

**OAKLAND UNIVERSITY**  
**University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction**

**Undergraduate Education**

**Approved Undergraduate Academic Program**

Effective Term/Year	2013-2014
Name of Program	Child Welfare Minor
Department	Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice
College/School	Arts and Sciences

**I certify that the proposal has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate Department and College/School committees:**

  
Dept. Chair or Director (signature)

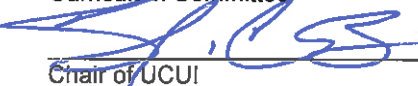
4/17/13  
Date

Albert J. Meehan  
Dept. Chair or Director (print)

  
Chair of College/School (signature)  
Curriculum Committee

4/11/13  
Date

Sandra K. Dykstra  
Chair of Curriculum Committee (print)

  
Chair of UCUI

9/11/13  
Date

## **1. Provide a copy of the new program.**

### **Requirements for a liberal arts minor in child welfare**

The child welfare minor is available for social work students interested in working with children and families areas of abuse and neglect, foster care and adoption, juvenile delinquency and other related fields.

Completion of this minor does not equate to the endorsement through the Michigan Department of Human Service. Rather that is a separate application process. BSW students seeking a minor in child welfare must schedule an appointment with the program advisor to learn more about the endorsement application and eligibility requirements.

### **1. Required courses**

- SW 310 - Human Behavior and Social Environment I (4)
- SW 360 - Child Welfare (4)
- SW 405 - Social Work Practice I (4)

### **2. Two elective courses selected from**

- SW 364 - Substance Abuse Theory and Practice I (4)
- SW 365 - Substance Abuse Theory and Practice II (4)
- SW 395 - Special Topics in Social Work (4) *(when appropriate and approved by the social work program director)*
- SOC 326 - Family and Community Processes (4)
- SOC 335 - The Family (4)
- CRJ/SOC 300 - Alcohol, Drugs and Society (4)
- CRJ/SOC 323 - Delinquency and Juvenile Justice (4)

## **2. Describe the reason(s) for the program.**

In 2006, a class-action lawsuit was filed alleging systemic failures in the Michigan child welfare system after several deaths occurred of children in foster care (Child Welfare Quality Assurance Unit, 2010). A settlement agreement was signed in 2008, known as the Consent Decree in Child Welfare. This lawsuit required DHS to make significant improvements to the quality of service to children and families in the child welfare system by reducing caseloads for its worker, increasing the number of children in permanent care, and decreasing the number of children in out-of-home placement (residential centers, youth homes, foster care). In response, DHS proposed a strategy to hire as many as 700 child welfare workers over the next 5 years. Additional workers would be hired to oversee more than 7,000 foster care homes with family-based placements and several 1000 youth aging out of foster care. The proposed plan included a university-based child welfare training, which turned into the Michigan Social Work Child Welfare Endorsement Program.

With the goal to recruit, develop and retain a highly competent, ethical, and responsive professional child welfare workforce, the Department of Human Services (DHS) has partnered with 24 Michigan Universities, including Oakland University, that offer a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program to create the *Michigan Social Work Child Welfare Endorsement Program*.

This endorsement program is embedded in the Michigan Schools of Social Work curriculum and is targeted to prepare social work students to provide effective child welfare services. The curriculum is aligned with DHS pre-service institute (PSI) training competencies required for their new hires.

Included in the Child Welfare minor program is a 400-hour field placement in a DHS office, private agency or tribal child welfare agency—a requirement already in place for BSW students. This structured field placement will expose students to child welfare programs, and they will be expected to develop many of the same competencies that students in the PSI develop during their on the job training weeks. Graduation from this program will allow these students to complete a condensed version of the PSI upon hire, receiving a full caseload more quickly than a new hire who must complete the full nine-week PSI.

To be endorsed by the DHS, a social work program must offer a child welfare tract or emphasis which augments the social work curriculum.

**3. Provide a list of all new courses and deleted courses. Label the course(s) as major core or elective**

The courses needed for this minor are already in place with the exception of one new course, which was recently added to the curriculum:

SW 360 Child Welfare (4 credits)

Examination of the field of child welfare in a theoretical and practice perspective, exploring the nature of at-risk families and the role of social work services for abused and neglected children; current issues in child welfare and interventions as they relate to social work in child welfare settings.

Prerequisite: social work major.

**4. If any resources needed (personnel, FTE academic, facilities or equipment) please provide budget. If no resources required, please state that in the proposal.**

There is no additional cost to offer this minor. The only need is classroom space to teach SW 360.

The Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work department has the resources to offer this minor without further support from other departments or academic units.

**5. Provide any other information that you believe would be useful to the committee.**

***Source of Students***

At, this time, students for this program will come from existing Social Work majors only.

***Expected Enrollment***

Based on interest received from current students, as well as the high number of students that participated in the 2011 DHS Recruitment Day on Oakland's campus, as well as information about similar programs at comparable universities, an enrollment of 30 students is expected in the first year. The Michigan Department of Human Service offers a competitive salary, along with generous benefits; therefore, we anticipate significant interest among our social work students.