Open University *of* Mauritius

BSc (Hons) Social Work [OUbs027]

1. Objective and Rationale

The aim of this program is to enable the learners to earn a high level, specialist qualification, while also acquiring a skill set and expertise that could benefit any individual. In this program, learners will acquire the basic tenets in social work. There are multiple avenues in social work which require social workers to take the time to understand the conditions of their clients and work to improve their conditions in effective and safe ways. They may need to assist people with everyday issues like personal, family, and relationship issues. Sometimes they may be involved in helping clients with disabilities, diseases, or social issues like substance abuse or unemployment. Families with domestic conflicts can also turn to social workers for relief and guidance during difficult times. Social workers are thus trained in areas such in a particular service or setting, like child, family or school social work.

2. General Entry Requirements

I. **EITHER** "Credit" in at least three subjects at School Certificate or General Certificate of Education O-Level or equivalent and "Pass" in at least two subjects at Higher School Certificate or General Certificate of Education Advanced Level or equivalent;

II. **OR** An appropriate equivalent Diploma/Certificate/Foundation Course approved by The Open University of Mauritius.

III. Learners who do not qualify under options I and II may register for Foundation Courses offered by The Open University of Mauritius. Those who complete the Foundation Courses successfully will be eligible for registration for the relevant degree programmes.

IV. **OR** Qualifications awarded by other universities and institutions, which have been approved by the Open University of Mauritius as satisfying the minimum requirements for admission.

V. Mature candidates having a strong background of work experience and uncertified learning may be assessed for entry to programmes through the Accreditation of Prior

learning (APL) and the Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL). Please consult the General Rules and Regulations of the Open University of Mauritius for further details.

Go to link for additional information: https://www.open.ac.mu/**additional-page/**

3. Programme Requirements

As per general entry requirements.

4. Minimum Requirements for Awards

Degree Award
For the award of the degree, all modules of the programme, including work placement, must be completed. Except for the work placement module, every module carries 4 credits except the dissertation carries 8 credits.

5. Programme Duration

	Normal	**Maximum**
Diploma:	2 years	3 years
Degree:	3 years	6 years

6. Credits per Year: Maximum 42 credits and minimum 18 credits.

7. Minimum Credits Required for Degree Award: 112

8. Assessment

Each module will be assessed over 100 marks (i.e. expressed as %) with details as follows (unless otherwise specified) :
Assessment, unless stated otherwise, will be based on a written examination of 2 hours duration which would account for 70% of the final module grade and continuous assessment would account for 30% of the final module grade.
For the module Social Policy II, assessment will be based on 50 % oral presentation and 50% on portfolio.
Written examinations for all modules, whether taught in semester 1 or in semester 2 or both, will be carried out at the end of the semester (unless otherwise stated).

9. Grading

Percentage (%) Range	Description	Grade	Grade Point
70.0 and above	Excellent	A	5
60.0 — 69.9	Very Good	B	4
50.0 — 59.9	Good	C	3
40.0— 49.9	Satisfactory	D	2

| | <40 | Ungraded | U | 0 |

11. Programme Plan

YEAR 1
SEMESTER I

Code	Module Name	Credits
OUbs027111	Nature and History of Social Work	4
OUbs027112	Applied psychology for social work	4
IT100	IT Essentials	4
OUbs027114	Social Welfare Services	4
OUbs027115	Social perspectives: an Introduction	4

SEMESTER II

OUbs027121	Ethics and the Law in Social Work	4
OUbs027122	Social Psychology	4
OUbs027123	Basic counselling skills for social workers	4
OUbs027124	Family & Child Welfare	4
QMBUS100	Quantitative Methods	4

YEAR 2
SEMESTER I

OUbs027211	Social Work Practice I	4
OUbs027212	Social Policy and social welfare	4
OUbs027213	NGOs, CSR & Social Work	4
OUbs027214	School Social Work	4
Oubs027215	Critical Perspectives on Social Work	4

SEMESTER II

OUbs027221	Social Work Practice II	4
OUbs027222	Clinical Social Work	4
OUbs027223	Sexuality and Health	4
OUbs027224	Social Work Research	4

| OUbs027225 | Society, Social Issues and social work intervention | 4 |

YEAR 3
SEMESTER I

OUbs027311	Assessment and intervention with Groups, Communities, Organisations & Institutions	4
OUbs027312	Globalisation and Contemporary issues in social Work	4
OUbs027313	Gender and Social Issues	4
OUbs027314	Dissertation	

SEMESTER II

OUbs027321	Assessment and Intervention with vulnerable populations	4
OUbs027322	Social Project Development & Management	4
OUbs027323	Ageing and social work practice	4
OUbs027324	Dissertation	8

Module Outline

Nature and History of Social Work [OUbs027111]

Aim: To introduce Social Work as an academic subject, define social work theory and discuss how an understanding of social work theory can promote good social work practice.

Unit 1: Concept & Historical background

Unit 2: Ideological foundations

Unit 3: Theoretical Frameworks

Unit 4: Social work roles & values in social work practice

Unit 5: Helping Relationships in social work- Voluntary and involuntary

Unit 6: Social work and its relation to other disciplines

Applied psychology for social work [OUbs027112]

Aim: The general aim of this module is to provide learners with a general introduction to the study of psychology, including its historical development, major modern fields of research and application and key perspectives. The focus is on the application of psychology from a social work perspective.

Unit 1: Introducing psychology for social workers

Unit 2: Psychology and communication

Unit 3: Attitudes and beliefs

Unit 4: Groupwork as social work practice

Unit 5: Mental illness

Unit 6: Child psychology

Unit 7: Gerontology and psychology

Unit 8: Leadership in social work organisations

IT Essentials [IT100]

Aim: The module provides an introduction to information technology, computers, and computer networks and their application. Learners will also learn how communications systems can help boost productivity. Module Aim: The module provides an introduction to information technology, computers, and computer networks and their application. Learners will also learn how communications systems can help boost productivity.

Unit 1: IT and Computers

Unit 2: Stepping in the Computer

Unit 3: Input and Output Devices

Unit 4: Secondary Storage

Unit 5: Systems Software

Unit 6: Systems Development

Unit 7: Computer Networks

Unit 8: Issues and Trends in IT

Social Welfare Services [OUbs027114]

Aim: Developing an understanding of the key issues in social welfare policy, as well as examining the operation of social services from a critical perspective.

Unit 1: Purpose and function of social welfare

Unit 2: Process of social welfare policy development

Unit 3: The service delivery system: Vulnerable and Marginalized group

Unit 4: Service provision in the delivery of social welfare

Unit 5: Social work and social welfare

Social perspectives: an Introduction [OUbs027115]

Aim: Exposing students to social work practice through an exploration of the history, religious & philosophical origins, and theoretical & ideological perspectives of the profession of social work.

Unit 1: Basic sociological concepts

Unit 2: Classical and contemporary sociological theories

Unit 3: Introduction to Social Research Method

Unit 4: Social Research for social change

Unit 5: The Society and culture,

Unit 6: Modernity, structure, ideology and power

Unit 7: Sex, gender and power at work

Ethics and the Law in Social Work [OUbs027121]

Aim: Examining the need for values and ethics in social work practice, reviewing the relevant codes of ethics and practice standards that guide SW practitioners, and examining the roles in which they become involved.

Unit 1: Definition of concepts

Unit 2: Code of ethics (International and Local)

Unit 3: International laws and frameworks

Unit 4: Social work organisation and NGOs'

Unit 5: Social policy and Social work

Unit 6: Social work and the Legislative framework

Social Psychology [OUbs027122]

Aim: This module focuses on the individual as a social being. It examines the role of context, environment and culture on behaviour within and between social groups. The learner is introduced to the principles of attitudes, perception and the self and their application in the broader context.

Unit 1: Introduction to Social Psychology

Unit 2: Social Cognition

Unit 3: Social perception

Unit 4: The Self

Unit 5: Attitudes in the Social World

Unit 6: Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination

Unit 7: Interpersonal Attraction

Unit 8: Prosocial behaviour and aggression

Basic counselling skills for social workers [OUbs027123]

This module will introduce learners to the basic concepts of counselling and their importance in social work. The skills required will be discussed as well as general ethical principles when conducting counselling sessions.

Unit 1: Counselling in context

Unit 2: The Counsellor in social work

Unit 3: Listening skills

Unit 4: The conversation

Unit 5: Understanding others' problems

Unit 6: Ethical principles in counselling

Unit 7: Challenges to counselling in Mauritius

Unit 8: Compiling the skills and practicing

Family &Child Welfare [OUbs027124]

Aim: Examining the family as an institution, the social issues it has to face, as well as the support mechanism to ensure its well-being and analyzing the roles of social work in child welfare.

Unit 1: Introduction to the family and child welfare system

Unit 2: Family services agency

Unit 3: Role of documentation and reporting

Unit 4: Child protection and family support

Unit 5: Fostering, adoption and aftercare

Unit 6: Family engagement strategies in child welfare

Quantitative Methods [QMBUS100]

Module Aim: The objective of this module is to help learners to understand issues in the collection and analysis of quantitative data for supporting management decision

making. Learners will learn how to apply a range of basic statistical methods which are relevant to managerial decisions.

Unit 1: Quantitative methods, numbers and business

Unit 2: Frequency distribution – Summary measures. Probability & probability distributions

Unit 3: Measures of location and spread

Unit 4: Introduction to Statistical inference: Sampling distributions; source, types and arrangement of data Uses of quantitative and qualitative data

Unit 5: Correlation analysis

Unit 6: Simple linear regression analysis

Unit 7: Time series analysis of data

Social Work Practice I [OUbs027211]

Aim: Examining the key roles of social work standards and codes of practice with regards to intervention in the lives of vulnerable people and people in situation of crisis.

Unit 1: Introduction to social work practice

Unit 2: Codes of ethics and practice standards in social work practice

Unit 3: Professional roles of social workers

Unit 4: Theories and practice approaches informing social work practice

Unit 5: Structural and Anti-Oppressive Social Work Practice

Unit 6: Social Work and Practice with Diversity - Race, Age, and Ability

Social Policy and Social Welfare [OUbs027212]

Aim: Identify and critically evaluate key issues in social policy and social welfare and analyse the interplay of social policy formulation, administration and outcomes

Unit 1: Key issues in Social Policy and Social Welfare

Unit 2: Policy formulation, Administration and evaluation of outcomes

Unit 3: Operation of Social services

Unit 4: Comparative Social Policy and Social Welfare

Unit 5: Applying theory to Practice: Case Studies

NGOs, CSR & Social Work [OUbs027213]

Aim: Analysing the causes and impact of the implementation of social welfare through NGOs, and reviewing the relationship between NGOs and social Work in the provision of social services

Unit 1: Understanding NGOs

Unit 2: The Civil Society/ NGO sector

Unit 3: The Business and Society relationship

Unit 4: CSR and Social Welfare

Unit 5: Social Entrepreneurship

School Social Work [OUbs027214]

Aim: Analyse the key role of School Social Work as a link between the home, school and community in providing direct as well as indirect services to students, families and school personnel to promote and support students' academic and social success.

Unit 1: Individual and Group Counselling and Support to Students

Unit 2: Working with Parents/ Families

Unit 3: School Staff Education

Unit 4: Home, School and Community Liaison

Unit 5: Alternative Education Programmes

Unit 6: Case Management and Referrals

Critical Perspectives on Social Work [OUbs027215]

Aim: Exploring the range of theoretical perspectives falling under the 'critical social work' family, understanding their origins, scope, application and limitations, and analyzing contemporary issues to explore the application of the principles of critical social work in practice.

Unit 1: Understanding 'Perspectives'

Unit 2: The Fundamental values, assumptions and theories of Critical Perspectives

Unit 3: Concept, Principles and Practice of Critical Social Work

Unit 4: Comparing Mainstream, Critical and other social work perspectives

Unit 5: Challenges of Critical perspectives

Unit 6: The Way forward

Social Work Practice II [OUbs027221]

Aim: applying skills (practical, critical and intellectual), knowledge and research acquired in the different modules to social-work practice, with the aim of improving opportunity and outcomes for service users and communities.

Part 1: Written portfolio on a given topic

Part 2: Presentation of the portfolio

Clinical Social Work [OUbs027222]

Aim: To introduce different theories, methods, intervention techniques and considerations for clinical social work practice with various sections of population.

Unit 1: Theories and Methods in CSW

Unit 2: Intervention techniques and Skills for CSW

Unit 3: Organisational and Ethical Considerations in CSW

Unit 4: Clinical Practice with Individuals

Unit 5: Clinical Practice with Groups

Sexuality and Health [OUbs027223]

Aim: Exploring issues around sexuality and sexual health in social work practice

Unit 1: Sexuality: Perspectives, Practices and Behaviours

Unit 2: Sexual Education, Responsibility and empowerment

Unit 3: Sexual health interventions

Unit 4: Counselling and therapy support for sexually abused/ assaulted

Unit 5: HIV/ Aids

Social Work Research [OUbs027224]

Aim: Providing students with the knowledge and understanding of a range of qualitative, quantitative and mixed research methods to be applied in social work research, as well as the techniques needed in analyzing same. It also includes consideration of ethical issues relating to research in the social work field.

Unit 1: When and How do Social Workers use research?

Unit 2: Qualitative Research instruments

Unit 3: Quantitative methods in Social Work Research

Unit 4: Mixed methods

Unit 5: Analysis techniques

Unit 6: Applying findings in Social Work Practice

Unit 7: Ethical issues in Social Work Research

Society, Social Issues and Social Work intervention [OUbs027225]

Aim: To introduce students to the different outlooks on the way society is organised and functions, analyzing critical social issues and the underlining the pertinence of social work intervention.

Unit 1: Sociological Perspectives

Unit 2: Critical Social Problems and issues

Unit 3: Social Administration

Unit 4: Working with Social Systems

Unit 5: Social Work Interventions

Unit 6: Social Work and Social Development

Assessment and intervention with Groups, Communities, Organisations & Institutions [OUbs027311]

Aim: Thoroughly look at the assessment of and intervention with groups, community, organizational and institutional setting, covering the most important new and contemporary practice in meso and macro social work

Unit 1: Assessment of Groups and intervention at Group level

Unit 2: Communities: Assessment and Intervention

Unit 3: Assessment and Intervention at Organisational level

Unit 4: Assessment of institutions and intervention in the Institutional setting

Globalisation and Contemporary issues in social Work [OUbs027312]

Aim: Analysing the impact of globalization on social work practice, this module looks into the contemporary issues social workers have to address in an increasingly

connected and interdependent world, such as people trafficking, environmental issues, as well as welfare policies, and poverty.

Unit 1: Globalisation and Society

Unit 2: The global society and Social Work Practice

Unit 3: Oppression at Global level

Unit 4: Poverty and Social Exclusion

Unit 5: Human Right issues

Unit 6: Social Work in a Globalised context

Gender and Social Issues [OUbs027313]

Aim: Enhancing the understanding of social, environmental and cultural factors affecting individuals and society as well as analyzing the role of social work as an empowering agent.

Unit 1: Social Work and Social Inequality

Unit 2: Social Construction process of Gender

Unit 3: Institutionalisation of Gender Inequality

Unit 4: Significance of Gender relations in the field of Social Work

Unit 5: The democratisation of Gender relations

Assessment and Intervention with vulnerable populations [OUbs027321]

Aim: Examining risk and vulnerability factors in vulnerable populations, this module analyses the key role of social workers in developing resilience and protective strategies for managing and overcoming adversity.

Unit 1: Vulnerable populations: definition

Unit 2: Life Conditions

Unit 3: Life Circumstances

Unit 4: Resilience and Protective Strategies

Unit 5: The role of Stakeholders

Unit 6: Empowerment of Vulnerable populations

Social Project Development & Management [OUbs027322]

Aim: Focusing on the economic/ financial aspects of social projects, covering key aspects such as the sources of financing, the cost and benefits analysis, as well as the sustainability issues linked to social projects

Unit 1: Budgeting

Unit 2: Financial Systems

Unit 3: Implementation

Unit 4: Monitoring and Evaluation

Unit 5: Resource Mobilisation

Unit 6: Social and Environmental issues

Unit 7: Reports to Funders

Ageing and social work practice [OUbs027323]

Aim: The ageing of societies being a global phenomenon, this modules draws from the theories, research, policy and practice to analyse the geriatric social Work competencies necessary to serve the older adult population in a variety of contexts

Unit 1: Social work with older people: Demographic and policy context

Unit 2: Perspectives on ageing

Unit 3: Health, disability and advocacy

Unit 4: Caring, networks and community care

Unit 5: Dementia

Unit 6: Housing and residential care

Unit 7: Risk and elder abuse

Unit 8: Meaningful ageing and End of life

Dissertation

The research project will allow the learner to examine thoroughly an area or a problem related to social work. The project will draw upon significant concepts and techniques introduced during the taught part of the course and will look for to merge the theory and practice of social work through the achievement of a considerable and related in-depth piece of work. The review of the final year project will be based on the compliance of a report which should be in the range of 12,000–15,000 words.