

# SOCIAL WORK HBSW

## EXPERIENTIAL MAJOR MAP

### FIRST YEAR

### MIDDLE YEARS

### FINAL YEAR

### ACADEMIC SUCCESS



#### DEVELOP

a Course Plan and  
Build Academic Skills

- Check out the [Academic Support Zone](#) for writing and tutoring support.
- Review your program requirements on the [Academic Calendar](#).
- Read through and understand the [Academic Regulations](#).
- Needing academic accommodations? Meet with our [Student Accessibility Services](#) team.
- In Thunder Bay, Jenna Garlick can provide individual academic guidance to students at: (807) 343-8010 ext. 7205 or [jdgarlic@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:jdgarlic@lakeheadu.ca). In Orillia, Tess Buchanan will provide the same Academic Advising service at 705-330-4008 ext. 2617 or [tcbuchanan@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:tcbuchanan@lakeheadu.ca).
- Consider a concentration in Indigenous Learning or Women's studies (TBay only).
- Explore minor programs to add extra credentials that complement Social Work. Popular choices include: Psychology, Indigenous Learning, and Women's Studies.
- Become familiar with the 3rd application requirements- ask questions! Ensure to attend the presentations provided to all social work students.

- You must apply for admission to professional years (i.e. year 3 and 4) of your program by formal application
- You must write a personal statement admissions exam on the School of Social Work's determined date.
- A minimum combined average of 70% in SOWK 1100, SOWK 2011 and SOWK 2012, along with an overall average of 70% is required in order to be considered for the professional years.
- Attend Academic Skills Prep Sessions offered by the Academic Support Zone.
- Meet with your Chair or a [Student Central Professional](#) to discuss your academic progress, and current/future courses.
- Consider [post-degree programs](#) that may require specific courses or academic requirements - create a plan.
- Ensure your degree audit is accurate, and check your degree audit anytime you add/drop courses.
- Running into academic challenges? Get [support](#) early.
- Ensure you are planning ahead, asking professors for help, and discussing ideas.

- Submit your Intent to Graduate (on [myInfo](#)).
- RSVP for convocation ceremonies.
- Understand application requirements, processes and deadlines for future programs of interest.
- Check in with your Social Work Advisor to ensure you are not missing any requirements.
- Planning for your 4th year placement will begin in summer prior to your 4th year. • You will begin your 60-day placement in September and will be done alongside your courses.
- Meet with your Social work Advisor to ensure you have completed and are in-progress to complete degree requirements needed for graduation consideration.
- Look into [registration](#) requirements by The Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers.
- Lakehead Graduate school applications are due in February. Consider applying for the MSW program at Lakehead! .

#### ACADEMIC SKILLS CHECKLIST

- Reading and writing skills are extremely important; ensure that you utilise feedback from your professors and ask for assistance when needed.
- Visit the Academic Support Zone. Attend their [writing workshops](#) if needed.
- Meet regularly with your Program Chair to ensure you are keeping on track.
- Develop professional contacts with [faculty](#).
- Complete all the [necessary steps](#) to graduate.



#### CONNECT

and Gain Experience  
with the Local and  
Global Community

- Register in courses that contain in-class experiential learning opportunities such as, case studies, and labs
- Meet program advisors, staff, and faculty.
- Connect with various social work organizations to develop your interests. Check out the [Canadian Association of Social Workers \(CASW\)](#), and the [Ontario Association of Social Workers \(OASW\)](#) which runs [webinars](#).
- Join the [Social Work Students Association \(SWSA\)](#) to connect with peers and gain support.
- If you're an international student, check out Lakehead International [resources and programs](#).
- If you identify as Indigenous check out [Indigenous Initiatives](#) and the [Indigenous Student Services Centre](#).

- Visit professors during their office hours. Reach out to develop your network.
- Consider a [work-study job](#), which is a great opportunity to gain experience, as well as assist in the cost of your education
- Running into academic challenges? Reach out for [support](#).
- Become a leader or active member in a student club.
- Aim to volunteer locally, which will help you gain valuable skills and build your network.
- Engage with your professors; visit during office hours. Ask if they are looking for student workers during the year or over the summer!
- Engage with faculty research, participate in class discussions, and reach out to discuss your thoughts or questions.

- Connect to the local community through attending courses that involve case studies
- Join different networking platforms such as [Ten Thousand Coffees](#).
- Communicate interest in career-related opportunities with your professors.
- [Attend](#) career fairs and employer events.
- Consider presenting research you have conducted at an academic conference. Reach out to faculty for suggestions.

#### EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING CHECKLIST

- Participate in an academic exchange through Lakehead's [Study Abroad](#) program.
- Talk to a Student Success Advisor about starting your [Co-Curricular Record](#).
- Consider joining Toastmasters; an organization which will help you develop essential public speaking skills.
- Attend conferences. Consider volunteering or participating in a conference.
- Consider reaching out to potential employers or contacts for an [Informational Interview](#). This is a great way to build your network, gain mentors, and explore career options.
- Join the Social Work Students Association.
- Participate in [Research and Innovation Week](#).



### FIRST YEAR

### MIDDLE YEARS

### FINAL YEAR

### ACADEMIC SUCCESS



## PREPARE

for Postgraduation or Career

- Visit the [Career Zone](#) to find out about the career services offered.
- Check out the job bank on [MySuccess](#) to learn about summer job and on campus opportunities in your program.
- Look into the Ontario Association of Social Workers' [job bank](#), which also has resources on job searching preparation.
- Explore Social Work [resources](#) and organizations to expand your interests.
- It's never too early to start gaining experience. Start looking for opportunities as soon as possible.

- Start connecting with employers through on campus recruitment events, such as [career fairs and employer visits](#).
- Join [Lakehead Connect](#) to make connections with alumni in industry.
- Consider taking the [Strong Interest Inventory Assessment](#) to learn about your career interests.
- Build career readiness skills by attending resume, job search and interview skills workshops in the [Career Zone](#).
- Speak to faculty in your department about your career interests and potential career-related opportunities.
- Make curriculum and project choices based on career goals and interests post-graduation. Attend the yearly career fairs to practice networking, find jobs, and connect with employers.

- Build career readiness skills by attending resume, job search and interview skills workshops in the [Career Zone](#).
- Attend the Career and Job Fair/ Career and Summer Job Fair to network with employers. Check the [Career Zone calendar](#) to find out when career-building events are being held.
- Consider and discuss graduate school options with your faculty. Finish strong with your final year – in many cases, grad programs only look at your last year or two of grades.
- Understand the terms and conditions of your provincial funding to understand the repayment requirements.

### CAREER DEVELOPMENT CHECKLIST

- Visit the [Career Zone](#).
- Apply for job opportunities in your field.
- Create a [LinkedIn](#) Account.
- Attend Career Zone job readiness workshops.
- Network with employers on campus.
- Use the [LinkedIn Learning](#) resource to help develop employability and professional skills.
- Keep track of all your experience as you progress; you'll need this on your resume.

#### ▶ What skills do employers want?

- Initiative, independent work, responsibility
- Supportive in a team environment
- Interpersonal skills
- Client focused
- Ethics and good judgement skills
- Written and oral communication
- Dependability, reliability, flexibility
- Customer service and sensitivity
- Analytical, planning, organizational skills

#### ▶ What skills will I gain with this major?

- Identify as social workers by adopting values and perspectives of the social work profession.
- Adhere to social work values and ethics in professional practice.
- Demonstrate a knowledge base concerning human rights and responsibilities within the context of social justice.
- Employ critical thinking in professional practice.
- Engage in research.
- Evaluate, analyze and influence the development of social policy.
- Engage in organizational and societal systems' change through professional practice.
- Demonstrate competency in professional social work practice.
- Demonstrate proficiency and expertise in time-management, taking responsibility and initiative, resilience, organization, and both oral and written communication.

#### ▶ What graduate degrees could I pursue?

- Master in Social Work
- Master's degree in areas of early childhood studies, immigration, settlement studies, public policy and administration
- Law
- Doctor of Medicine

#### ▶ What types of minors can I do?

- Psychology
- Criminology
- Indigenous learning
- Languages
- Women's studies
- Northern studies
- Sociology
- And more! Talk to your Chair

#### ▶ What double degrees can I do with this major?

- HBSW with a concentration in either Indigenous Learning or Women's Studies

#### ▶ What could I add to my degree?

- Indigenous Language Specialist Certificate
- Certificate in Education Studies
- Entrepreneur Certificate Program
- Certificate in Indigenous Learning
- Certificate in International Languages

#### ▶ What careers can I pursue?\*

- Wellness Therapist
  - Caseworker
  - Counsellor
  - Service Navigator
  - Community Support Worker
  - Field Education Coordinator
  - Family Service Worker
  - Habilitation Specialist
  - Mental Health Assistant
  - Social Worker
  - Art Therapist
- \*Your career path is not limited to this list. There could be other options to explore!

#### ▶ What field of work are alumni working in?

- Social Worker at: Social Work Services, Helping to Reconnect Counselling Services, Karen Slomke Social Work Professional Corporation, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, William Osler Health System, Simcoe Community Services, Anishnawbe Mushkiki NPLC
- Social Work Supervisor
- Crisis Counselor
- Probation Parole Officer

#### ▶ What percentage of graduates are employed within 2 years after graduation?

- Social sciences: 98.9%

## STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE

THUNDER BAY (SC0008)

(807) 343-8018  
ssc@lakeheadu.ca  
Monday - Friday | 8:30am - 4:30pm

ORILLIA (OR1021)

(705) 330-4010 x 2118  
orillia.ssc@lakeheadu.ca  
Monday - Friday | 8:30am - 4:30pm

## CAREER ZONE

THUNDER BAY (UC00)

(807) 343-8010 x 8264  
careerzone.ssc@lakeheadu.ca  
Monday - Friday | 10:00am - 4:30pm

## SOCIAL MEDIA

THUNDER BAY

lakeheadlife  
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ORILLIA

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