

Information for Students Who Are Seeking a BA in Social Work (BASW)

- ❖ **Undeclared Students who applied for Social Work major at the time of transfer admission to SJSU, but were not able to get in, please see pp.2-4.**

- ❖ **Students who want to change majors to Social Work**
 - **Quick Overview, please see p. 5**
 - **Lower Division (Freshmen/Sophomores, less than 60 units), please see p. 6.**
 - **Upper Division (Juniors/Seniors; 60 units or more), please see p. 7.**

- ❖ **Information for returning students, please see p. 8.**

Undeclared Students

Quick advice for undeclared students who applied for the Social Work major at the time of transfer admission to SJSU, but were not able to get in

If your GPA is:	What you could do
2.6 or greater:	You qualify to declare Social Work as a major, but are not guaranteed that you will be able to enroll in the Social Work major*. For more information, please contact the BASW program coordinator, 408-924-5800
2.0 to 2.59	It will be difficult for you to declare Social Work as a major, but you might have a chance if you are able to raise your GPA; but you should have a good “Plan B” in mind in case you are not able to enroll in the Social Work major.
Less than 2.0.	It is highly unlikely that you will be able to qualify to declare Social Work as an undergraduate major. You’ll need to work out an alternative major.

Quick overview of process:

Complete the following prior to applying:

- > STAT95
- > Successfully Complete the WST

*Transferred undeclared students will be ranked from High to Low (based on GPA) to determine who will get a spot in the Social Work major.

In-depth info for undeclared upper division students who applied for Social Work major but were not able to get in

Processes for declaring social work as their major

1) Undeclared transfer students whose GPA rises above 2.6 prior to declaring Social Work as your major should do the following:

Arrange by email to show a copy of your last transcript from your current and prior colleges to the BASW Faculty Committee for approval. Your application will be considered if your prior to Junior College GPA was 2.6 or greater **depending on availability of space.**

2) Specific Criteria for Upper-division Undeclared Transfer Student

Complete the following prior to being able to apply to become a Social Work Major	
STAT 95	Elementary Statistics (required for major)
WST	Writing Skills Test: This must be taken and passed prior to applying to change your major to Social Work
Units	Complete 12 units in courses relevant to social work.

Before beginning of each Fall semester, a number of spaces may be open in the undergraduate program of the School of Social Work. The actual number of spaces may fluctuate from one semester to the next. At that time, if students want to declare Social Work as their major, they can submit a BASW application that will be ranked by their GPA. Starting at the top of the list based on their GPA, students will be approved for declaring a Social Work major until the number of available slots is filled.

Advice for transfer undeclared students

Things you need to know about your situation:

- Becoming a Social Work major has become a **competitive** process
- If you have a final transfer GPA that is less than 2.0, it is **very unlikely** you will be able to declare Social Work as your major. We recommend that you consider another major in the social science field.
- If you have a final transfer GPA between 2.59 and 2.0, it is **doubtful** that you will qualify, but **if you are highly motivated and focused you may have a fighting chance**, by raising your GPA through a minimum of 12 units of SJSU units with an SJSU GPA of 3.0.
- If you have a final transfer GPA that is 2.6 or above you will have a **chance** of becoming a Social Work major, depending on how many individuals submit their papers to declare Social Work as a major and the ranking of those students' GPA scores. If you are not immediately able to enroll in the Social Work program you will increase your chances if you raise your GPA through a minimum of 12 units of SJSU units with an SJSU GPA of 3.0.
- Don't take too many courses – of any kind – at once. Give yourself the space to do well.
- **Have a back-up plan. Regardless of how high your GPA is, you should ALWAYS have a back-up plan.** For many students pursuing a BASW is a goal to obtaining a Master's Degree in Social Work (an MSW). However, one does not **NEED** to have a BASW in order to be accepted into a Masters of Social Work (MSW) program. Think

about a second area outside of Social Work that you can pursue if you cannot enroll in the Undergraduate Social Work program. Below find (in no particular order) some good alternatives to a BA in Social Work (however, remember that the entire SJSU campus is in impaction status, so these departments also are in impaction and will have admission criteria):

- Communication Studies, Communication Studies, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Anthropology, Interdisciplinary Studies, Health Sciences, English, Psychology, Sociology, Global Studies, African American Studies, Mexican American Studies, Justice Studies, Child and Adolescent Development, Occupational Therapy

Change of Major

Quick advice for lower division students (with less than 60 earned units)

If you applied to San Jose State University with a different major (not social work), and now want to be a Social Work major, the following information will help you apply to our program while you continue your studies at San Jose State: When you become a Junior

- Complete the following lower division course prior to applying: STAT 95
- Successfully Complete the WST
- Complete enough units (60 units) to achieve Junior Standing

Accepted undeclared students are ranked from High to Low (based on GPA) to determine who will get one of the limited seats in the Social Work major.

Quick advice for upper division students (with at least 60 earned units)

If you applied to San Jose State University with a different major (not social work), and now want to be a Social Work major, the following information will help you apply to our program while you continue your studies at San Jose State: .

- Make sure that you have completed the following lower division course:
-STAT 95
- Successfully Complete the WST
- Have Junior status (60 units)

Students will be considered on a case by case, using their GPA ranked from High to Low to determine who will get one of the limited seats in the Social Work major.

In-depth Info for lower division students (with less than 60 units) who want to change their major

Process for enrolling lower division students who have been admitted to SJSU and now want to declare Social Work as their major

Qualifying courses: Take all of the following courses at SJSU within 60 units at SJSU.

SJSU GPA	Minimum of 2.6
STAT95	Elementary Statistics
WST	Successfully completed

A student who entered SJSU as a Freshman will be considered after completing 60 units, meeting the above criteria, and establishing a GPA of 2.6 or higher. Students should apply to the BASW program after completing 60 units. However, having a GPA of 2.6 is not a guarantee of admission to the BASW program. Currently there is a cap on the number of undergraduate students who can be admitted to the BASW program. Admission to the Social Work major will be ranked based on overall SJSU GPA (which must include of the above courses), and based on the program cap. Submit documentation of the above, along with a change of major form (http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/students/change_of_major/index.html) and the BASW application (<http://www.sjsu.edu/socialwork/prospectivestudents/basw/>).

Advice for undeclared lower division students

Things you need to know about your situation:

- Declaring Social Work as your major will be a **competitive** process. A rule of thumb is a target GPA of 2.6. In other words, you need at least an overall GPA of 2.6 to have a chance to qualify to declare Social Work as your major.
- **Don't take all the qualifying courses in one semester** – spread these courses over your first two years at SJSU.
- Take **no more than one** qualifying course **in your first semester**. Give yourself a chance to get acclimated to college life.
- **Have a back-up plan**. Look for an alternative to the BA in Social Work that really interests you. We suggest this because many students obtaining a BASW will want to pursue a Master's Degree – however, one does not NEED to have a BASW in order to be accepted into a Masters of Social Work (MSW) program. Consider taking courses in an alternative major, so you can switch to that field as your major, in case you are not admitted to the Social Work program.
- Below find (in no particular order) some good alternatives to a BA in Social Work (however, remember that the entire SJSU campus is in impaction status, so these departments also are in impaction and will have admission criteria):
 - Communication Studies, Communication Studies, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Anthropology, Interdisciplinary Studies, Health Sciences, English, Psychology, Sociology, Global Studies, African American Studies, Mexican American Studies, Justice Studies, Child and Adolescent Development, Occupational Therapy

In-depth info for upper division students (with at least 60 units) who want to change their major

The process for upper division students who have been admitted to SJSU and now want to change their major to Social Work

Qualifying courses: Take all of the following courses at SJSU within 60 units at SJSU.

SJSU GPA	Minimum of 2.6
STAT95	Elementary Statistics
WST	Successfully completed

The School of Social Work does not offer lower division classes, but upper division students who want to be considered regarding change of major must have a minimum SJSU GPA of 2.6. Having a GPA of 2.6 is not a guarantee of admission to the BASW program.

Currently there is a cap on the number of undergraduate students who can be admitted to the BASW program. Being able to change your major to the Social Work major will be ranked based on overall SJSU GPA. Each Fall semester, on a case-by-case basis upper division students may be considered for a change in major to the Social Work major based on meeting the above requirements, the student's GPA, and the program cap. Submit documentation of the above, along with a change of major form

(http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/students/change_of_major/index.html) and the BASW application (<http://www.sjsu.edu/socialwork/prospectivestudents/basw/>).

Advice for upper division students who want to change their majors to social work

Things you need to know about your situation:

- Declaring Social Work as your major is a **competitive** process. A rule of thumb is a target SUSU GPA of 2.6 for upper division students who applied for another major or who are currently in another major and want to change to the Social Work major. In other words, you to have at least an overall SJSU GPA of 2.6 to have a chance to qualify to change your major to Social Work.
- **Have a back-up plan.** Look for an alternative to the BA in Social Work that really interests you. We suggest this because many students obtaining a BASW will want to pursue a Master's Degree – however, one does not NEED to have a BASW in order to be accepted into a Masters of Social Work (MSW) program. Consider taking courses in an alternative major, so you can switch to that field as your major, in case you are not able to change to the Social Work major.
- Below find in no particular order some good alternatives to a BA in Social Work (however, remember that the entire SJSU campus is in impaction status, so these departments also are in impaction and will have admission criteria):
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Information for Returning Students

Returning after less than two years:

Returning to SJSU – Social Work after being away for less than 2 years

Students who are returning SJSU -- Social Work inside of two years will be considered for re-admission on a case-by-case basis if they meet the criteria of a 2.6 GPA; having passed STAT95 (or their equivalent) and successfully completed the WST. These students **may be**, but may not necessarily be, considered for re-entry to the program at the same point as their departure.

Applying to SJSU-Social Work after being away from college for less than 2 years

Students who have been away from college for less than two years and would like to come back to college and enter the SJSU -- Social Work should apply for admission to SJSU. If admitted to SJSU, then they may be considered for enrollment in the Social Work program on a case-by-case basis if they meet the criteria of a 2.6 GPA; having passed STAT95 (or their equivalent) and successfully completed the WST. These students **may be**, but may not necessarily be, considered for re-entry to the program at the same point as their departure.

Returning after more than two years:

Returning to SJSU – Social Work after being away for more than 2 years

Returning students who have been away from SJSU beyond two years if they meet the 2.6 GPA and have passed the Writing Skills Test (WST) within the last 6 months **may be** given consideration, but may not necessarily be considered, for admission as a first year student in the BASW program.

Applying to SJSU-Social Work after being away from college for more than 2 years

For those individual who have been away from college for more than 2 years and wish to come back to complete their BA at SJSU School of Social Work – they may apply for entry to the program as a Junior Transfer (i.e., therefore they will not be expected to re-take the GE requirements if they had completed their GE at the time of their previous enrollment). They should make their application to the San Jose State University.

Returning veterans can contact SJSU Veterans Resource Center (veterans@sjsu.edu; 408-924-8129). For more information, visit **Military and Veterans Student Services (<http://www.sjsu.edu/veterans/>).**