The University of Maine School of Social Work is dedicated to promoting excellence in social work practice to improve the quality of life for all people. Students learn not just from books but from experienced social work practitioners and from their own supervised social work experiences. Our students have the opportunity to engage in field placements throughout the state.

UMaine has offered undergraduate education in social work and social welfare since the 1950s. The bachelor of social work (BSW) program has been continuously accredited by the Council on Social Work Education since 1979. We offer BSW and master of social work (MSW) programs, full- and part-time options, and courses at the University of Maine campus in Orono, at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast, and other satellite locations in Maine.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK?
UMaine graduates go on to serve as social work clinicians, program planners, administrators, and community change agents in a wide range of public and private settings and systems. Our students find positions in child welfare, criminal justice, education, community mental health services, residential facilities and homeless centers.

OUR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM
The UMaine School of Social Work educates social workers from a generalist perspective of social work practice. The undergraduate curriculum builds upon a solid liberal arts foundation with courses in human behavior and the social environment, social welfare policies and issues, social work research, social work practice, and field instruction.

During the junior and senior years, students complete field experiences and internships in agencies such as child protective services, medical social work, geriatric social work, community mental health, teen parent programs, and community services. The field practica are an integral part of the BSW education program and provide each student with the opportunity to apply classroom learning to hands-on social work practice.

STUDY ABROAD
The University of Maine School of Social Work has received two U.S. Department of Education grants providing financial support to students attending a semester abroad. We work with students to insure that you complete your degree on schedule. There are many opportunities for study abroad experiences — everything from a 2–3 week travel-study course to a full semester living in another country. The School of Social Work has formal exchange agreements with social work programs in Arhus, Denmark; Antwerp, Belgium, and Barcelona, Spain. Social work students have also studied in Italy, England, Australia and a host of other locations around the globe. For more information about this program, visit umaine.edu/international/outgoing-students.

In addition to the study abroad program, three to six students from Belgium, Denmark and Spain attend the School of Social Work each year. These international exchanges offer all students an opportunity to learn about international social services in their classes.

OUR GRADUATE PROGRAM
Accreditation for the master of social work program has been continuous since first granted by the Council on Social Work Education in 1991.

MSW students are educated for social work as advanced generalist practitioners prepared to work across multiple systems (individuals, families, small groups, organizations, and communities) in social work roles such as administrators, clinicians and supervisors.
OUR FACULTY

Students learn from and work with nationally and internationally recognized faculty who care about and enjoy interacting with them. In addition to their research and teaching, faculty are effectively engaged in both professional and public service activities at the local community level, statewide, nationally and internationally. This active involvement by faculty ensures that students receive an education which is both current and practical.

OPPORTUNITIES TO EXCEL

The UMaine School of Social Work offers an innovative and nationally recognized junior field experience in which students rotate through four social service agencies to gain a breadth of understanding in the field. Students are paired with a classmate who rotates through four different agencies. The students share assignments, so they effectively get experience in eight different agency settings. In addition, students attend small seminars to help increase their understanding and skills in practice. In their senior year, students participate in a field placement under the guidance of on-site field faculty.

Our students also have worked with faculty on nationally recognized projects in disabilities studies and gerontology.

CENTER ON AGING

The Center on Aging promotes and facilitates activities on aging in the areas of education, research and evaluation, and community service to improve all aspects of the quality of life of older citizens and their families in Maine and beyond. The center is a critical resource for students, providing opportunities both for those preparing for careers in aging as well as for those whose disciplinary interests are more generally affected by an aging society. Through the administration of specialized certificate, graduate training and continuing education programming, the center plays a unique role in helping to prepare social workers and other allied health professionals to serve the many faces of an aging America generally, and an aging Maine in particular.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Visit umaine.edu for an application, as well as information about academics and life at UMaine.

“My coursework and my field placement work prepared me well for the work I do now. The commitment of the people who teach in the department has given me a real passion for social work.”

— Elin Mackinnon, BASW, MSW, LCSW