

# LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT

## SOCIAL WORK

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### ***Offered at both the Thunder Bay and Orillia Campuses***

Social Work is a growing and challenging profession which provides vital services for individuals, groups, families and communities with various types of problems. Professionals involved in Social Work believe in the dignity and worth of each human being and the potential of all persons for continued growth and development throughout their lives.

The Social Work program at Lakehead concentrates on the social service needs of northern populations. It is an innovative program based on a holistic or ecological view of Social Work practice. Our approach stresses the Social Worker's role in providing and facilitating a comprehensive range of helping initiatives which relate to the client's needs as a whole person. This requires skill in an integrated practice method where students learn through both classroom courses and field practice experiences in human service agencies and community service organizations under the supervision of a qualified field instructor.

The Bachelor's degree in Social Work is recognized by the profession as the first-level professional degree. Both Honours Bachelor of Social Work programs (one-year and four-year) at Lakehead are fully accredited by the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work, which is the standard-setting body for Canadian Social Work programs.

### **Careers**

Career opportunities for graduates of the Lakehead University Social Work program are varied; some enter practice immediately after graduation and others pursue graduate studies in Social Work at the Master's level and at the Doctoral level. Opportunities exist in various settings where Social Work practice takes place. These settings include child and family services, mental health, corrections, health services, schools and services for the aged. Career advancement opportunities are available to those who qualify in the areas of supervision, program planning, administration, consultation and university teaching.

### **Admission Requirements**

Graduates of diploma programs relating to the social services (e.g. Child & Youth Worker, Developmental Services Worker, Social Service Worker, etc.), with a minimum overall "B" (70% or 3.0 GPA) average, may be eligible for transfer credit towards the first year of the HBSW program. Students will be considered on an individual basis upon receipt of official academic transcripts.

### **Program Information**

During the first two years of study, students are advised to have a second area of specialization, as it is necessary to limit admission to the professional years of the Social Work program due to a limited number of available field work placements and qualified field instructors.

Students who have completed the first and second years of the program and are seeking admission to the professional years (third and fourth years) are required to formally apply to Enrolment Services - Undergraduate Admissions in order for the Admissions Committee of the Department of Social Work to determine the professional and academic suitability of the applicant. Admissions criteria include academic standing, a written personal statement, references, work and volunteer experiences.

Once admitted into third year, a student who has related work experience with supervision from an approved supervisor in a social service agency is eligible to challenge the Third Year Field Placement (Social Work 3500). Admissible applicants are requested to contact the Field Coordinator to arrange for the necessary challenge procedures.

Candidates who are not offered admission to the third year of the Social Work program may continue working towards a Bachelor of Arts degree in another major being careful to satisfy departmental requirements. With a degree, candidates are eligible to apply for admission to the One-Year HBSW Program.

The supervised field practicum allows for the integration of classroom learning and theoretical knowledge through real life experience. It is an opportunity to enhance social work skill development as well as professional ethics and values. In order to maintain quality placement experiences for the students selected to the HBSW Program, the practicum process will be campus specific.

Students at the Orillia Campus will work with the Orillia Field Education Coordinator to determine the most appropriate placement site location either in their home community, the Orillia/Barrie area or nationally or internationally – except that field placements will not be facilitated in Thunder Bay agencies for those students accepted to the HBSW Program on the Orillia campus.

Students at the Thunder Bay Campus will work with the Thunder Bay Field Education Coordinator to determine the most appropriate placement site location in Thunder Bay or nationally or internationally – except that field placements will not be facilitated in the Orillia/Barrie/ Greater Toronto areas for those students accepted to the HBSW Program on the Thunder Bay campus.

**Applications to this program can be made with a 105D Application form obtained from the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC): [ouac.on.ca](http://ouac.on.ca)**

### **Enrolment Services - Undergraduate Admissions**

955 Oliver Road, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5E1

(807) 343-8500 (800) 465-3959 [admissions@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:admissions@lakeheadu.ca)

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