



FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Bachelor of Science in Social Work, 210 credits

Socionomprogrammet, 210 högskolepoäng

Programme code: S1SOP

First cycle / Grundnivå

1. Confirmation

This programme syllabus was confirmed by the Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 18-06-2018 (G 2018/281) to be valid from 01-07-2018, Autumn semester 2018.

Responsible Department/equivalent: Department of Social Work

2. Purpose

The Bachelor of Science in Social Work is a general education and gives professional skills for social work irrespective of which field the work is carried out in or which target group that is concerned. The education is based on the idea of economic, ecological and social sustainable development and highlights how social problems, and social work can be related to these concepts. The education in Gothenburg is given at the Department of social work, that is characterised by a complete academic environment. This implies that the department, and thereby also the Bachelor of Science in Social Work, provide skills of both scientific and educational high quality and very good contacts and possibilities of cooperation with the professional field that the Bachelor of Science in Social Work educates for.

Thus, a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work from our department provides good preconditions for continued scientific studies as well as professional career paths in both state, municipal and private sector with tasks in a lot of different fields; healthcare, school, geriatric care, disability, correctional care, individual and family care to mention some.

That the education is general, furthermore imply that the theories of the social work include several perspectives, e.g. the psychosocial, social-pedagogic and perspectives of care. Social work is today a strong research field in its own, with influences from closely related research fields such as psychology, sociology and national economy. The main field of study in the Social Work Programme is social work, but since knowledge from other main fields of research of relevance for the social vocational branch is included, the programme is interdisciplinary in its character.

Social work is not only a theoretical research field, it is also a professional practice. On the Social Work Programme in Gothenburg, theoretical and practical elements are consistently integrated in the education. Our starting point is that knowledge of a refined academic and scientific nature – integrated with practical and action-oriented knowledge – constitutes a precondition for the development of professional occupational identity and a professional approach. An example of this is that the students during shorter periods of placements on the practice field retrieve material for projects and essays. According to the same logic, the placement that constitutes a whole semester is also theoretically based.

To knowingly and strategically integrate theory and practice facilitates the development of a professional identity. Professional identity and occupational identity is also dependent on self-knowledge and self-reflexion. In most courses through the whole programme, a compulsory element (PFS = Professional Approach and Self-knowledge) returns, that connects to content and intended learning outcomes in respective course. Form and content for PFS are different between the courses but the elements in itself all contribute to the same process i. e. that by means of reflection and self-knowledge develop a professional approach. An additional compulsory element that returns through the programme is the clarification of different types of power and how social problems can be understood based on occurring hierarchies, stratifications and power relations. Class as well as different discrimination criterias (e. g. sex, ethnicity, age) are treated in relation to specific courses and components. To meet the requirements of professional skills for the students and the society, we seek a certain measure of flexibility in the education. It is facilitated by offering elective courses on the fourth and seventh semester. In the fourth semester, the students study three of nine elective courses. The nine courses are divided into three profiles, which reflect central parts of the research competence and width of the department (furthermore see page 6). Through the studying of a course from a respective profile, both generalization and specialisation is facilitated; no student can choose not to study a specific profile and all students achieve advanced knowledge in the specific course they choose to study. In the seventh semester, the students study one of four elective advanced courses (furthermore see page 7). The education applies a national and international perspective on the theories and methods of social work. The department has a broad and well-developed international network, facilitating that parts of the studies can be located abroad.

Teachers and researchers from other countries are used as guest lecturers in the programme and we work knowingly to internationalise the programme, so that perspectives other than the local and national are retained and revealed. The teaching is designed in a general way, in order to achieve compliance between teaching and learning and different working methods in the future professional role. In the professional or vocational components, the teaching strives to structurally emulate practical social work. The students' own experiences are utilised and the students are trained in active knowledge acquisition and critical thinking.

Group discussions with other students, own writing in connection with different components and feedback and supervision of teachers take place returning. There are several forums for student influence in the department, and we aim for a culture where students, teachers and the department collaboratively answer for the quality of the education.

3. Entry requirements

General entrance requirements for university studies and the Swedish upper secondary courses Mathematics 2a/2b/2c, Civics 1b/1a1+1a2 or equivalent.

4. Higher education qualification and main field of study

This programme leads to a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work (Socionomexamen).

5. Outcomes

Goals - General goals for program level

Education at first cycle level should develop the students:

- ability to make independent and critical assessments
- ability to independently distinguish, formulate and solve problems and
- preparedness to meet changes in the working life

In the field that the education intends, the students in addition to knowledge and skills should, develop the ability to

- search for and independently assess knowledge at a scholarly level,
- follow the knowledge development and
- exchange knowledge also with individuals lacking expertise in the area.

Goals - General goals for exam

General aims for a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work, the student should

- show such competence and skills that is required to develop and carry out social work at different levels in society in collaboration with the people that are concerned
- demonstrate the ability to apply relevant statutes, and in particular in the social field,
- demonstrate the ability to understand, investigate and analyse social processes and problems and
- demonstrate the ability to identify, structure, investigate and evaluate efforts on individual, group and community level.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work, the student should

- show such competence and skills that is required to develop and carry out social work at different levels in society in collaboration with the people that are concerned
- demonstrate the ability to apply relevant statutes, and in particular in the social field,
- demonstrate the ability to understand, investigate and analyse social processes and problems and
- demonstrate the ability to identify, structure, investigate and evaluate efforts on individual, group and community level.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work, the student should

- show self-knowledge and empathetic ability
- demonstrate advanced ability to, with an overall view on man, make assessments of intervention on the basis of relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects, and with special consideration of the human rights
- demonstrate the ability to professional treatment and approach
- demonstrate an understanding of the importance of teamwork and cooperation with other professional groups and
- demonstrate the ability to identify his need of additional knowledge and that continuously develop his skills

Independent project (degree project)

For a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work should within the scope of course requirements have been complete dan individual assignment (degree project) of at least 15 credits.

Outcomes - Knowledge and understanding

Show knowledge and understanding of the concepts economic, ecological and social sustainable development and their importance for how social problems and the social work can be understood.

Content and execution

The Social Work Programme includes 210 credits and 3.5 years (seven semesters). The knowledge base of individual courses build on one another. From the second semester, specific entry requirements to move on in the programme are applied and these are presented in respective course syllabus.

Semester 1 and 2 give a general and introductory image of the span of the subject and the profession both on individual, family, group - and community level.

The three profiles that characterise the Social Work Programme in Gothenburg are presented, as well as basic scientific theoretical concepts and issues and a theoretical basis for an understanding of power. Basic legal knowledge and the individual's development as an individual and a social actor in a life span perspective are treated. The focus lies on the students' s acquirement of a basis of knowledge and understanding.

In *semester 3, 4 and 5*, a problematizing of acquired knowledge takes place, while the ability to observation, reflection and analysis is practiced in elective profile courses and in pairings complete a scientific work in connection with studies placed on the practice field. Central perspectives on action and methods are presented and analysed from different theoretical perspectives, in order to be applied during the placement. Proficiency, approach and assessment skills obtain importance and are integrated with previously acquired knowledge.

Semester 6 contains scientific research methods and an independent scientific degree project. Here, a course in psychosocial perspectives on health/illness is also found. In all courses, both theoretical and practical components are integrated and deepened.

Semester 7 lies at second cycle level. The semester starts with a course in social the work at community level and is completed with an elective advanced course. Here, knowledge content from all semesters and analysis are deepened and integrated and aspects of evaluation – of both the student's own process of education and that of practical social work – are important elements.

Course content

First cycle, 180 credits

Semester 1

Social work, 30 credits

Module 1 Introduction to social work, 10 credits

- social work as subject and profession
- profile areas; research and field of practice
- organisation and scope for action
- professional approach and self-knowledge
- to develop as a student/critical thinking

Module 2 Power Relations and Categorizations in Social Work, 10 credits

- how are social problems constructed and categorized
- how to gain knowledge of social problems
- how are norms, normality and deviation constructed and categorized
- theoretical basis for an understanding of power in the social work
- theoretical basis for an understanding of the dimensions of power: class, ethnicity and sex/gender

Module 3 Welfare Policy and Social Work, 10 credits

- historical and international perspective on work, welfare politics and issues of redistribution
- welfare models
- living conditions for different groups in the Swedish society and connection to social work

Semester 2

Human Life Course – Development and Interactions, 15 credits

- how the life span can be understood from psychological, socio-psychological and sociological perspectives
- professional approach and self-knowledge

Legislation in Social Work, 15 credits

- the values, concepts and laws of the legal system
- civil, administrative and social legislation
- penal law

Semester 3

Theories, Methods and Ethics in Social Work, 15 credits

- relation between theory and method – knowledge-based practice
- methods for social support and change as well as crisis interventions
- social investigations and the exercise of public authority
- documentation and evaluation
- the importance of relationship and communication
- professional approach and ethics

Philosophy of Science and Scientific Method, part 1, 7.5 credits

- theory of knowledge and epistemology
- the research process
- research methods
- evaluation of the social work
- interpretation and critical analysis of research results

Field Based Scientific Work, 7.5 credits

- research project
- field based studies in the social area of activity

Semester 4

Profile courses 3 x 10 credits (elective courses)

In each profile area, three courses are offered. A course from each profile area should be read.

<i>Children and family</i>	<i>Caring, autonomy and participation</i>	<i>Social exclusion</i>
1. Children, Youth and Family 2. Family and Migration 3. Parenthood, Gender and Sexuality	1. Psychiatric disorder 2. Disability 3. Elderly and Ageing	1. Substance Abuse and Addiction 2. Criminology 3. Poverty, Support and Housing

All profile areas should focus on social vulnerability. The courses give social, cultural, social, psychological, legal and organisational aspects on respective profile area

- perspectives on action and methods in social work for respective field
- child perspective
- the individual's physical and mental health
- dimensions of power
- violence in close relationships
- living conditions at the individual and structural level
- professional approach and self-knowledge

Semester 5

Supervised Field Work, 30 credits

Develop a professional approach through:

- development of occupational identity
- reflected and critically reviewed profession exercise
- application of theoretical knowledge
- training in methods and interventions
- processes in social work
- organisation of social work
- conflicts
- cooperation with other professional groups

Semester 6

Philosophy of Science and Scientific Method, part II, 7.5 credits

- theory of knowledge
- the research process
- research methods
- analysis of research data

Scientific work (independent work), 15 credits

- production of scientific text
- critical review of scientific text

Psychosocial Perspectives on Health and Ill-Health, 7.5 credits

- critical approach to the construction of health and illness
- diagnosis and categorization
- health promotion and preventive social work
- social insurances

Second cycle 181 - 210 credits

Semester 7

Social work at Community Level, 5 higher education credits

- participation in community planning
- community work
- social movements
- public opinion formation

Courses in professional social work 25 credits

Four courses are offered, of which one should be read. The following alternatives are offered:

- *Psychosocial work*
- *Exercise of public authority in Social Work - Prerequisites and Consequences*
- *Management and Organization of Social Work*
- *Social pedagogy and social mobilization*

Joint elements in all these courses are:

- advanced theories and working methods for chosen field
- ethics, approach and power in relation to chosen field
- integration of theoretical and practical knowledge
- leadership
- professional approach and self-knowledge
- professional posture
- the social worker's role in professional cooperation
- lifelong learning
- evaluation

Additional information

After completed programme of 210 credits, a degree certificate for a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work is issued at the request of the student

6. Other information

The study programme will be followed up and evaluated in accordance with the applicable *Policy för kvalitetssäkring och kvalitetsutveckling av utbildning vid Göteborgs universitet* (Policy for the Quality assurance and Quality Development of Education at the University of Gothenburg).

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