



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Programme Syllabus

Reg.no. HS 2022/1120

Bachelor of Science in Social Work

Programme Code:	SGGEN
Programme Title:	Bachelor of Science in Social Work Socionomprogrammet
Credits:	210
Programme Approval:	The programme syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Science on 8 December 2022 and applies as of the autumn semester of 2023.
Language of Instruction:	Swedish
Education Cycle:	First and second
Degree Type:	Professional. The degree programme also fulfils the requirements of a general Degree of Bachelor in the main field of Social Work.
Entry requirements	General entry requirements, plus Mathematics 2a or 2b or 2c and Civics 1b or 1a1 + 1a2.

General Information

The degree programme provides professional and academic qualifications that leads to a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work. The main field of study is Social Work. The studies are based on an approach and method that includes active learning, problematisation and critical review. The programme is mainly campus-based with studies at 100 % pace. The programme comprises six semesters at undergraduate level and a concluding seventh semester at Master's level. The programme provides a generalist education where students acquire a broad foundation of knowledge, professional expertise and skills to work with different groups of people in need of support via public, private or non-profit bodies. Students can choose to specialise in a specific area during semester 7.

Programme Outcomes

For programme completion, students must meet the national outcomes for a degree as well as the specific local outcomes.

National outcomes

For a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work the student shall demonstrate the knowledge and skills required to work autonomously as a social worker at individual, group and community level, pursuant to the Higher Education Ordinance.

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge of the disciplinary foundation of the field as well as awareness of current research and development work,
- demonstrate 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,
- demonstrate knowledge of the management of social work,
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the needs of children and the social and family circumstances that affect the existential conditions of women and men, and
- demonstrate knowledge of men's violence towards women and violence in close relationships.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work the student shall

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

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work the student shall

- demonstrate self-awareness and the capacity for empathy,
- demonstrate the ability to assess interventions using a holistic approach to individuals informed by the relevant disciplinary, social and ethical aspects and taking particular account of human rights,
- demonstrate the capacity for professional conduct and attitudes,
- demonstrate insight into the importance of teamwork and cooperation with other professional categories, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge and undertake ongoing development of his or her skills.

Independent project (degree project)

A requirement for the award of a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work is completion by the student of an independent project (degree project) for at least 15 credits.

Local outcomes

For a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge of gender and gender equality and how different forms of inequality are created and perpetuated.

Programme Structure

The courses included in the programme prepare students to work with social change management as well as preventive social work, statutory casework, staff management, evaluation and development of human service organisations, etc. The programme also includes studies about what creates a socially sustainable society with the aim of promoting democracy and people's participation in social development. Instruction components are linked to professional social work practice throughout the programme.

Courses included from semester 1 until the first half of semester 7 are mandatory and shall be studied in the outlined order, unless there are special reasons. Students who follow the programme curriculum are guaranteed a place on all mandatory courses, provided that they meet the entry requirements for the course in question. Entry requirements are specified in each course syllabus.

Throughout the programme there are recurring elements that aim to develop the students' professional skills and professional approach as future social workers.

The programme includes a internship, covering one semester. During the placement, the theoretical components of the programme are linked to practical social work. This means that the student the student under supervision by an experienced social worker studies, practices, describes and analyses social work within the framework of a social service on the field.

The programme concludes with optional courses comprising 15 credits, which allows the student to specialise in an area based on their own interests. The courses shall, however, be at Master's level and in the main field of social work. Students can choose from the range of courses offered at Karlstad University or another university.

During the programme, students are offered several opportunities to study abroad. There are well-established routines and procedures for this at Karlstad University. During semester 4 and the last part of semester 7, students can choose to study the equivalent courses at a university abroad upon agreement with the programme co-ordinator. The independent project during semester 6 can with support from the subject also be placed abroad, as well as parts of the internship period.

Forms of teaching vary, including lectures, workshops, group assignments, practical exercises, supervision in groups or individually, field studies and seminars. The forms of teaching are specified in each course syllabus. Working together in small groups is a is an essential skill for social workers, and therefore many courses include such components of varying nature. The programme aims for diversity in terms of examination formats, which should fulfil both learning and assessment purposes. All courses include an examination, performed individually, in pairs or as a group. However, the examination always involves an individual assessment of the student's goal attainment in relation to the course outcomes. The examination format is adapted to the intended learning outcomes of the course. Formats may include written examinations, take-home examinations, seminars (with or without written assignments), essays, project work, etc.

Programme Curriculum

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

Semester 1

An Introduction to Social Work, 7.5 credits

The purpose of the course is to provide an introduction to social work as a subject, field of research and profession from a national as well as international perspective.

Personal and Professional Development I, 1.5 credits

The course in personal and professional development aims to further the students' judgement and approach to the professional role and identity of a social worker. Elements of personal and professional development are included throughout the programme.

The Organisation of Society, Social Policy and Social Welfare, 6 credits

The purpose of the course is to provide knowledge of the structure, organisation and governance of the welfare state, as well as social work practice in public, non-profit and private sectors.

Theoretical Perspectives on Social Changes, Social Stratifications and Social Problems, 7.5 credits

The course provides an introduction to social science perspectives on social problems. The course also looks at human rights, discrimination and how inequality is reproduced.

Social Work as a Research Field, 7.5 credits

The purpose of the course is to provide an introduction to social work as a research field. Students are introduced to qualitative and quantitative research methods and how to apply a critical approach.

Semester 2

Individual Development Through the Lifespan, 7.5 credits

The course focuses on the human being at individual, group and community level from a lifespan perspective. Students are introduced to sociopsychological theories and theories of developmental psychology.

Living Conditions, Prerequisites and Needs at Individual and Group Level, 7.5 credits

The purpose of the course is to provide specialised knowledge of specific prerequisites and needs that affect the living conditions of individuals and groups, such as reduced physical or psychic ability, substance abuse problems and domestic violence.

Personal and Professional Development II, 1.5 credits

Law in Social Work Practice, 13.5 credits

The course focuses on the values, concepts and laws of the legal system at a general level. The course includes legislation regarding civil, administrative and social law as well as international conventions of relevance to social work.

Semester 3

Statutory Casework in Social Work Practice, 7.5 credits

The course provides knowledge of guidelines and recommendations for assessments and statutory casework. The importance of critical and ethical aspects of assessments and statutory casework is emphasised as well as the importance of using a knowledge-based approach when working statutory casework.

Communication and Counselling Methods in Social Work, 7.5 credits

The purpose of the course is to provide a general introduction to different counselling methods applied by professional social workers. Practical exercises are used for students to practice their communication skills.

Personal and Professional Development III, 1.5 credits

Theory of Science and Research Methods in Social Work, 6 credits

The purpose of the course is to provide deepened knowledge of research methods in social work. The course emphasises the research process with focus on defining research problem statement, data collection and compilation of information.

Project Work in Social Work, 7.5 credits

The course consists of a project work where the students work in pairs, based on a survey, interview or literature study.

Semester 4

Social Change Strategies at Community and Group Level, 7.5 credits

The purpose of the course is to provide deepened knowledge of theories and practice methods for social change strategies at community and group level, in both a Swedish and international context.

Social Interventions and Practice Methods for Children, Adults and Families, 7.5 credits

The course looks at different forms of social interventions from a lifespan perspective, taking account of knowledge-based/evidence-based social work.

Personal and Professional Development IV, 1.5 credits

Organisation and Collaboration in Human Services, 6 credits

The purpose of the course is to provide knowledge of basic organisational theory with emphasis on human service organisations, as well as providing knowledge of collaboration.

Leadership and Financial Management in Human Service Organisations, 7.5 credits

The purpose of the course is to provide knowledge of theories and methods for leadership and financial management in human service organisations as well as introducing methods for systematic follow up and evaluation.

Semester 5

Field internship, 30 credits

An overarching goal of the course is to offer the students an opportunity to develop knowledge, skills and abilities in relation to professional social work under the guidance of a supervisor.

Semester 6

Theoretical Perspective in Social Work, 6 credits

The purpose of the course is for the students to deepen their ability to identify, apply and critically review the theoretical background of different research areas/questions in research studies.

Scientific Methods and Research Process, 7.5 credits

The purpose of the course is for the students to deepen the knowledge about terms of theory of science, research methods and research process with emphasis on analysis.

Personal and Professional Development V, 1.5 credits

Degree project in Social Work, 15 credits

The course consists of an independent project where the students deepen their theoretical and methodological knowledge.

Semester 7

Professional Social Work, Conditions and Social Change, 15 credits

An overarching aim of the course is for the students to deepen and integrate acquired knowledge, skills and abilities in relation to professional social work practice.

Optional courses, 15 credits

Examples of optional courses (subject to availability): Rights of Child 7.5 credits, Treatment Service in Drug Addiction Care 7.5 credits, Evidence in Social Work 7.5 credits, Social Work

Management 7.5 credits, Migration and Integration in Social Work 7.5 credits, Social Gerontology 7.5 credits, and Domestic Violence from a Social Work Perspective 7.5 credits.

Title of Qualification

Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work
Main field of study: Social Work

Credit Transfer

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

The local regulations for first and second cycle education at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for some programme components, as stipulated in the course documents.

Previous versions of the programme syllabus were approved:

15 December 2010, reg. no. Fak 3 2010/314, effective from the autumn semester of 2011

7 February 2018, reg.no. HS 2018/65, effective from the autumn semester of 2018

14 September 2018, reg.no. HS 2018/65, effective from spring 2019

Structure diagram, Bachelor of Science in Social Work 210 credits (Appendix 1)

Semester 1	Semester 2
An Introduction to Social Work, 7.5 credits Personal and Professional Development I, 1.5 credits The Organisation of Society, Social Policy and Social Welfare, 6 credits Theoretical Perspectives on Social Changes, Social Stratifications and Social Problems, 7.5 credits Social Work as a Research Field, 7.5 credits	Individual Development Through the Lifespan, 7.5 credits Living Conditions, Prerequisites and Needs at Individual and Group Level, 7.5 credits Personal and Professional Development II, 1.5 credits Law in Social Work Practice, 13.5 credits
Semester 3	Semester 4
Statutory Casework in Social Work Practice, 7.5 credits Communication and Counselling Methods in Social Work, 7.5 credits Personal and Professional Development III, 1.5 credits Theory of Science and Research Methods in Social Work, 6 credits Project Work in Social Work, 7.5 credits	Social Change Strategies at Community and Group Level, 7.5 credits Social Interventions and Practice Methods for Children, Adults and Families, 7.5 credits Personal and Professional Development IV, 1.5 credits Organisation and Collaboration, 6 credits Leadership and Financial Management in Human Service Organisations, 7.5 credits
Semester 5	Semester 6
<i>Field internship</i> , 30 credits	Theoretical Perspective in Social Work, 6 credits Scientific Methods and Research Process, 7.5 credits Personal and Professional Development V, 1.5 credits <i>Degree project in Social Work</i> , 15 credits
Semester 7 – Master’s level	
Mandatory course Professional Social Work, Conditions and Social Change, 15 credits, on campus, 100% study rate 15 optional credits in social work as the main field of study at Master’s level. Examples of courses that may be included in the range of courses offered at Karlstad University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights of Child, 7.5 credits, distance, 50% study rate • Treatment Service in Drug Addiction Care, 7.5 credits, distance, 50% study rate • Evidence in Social Work, 7.5 credits, distance, 50% study rate • Social Work Management, 7.5 credits, distance, 50% study rate • Migration and Integration in Social Work, 7.5 credits, distance, 50% study rate • Social Gerontology, 7.5 credits, distance, 50% study rate 	

- Domestic Violence from a Social Work Perspective, 7.5 credits, distance, 50% study rate