Visit ue.berkeley.edu/majormaps for the latest version of this major map.
**SOCIAL WELFARE**  
**Bachelor of Arts**

### FIRST YEAR
- Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plan.
- Familiarize yourself with major and college requirements.
- Start working on prerequisite entry requirements (L&S Reading and Composition and Quantitative Reasoning, Introductory Psychology, and Introductory Sociology).
- Explore your major and college requirements.
- Reflect on your passions and build community locally and globally.
- Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar, L&S 10, or a student-run DeCal course.
- Attend the Undergraduate Research and Scholarships Fair in October.
- Get inspired by the faculty research and centers in Social Welfare.

### SECOND YEAR
- Complete prerequisite entry requirements by the end of your third semester and petition to declare the major.
- Get a head start on degree requirements by completing upper division social science electives.
- Review major guidelines for study abroad.
- Join a Social Welfare student organization such as the Social Welfare Association for the Greater Good.
- Start attending Social Welfare events.
- Get to know professors and graduate student instructors during their office hours.
- Continue with a Sophomore Seminar, Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
- Assist faculty in their research through URAP.
- Enrich your studies with a certificate, course thread, or summer minor.
- Check out the minor in Global Poverty and Practice.

### THIRD YEAR
- Enroll in SOC WEL 110 once your petition to declare the major has been approved.
- Focus on upper division requirements and social science electives.
- Review your degree progress with your major and college advisors.
- Consult with your major advisor about the Honors Thesis Program.
- Planning a senior thesis or project? Apply to the Haas Scholars Program or SURF.
- Curious about entrepreneurship? Enroll in HUM 120: Entrepreneurship for All.
- Explore the Center for Race & Gender, Center for Research on Social Change, Institute for the Study of Social Issues, and Osher & Belonging Institute.
- Study and intern in Washington D.C. with UCDC or Cal in the Capital.
- Consider a Berkeley Global Internship in the United States or abroad.
- Engage in advocacy, lobbying and legislative action on social work issues as part of Lobby Days.

### FOURTH YEAR
- Continue to complete SOC WEL core courses and upper division social science electives.
- Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
- Complete any "bucket list" courses and remaining major, college, and campus requirements.
- Participate in the Social Welfare commencement.
- Meet with your college advisor.
- Discuss career options and goals with a career advisor.
- Discuss post-graduate options with advisors and professors.
- Apply for the John Gardner Fellowship.
- Explore service opportunities after graduation, such as Teach for America or AmeriCorps.
- Learn about and apply to the Peace Corps.
- Consider becoming a Senior Advisor or intern for Career Connections.
- Explore service opportunities after graduation, such as Teach for America or AmeriCorps.

### WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?
- Social work addresses the barriers, inequities and injustices that exist in society. It responds to crises and emergencies as well as to everyday personal and social problems. Social work utilizes a variety of skills, techniques, and activities consistent with its holistic focus on people and their environment.

### Jobs and Employers
- Administrative Asst., Interface Engineering
- Advisor, UC Berkeley Business Development Coordinator, Oracle
- Community Health Worker, MLK Hospital
- Community Organizer, LAUSD Counselor Support, Alta Mira Recovery Centers
- Family Advocate, YMCA Healthcare Operations, Kaiser Permanente
- Home Health Aide, In-Home Support Services
- Residential Counselor, Larkin Street Youth Services
- Youth Specialist, AmeriCorps

### Graduate Programs
- Clinical Psychology
- Educational Administration
- Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences
- Hospitality Administration
- Public Health
- Public Policy
- Social Welfare
- Sociology
- Speech-Language Pathology

Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.