



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Programme Study Plan

Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work

Programme Code	SGGEN
Programme Approval	The programme study plan was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 7 February 2018 and valid from the autumn semester of 2018.
Programme Title	Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work
Credits	210
Language of Instruction	Swedish
Degree Level	Bachelor and Master
Degree Qualifications	Professional and General
Prerequisites	General admission requirements, plus either - field-specific eligibility A5 (Mathematics 2a or 2b or 2c, Social Science 1b or 1a1 + 1a2), or - field-specific eligibility 5 (Mathematics B and Social Science A).

General information

The Social Work degree programme 210 ECTS credits offers professional and academic qualifications. The degree programme is multi-disciplinary and comprises six semesters at undergraduate level and a concluding semester at Master's level. The main field of study is social work.

Aims and Learning outcomes

According to the Higher Education Ordinance, for a professional Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Work students must demonstrate the knowledge and skills required to work independently with the social welfare of individuals, groups, and society as a whole.

Knowledge and understanding

For a professional Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Work, students shall demonstrate:

- knowledge of the disciplinary foundation of the field as well as current research and development work,
- knowledge and understanding of the interaction between individuals and groups and their social situation, existential circumstances, physical and mental health and their functional capacity in relation to social and other underlying factors,
- knowledge of social work management,
- knowledge and understanding of the needs of children and of the social and family circumstances that affect the existential conditions of women and men, and
- knowledge of men's violence against women.

Competence and skills

For a professional Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Work, students shall demonstrate:

- the skills and competence required to develop and undertake social work at different levels of the community in cooperation with those concerned,
- the ability to apply relevant statutory provisions, particularly those related to the field of social work,
- the ability to understand, investigate, and analyse social processes and problems, and
- the ability to identify, structure, carry out, and evaluate interventions at individual, group, and community level.

Judgement and approach

For a professional Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Work, students shall demonstrate:

- self-awareness and the capacity for empathy,
- the ability to assess interventions using a holistic approach informed by relevant disciplinary, social, and ethical aspects and taking particular account of human rights,
- capacity for professional conduct and attitudes,

- insight into the importance of teamwork and cooperation with other professional categories, and
- the ability to identify their own need for further knowledge and professional training.

Local Outcomes

In addition to the requirements above, for a professional Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Work at Karlstad University, students shall demonstrate:

- Knowledge of gender and equality and how different forms of inequality are created and sustained.

For a professional Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Work, students must also complete and present a 15-credit degree project.

Programme Structure

The Bachelor of Science in Social Work programme at Karlstad University conforms to the regulations of the Higher Education Act and the Higher Education Ordinance as well as to the professional requirements specified in the various field-related policy documents, Social and Labour laws, and Swedish and international declarations and conventions regarding human rights (UN International Bill of Human Rights, UN Standard Rules, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the European Convention on Human Rights, etc.).

The degree programme is also associated with the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW). Guidelines emphasise the importance of expertise in human behaviour and its relation to social contexts.

Through a holistic perspective students acquire broad knowledge of different societal functions and human existential circumstances and situations. The educational aim is to promote knowledge and understanding of how class, ethnicity, sex, age, and gender identity are affected by and affect power structures, and the importance of knowledge of a socially sustainable society promoting democracy and participation in its development.

The programme is designed to give the students ample opportunity to practise active research, critical evaluation, and problem solving, all of which with a view to preparing them for future work and continued education.

In order for the students to be able to implement their theoretical knowledge in practice, the programme integrates theoretical studies with studies of the work forms and methods used in the field. The practical placement periods aim providing opportunity for students to integrate theoretical knowledge with the practice of a professional field of social work and its core values.

Emphasis is put on clarifying the relation between legislation, socio-political intentions and the forms, ethics, discretionary power, processes and effects of social work.

The studies prepare students for a professional role in which they will be working with various target groups and different tasks, which require active information retrieval and a disciplinary assessing and problem-solving ability. Great emphasis is on students maintaining a close contact with the operative field.

During the practical placement period the theoretical components are related to practical interventions. Under supervision, students study, perform, describe and analyse interventions in the social field, with a focus on professional identity, professional knowledge and professional culture in social work. This involves taking responsibility for ethical considerations based on democracy, solidarity, equality, self-determination and integrity as well as critical self-reflection.

Programme curriculum

Semesters 1-6 are Bachelor-level studies and semester 7 Master-level studies. Note that the programme courses listed may have new titles or are offered in a different order than stated below.

Semester 1

Social Work as Subject, Discipline, Profession and Practice, 13.5 ECTS cr.

The course introduces social work as subject, research field, profession and field of practice in a national and international perspective. The emergence of social work, its significance and construction are treated. Students are introduced to the theory of science, the research process and the importance of maintaining a critical approach. Central concepts and professional roles in social care and social work are examined, as are the knowledge and activity areas of the field.

Personal and Professional Development I, 1.5 ECTS cr

The course is based on recurrent supervision in core groups and a seminar week. The focus is on individual development and creating a professional identity, through group exercises and reflections on relevant themes. The main theme in this course is the issue of how a students' own personality may affect professional practice.

Social Structure, Welfare Conditions and Social Politics, 15 ECTS cr

The course addresses the structure, organisation, and development of the welfare state and the structures that create and sustain inequality, as well as various socio-political models and their significance for individuals and groups and their living conditions and lifestyles. Human rights, conventions and the welfare state are examined in a historical and present perspective. Sociological theories are introduced, for instance, concepts such as class, gender, ethnicity and sexuality.

Semester 2

Individual, Group and Family, 15 ECTS cr

The course focuses on the human being as an individual, a member of a group, and a member of society. Individual development and socialisation are studied in relation to groups and social institutions. Psychological, socio-psychological, and sociological theories are presented to clarify what governs individual development and course of life, interaction with other people, and social and global processes. Students are

introduced to theories of crisis and development, domestic violence, socialisation, group processes, the social meaning of emotions, institutionalisation and globalisation. A diversity-oriented and intersectional perspective is central to this course (class, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, and ethnicity). The conceptions of normalcy and deviation are problematized.

Law for Social Work, 13.5 ECTS cr

The course addresses the basic values, concepts and laws of the legal system and the areas of civil law, administration law and social legislation. Students are introduced to legal procedures and the legal method. These aspects include the legislation process and legal sources. Legal areas pertaining to social work are treated in its social context. This is done through studying the state and law in relation to the constitution and legislation on public administration and public office. There is also a unit on public access to information and secrecy. The course covers social legislation in detail, including custodial care and protective law. Also treated are Health Law, the impact of the EU on social services and the UN convention on human rights.

Personal and Professional Development II, 1.5 ECTS cr

The course is based on recurrent supervision in core groups and a seminar week. The focus is on individual development and creating a professional identity, through group exercises and reflections on relevant themes. The main theme in this course is group processes and the importance of teamwork in social work.

Semester 3

Social Work as Investigation and Exercise of Authority, 15 ECTS cr

The course centres on the guidelines and recommendations pertaining to the target groups that social workers deal with in investigations and the exercise of official duties. The course builds on previously acquired knowledge of laws and regulations and relates to the groups in need of support by social services. The aim is that students develop skills in investigating and assessing social intervention based on evidence, professional considerations, legislation requirements, client views, standard practice and informed ethics.

Research Methods and Project, 13.5 ECTS cr.

Students deepen their knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methods in the field of social science. Knowledge of the various phases and methodological problems of the research process, formulation of research questions, and collection and compilation of data are further developed. A small-scale field project presented in the form of a report is also part of the course.

Personal and Professional Development III, 1.5 ECTS cr

The course is based on recurrent supervision in core groups and a seminar week. The focus is on individual development and creating a professional identity, through group exercises and reflections on relevant themes. The main theme in this course is ethical considerations in professional social work.

Semester 4

The Theory and Methods of Social Work, 15 ECTS cr

Students specialise in and examine theory and methods in the field of social work at the level of society, group and individual. Specific methods of change, social support and care interventions in the field are treated. Methods based on the professional conversation, motivation approach, socio-pedagogical and psychosocial efforts, networking and teamwork are reinforced theoretically and in practice. Empowerment strategies, local community mobilisation and its impact on the individual are presented.

The Organisation and Leadership of Social Work, 13.5 ECTS cr

This course addresses basic organisation theory with special focus on organisations dealing with people and on cooperation between different government agencies and organisations. There is also a discussion of organisational change. Economic control in regional and municipal public authorities is also included as are theories and methods of leadership, communication theory, conflict management, cooperation, teamwork and leadership from a power and gender perspective.

Personal and Professional Development IV, 1.5 ECTS cr

The course is based on recurrent supervision in core groups and a seminar week. The focus is on individual development and creating a professional identity, through group exercises and reflections on relevant themes. The main theme in this course is theoretical and practical knowledge and learning in professional practice.

Semester 5

Practical Placement 30 ECTS cr

The aim of the course is that students acquire practical knowledge and experience of professional social work, and develop a professional role, under supervision, and the ability to critically examine and reflect on social work. In the practical placement component students are required to perform, describe and analyse work in a social organisation: its target groups and their situation and experiences. The focus is on professional identity, professional knowledge and professional culture in theory and practice.

Semester 6

Theory of Science and Methods in Social Work, 15 ECTS cr

Students acquire further knowledge of social science theories and current research in the field. They also develop specialised knowledge of theory of science, perspectives of knowledge and research methods with an emphasis on analysis, and reflect on knowledge formation in the field of social work. Students also review articles and research reports and conduct field work.

Degree Project, 15 ECTS cr

The semester is concluded with a degree project, which involves theoretical and methodological specialisation in social work. Students independently plan, perform and document a study in the social work field, which is presented and discussed in seminar.

Semester 7 – Master's level (30 ECTS cr)

Evaluation and Evidence in Social Work, 15 ECTS cr

This is a Master-level course providing knowledge of the background and emergence of quality assurance and the evidence concept as fields of knowledge and practice in social work. Concepts, models and theories of evaluation and evidence practice are studied. Students learn how to plan, develop, perform and critically review evaluation and evidence-based projects.

Elective courses at Master's level (15 ECTS cr)

The elective specialisation courses are open to programme students and to practitioners who seek professional development. Students are required to choose two for their qualification.

- **Social Gerontology (7.5 ECTS cr):** Specialisation course in the field of elderly care with an emphasis on the dynamic change processes of ageing on the basis of social gerontology theory.
- **Children's Rights (7.5 ECTS cr):** Specialisation course in the field of children's rights and their needs in vulnerable situations.
- **Leadership and Administration in Social Work (7.5 ECTS cr):** Specialisation course in the field of the theories and methods in social work pertaining to teams and leadership including knowledge of economy, administration and law.
- **Substance Abuse Treatment (7.5 ECTS cr):** Specialisation course in evaluation methods and treatment in drug abuse care.

Degree Title

Professional Degree:

Bachelor of Science in Social Work

General Degree:

Bachelor of Social Science. Major: Social Work.

Transfer of credits

According to the Higher Education Ordinance Ch. 6 Sec. 6–8 students have the right to transfer credits and have prior learning recognised upon approval.

Additional Information

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for some course components. Further information is available in each respective course syllabus.

Local regulations

Local regulations at Karlstad University stipulate the rights and obligations of staff and students.

Previous versions of the programme study plan:

2010-12-15, dnr FAK3 2010/314, effective from autumn 2011.