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.

“ 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

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.

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.

CONNECT WITH US

Golden Bear Orientation
Join your peers in the campus-wide UC Berkeley orientation program for all new students.

Events
Attend department events with students, staff, and faculty. Visit socialwelfare.berkeley.edu for news and updates.

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

SOCIAL WELFARE

Bachelor of Arts

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

**Bachelor of Arts**

**Design Your Journey**

**Reflect**

- Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library
- Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail
- Explore career fields in the Career Connections Networking Series or a winter internship
- Check out the Social Welfare webpage on career resources

**Discover your passions**

- Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with a community-facing student organization like the Suitcase Clinic
- Find service opportunities and internships through the Public Service Center
- Explore study, internship, and research abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad

**Engage locally and globally**

- Attend a Montana summer camp to discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar, L&S 5, or a student-run DeCal course
- Visit the Undergraduate Research and Scholarships Fair in October
- Get inspired by the faculty research and centers in Social Welfare

**Explore your major**

- Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plans
- Familiarize yourself with major and college requirements
- Start working on prerequisite requirements (L&S Reading and Composition, Quantitative Reasoning, Introductory Psychology, and Introductory Sociology)

**Connect and build community**

- Get a mentoring relationship with Berkeley Connect in Social Welfare and L&S Mentors Program
- Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center and the SLC Social Science Program
- Follow Social Welfare on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

**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.