



聖若瑟大學
UNIVERSITY OF
SAINT JOSEPH

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK

Study plan & description of modules

Prior to 2024/2025 Academic Year

Modules

Year 1

ENG101 English I 3 credits

Integrated learning activities involving all skill areas help students practice and apply the fundamentals of English in a more varied setting and develop more accuracy and control of their spoken and written English. Reading activities promote vocabulary expansion and model accurate structure. Students participate in discussion forums and are introduced to presentation skills for groups and individuals. Logical thinking in both oral and written formats is guided. As well, students are introduced to the five-paragraph essay format and practice writing summative, descriptive and comparative compositions.

ENG102 English II 2 credits

Students will concentrate on gaining grammatical control of their communication (subject and verb agreement, modal auxiliaries, singular and plural nouns, pronouns, articles, sentence structure, statements, questions, simple and compound sentences, prepositions, gerunds and infinitives, adverbs and adjectives, punctuation, and some complex sentence patterns). At the end of the module, students should be able to write a paragraph without making major grammatical errors. Development of the five-paragraph essay format will continue and students will practice writing compositions that are opinion-based, persuasive and begin to compare literature from different sources. Development will continue in regard to presentation skills and discussion forums.

ENG103 English III 3 credits

This module provides practice integrating those reading skills necessary for academic success at university. These skills include reading for detail, inferring vocabulary in context, finding main ideas, critical reading, understanding sequence, summarizing, recognizing organization, and outlining. In addition, it emphasizes academic vocabulary. Students are introduced to language skills for research and are expected to apply previously taught presentation skills to give more analytical presentations. In this course students are also introduced to basic components of the research paper: abstract, data analysis and interpretation.

ENG104 English IV 2 credits

This module teaches advanced grammar necessary for academic writing. It includes a review of basic grammar and a detailed study of noun, adjective, and adverb clauses, as well as prepositional, participial, gerund, and infinitive phrases. It will also provide written composition practice. Students will be introduced to the argumentative essay structure including the refutation of counter arguments. Students will engage in more complex discussion forums, debates and participate in organizing public presentations.

LCO102 Thinking and Reasoning 2 credits

This course is designed to assist students to meet the demands and requirements of university level studies by equipping them with effective learning strategies such as note taking, memory techniques, and understanding the process of acquiring knowledge. The skill of thinking critically and creatively will also be exercised through the process of identifying and formulating arguments. Students will perform thinking and reasoning through reading comprehension and the production of written work. For these tasks, the course will teach students some of the most useful skills required to perform and produce academic outputs such as writing an abstract and an essay, preparing and delivering oral presentations, accessing information, citing and referencing, and avoiding plagiarism.

LIS230 Computer Applications 3 credits



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This course is an introduction to computers and related technologies. Basic computer concepts, terminology and software applications will be discussed.

LSW110 Community Organizing 3 credits

"This course module integrates the rights-based approach (RBA), theories, goals, objectives, principles and practice guidelines on community organizing (CO), community-based and community-driven development (CBD) and (CDD) respectively.

It will discuss and differentiate the basic models of community practice and its purposes in twenty-first (21st) century context, such as (a) neighborhood and community organizing, (b) organizing functional communities, (c) social, economic & sustainable development, (d) program development and community liaison, (e) social planning, (f) coalitions, (g) political and social action, (h) movements for progressive change, (i) asset based community development.

Furthermore, this module will also discuss the processes for people empowerment, community profiling, community assessment and community-driven development (CDD) approach. "

LSW111 Social Work Casework 3 credits

This course introduces students to the concept of casework and case management, and how to use it to serve a wide range of population. The goals of this course are to define case management and apply the steps involved in a case management process. To achieve the course goals, students will complete a variety of applied exercises in which they will carry out the activities of case management, including intake, assessment, case plan development, linking clients with services and supports, monitoring, and termination. Ethical and legal issues within a case management context will also be explored.

LSW112 Research Methods for Social Work 3 credits

This course aims at providing fundamental concepts and knowledge in social science research methods. Course contents include: three research approaches, how to conduct a qualitative interview and observation, how to conduct a quantitative survey, basic research process, understanding the differences between theory, hypothesis and research questions, how to write a research report, and finally, some ethical issues. Emphasis will be made on training students to be able to conduct small research projects.

LSW207 Human Behavior and Social Environment I 3 credits

This course examines biophysical, psychological, and behavioral domains of human development from prenatal to adolescence. Individuals and families' interactions with the environment are emphasized during each phase of the life circle: infancy and early childhood, adolescence and young adulthood, middle adulthood, and the later years. Major theories to underpin assessment and interventions with individual and family client systems are presented, within the broader context of a systems approach.

LSW211 Introduction to Psychology 3 credits

"This course module will discuss and cover the basic concepts, principles, methods, and fields of study of human behaviour. Major topics of discussion shall include basic concepts of sensation, perception, learning, motivation, personality, conflict, social behaviour, and adjustment. Moreover, it will discuss about personality, psychological disorders, therapy and social psychology.

This course module aims to: 1). Discuss, familiarize and acquire the integrative knowledge and overview of psychology; 2). Understand the human behavior, mental processes and developing through the life span; and 3). Appreciate, analyze and apply the knowledge gained about the theories, principles and biopsychosocial, cultural influences on human development and behavioral issues. "

LSW212 Introduction to Social Work 3 credits

"The aims of this course is to introduce and discuss the philosophical foundation of social work, its core principles and mandates, knowledge, skills, theoretical and conceptual framework, and social work practice. It shall also cover the different models of assessment in social work, career and job opportunities in Macau and other countries. It shall orient the students about historical background of social welfare and social work practice in Macau."

LSW213 Introduction to Sociology 3 credits



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The course aims at developing a useful attitude for observing what is going on in society, leading to more informed decision making beyond sociological investigation as such. After a few exercises showing how we are embedded in social settings, a presentation of various sociological schools and trends will invite students to broaden their vision of society by understanding of different points of view and positive appreciation of them. Then a review of sociological tools will be followed by short experimentation of sociological research.

Year 2

ENG105 English V 3 credits

Students will learn and apply a variety of public presentation techniques useful for both individual presentations as well as participation in group discussions. An important aspect of the module is that it uses an active learning process whereby students learn a new skill and put it into practice. By the end of the module students are expected to possess a number of public speaking strategies that will help them to prepare any range of public presentations, including proposals, as well as have the opportunity to participate in seminar organization and implementation.

ENG106 English VI 2 credits

The primary aim of this module is to assist students in preparing themselves for the type of writing required for themes, essay examinations, term papers, and lengthy reports. The principles of rhetorical organization and development are thoroughly presented within the context of each student's language and cultural background. Students will engage in problem solving and idea development through the combination of independent investigation, and consultation with peers.

ENG107 English VII 3 credits

Students will practice the process, purposes, and strategies of persuasive and explanatory writing. Students read and discuss works by both professional and student writers and explore techniques of argument and persuasion in writing a series of 5-6 essays. The module stresses revision, relies on frequent workshops of student writing, and aims finally to sharpen the students' ability to use evidence in a reasonable, convincing way.

ENG108 English VIII 2 credits This is an advanced interdisciplinary writing course module emphasizing critical reading and thinking,

argumentative writing, library research, and documentation of sources in an academic setting. Practice and study of selected rhetorics of inquiry (for example, historical, cultural, empirical, and ethnographic) employed in academic disciplines, preparing students for different systems of writing in their academic lives. Throughout this course, students will: significantly improve their academic writing; develop an understanding of how members of a particular discipline conceive of and engage in the rhetorical practices of that discipline; demonstrate understanding of the key conversations, the forms, and the conventions of writing in a particular discipline; gain experience in the construction of knowledge within a discipline and practice using its discourse; read critically and analyze rhetorically writings from a particular discipline and use those lenses to frame their own discourses; write in the different forms and styles of a particular discipline; and develop techniques for conducting research on the Internet and with other electronic databases.

LCO103 Life and Science 2 credits

This module introduces students to the different fields of science and their social and ethical consequences. It is aimed at students who have no background in science. The goal is to give students an overview of what science is and how the different fields of science intersect with everyday life. The course will encourage discussions on current understandings and research trends in the field of science and how these affect our daily lives. Recent developments in science relevant to concerns about the nature of life, health and related social issues will be addressed.

LSW208 Human Behavior and Social Environment II 3 credits

This is the second one of a two-semester sequence in Human Behavior and Social Environment. This course examines biophysical, psychological, and behavioral domains of human development from young adult to elderly. Individuals and families' interactions with the environment are emphasized during each phase of the life circle: young adulthood, middle adulthood, and the later years. Major theories to underpin assessment and interventions with individual and family client systems are presented, within the broader context of a systems approach.



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LSW220 Social Statistics 3 credits

"This module introduces students the relevance between probability, statistics, and the daily lives. More than only a piece of information in the news or newspaper, statistics can increase our understanding of our world. Basic statistics techniques will be introduced and discussed.

In this module, students will be able to understand the concepts behind probability and statistics. Rather than memorizing every detail of a statistical procedure, students are required to understand the general concepts involved. Students will learn how to use SPSS to analyze and compute data."

LSW222 Social Work Counselling Skills 3 credits

This course aims at providing fundamental concepts and knowledge in counseling and intentional interviewing. Course contents include: the influence of a counselor's personality and profession in counseling, ethical issues, micro skills in interviewing and counseling, therapeutic processes, techniques and procedures of different approaches. Emphasis will be made on training students as an effective helper in the aspect of micro interviewing skills and counseling approaches.

LSW223 Social Work with Groups 3 credits

This course focuses on the studies of the methods and skills of intervention, and the dynamic use of group process by the social worker working with groups. The foundation of the course is social work values and the ethical decision-making process. The content encompasses both task and treatment groups utilizing an ecosystems developmental framework. The course emphasizes understanding, affirming, and respecting groups with diverse backgrounds. Social work group facilitation is taught utilizing empirically based theories and interventions to achieve client goals. Students will know how to evaluate the effectiveness of group interventions.

LSW224 Social Work with Family and Children 3 credits

This course explores the changes in family structure and functions, and seeks to familiarize students with policies and social services provided to strengthen and support family life in Macau. The roles of social workers in family and children services will be studied. Policies at macro level will also be discussed.

LSW225 Social Work Professional Ethics 3 credits

This course aims to help students acquire the knowledge base required to identify ethical issues, the skills necessary to resolve ethical dilemmas, and the capacity to make ethical decisions when confronted with conflicting duties and choices that occur within the context of professional social work at all levels of practice.

LSW226 Social Work with People with Disabilities 3 credits

This course provides students with an understanding of the etiology, types and the demography of persons with disabilities in Macau. It seeks to familiarize students with policies and social services, particularly community-based services, provided to strengthen and support persons with disabilities. It also enables students to understand the needs, problems and adjustment of people with disabilities; and to familiarize students with the methods of assessment, intervention and prevention of disabilities. Approaches in working with both persons with disabilities and their families/carers will be studied.

LSW227 Policy Analysis 3 credits

This course module will discuss theoretical and conceptual framework of policy process, models and approaches of policy analysis. It will cover the problems and situational analysis, gathering of information for developing and formulating public policy in relation to social work, social welfare and social development.

LSW228 Social Work with Youth 3 credits

"The aims of this module is to discuss and introduce the essential life skills for youth, rights-based approach, policy framework and practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation and quality of life of young people. It shall also discuss the emerging issues of young people in education, employment, health, hunger and poverty, drug / substance abuse, juvenile delinquency, globalization, and other social problems.



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It will enhance the knowledge and skills needed to meet the current challenges of the young people, increase the quality and quantity of opportunities available to young people for full, effective and constructive participation in society. "

Year 3

PTG101 Portuguese I 3 credits

Introduction to basic Portuguese with stress on oral drill and pronunciation. This course will focus on personal information.

PTG102 Portuguese II 2 credits

Continuation of Portuguese I, introduction to basic Portuguese in context, and will focus on people and objects.

PTG103 Portuguese III 3 credits

This course is the continuation of Portuguese II and will focus on public services and immediate needs, such as ordering food in a restaurant or complaining to the doctor.

PTG104 Portuguese IV 2 credits

This course will be a continuation of Portuguese III and an introduction to level A2 of CEFR with the introduction to the past forms.

LCO106 Macau Studies 2 credits

Students will study and explore the history, the social, cultural, artistic, architectural and urban development of Macau, through lectures, field work, projects of oral history, and readings of local writers and of others who have written about Macau and its peoples. Special emphasis will be placed on relations with surrounding regions, the reach and influence of the Padroado of Macau, as well as the rises and falls of its fortunes given its strategic location at the mouth of the Pearl River.

LSW303 Social Deviation and Justice 3 credits

"This course aims to discuss the nature and meaning of deviance, different theoretical framework of deviance, types of deviance, crime as deviance- such as interpersonal violence (i.e. assault and murder, domestic violence, forcible rape, etc.) and non-violent crimes.

It shall cover social justice, its theoretical and pedagogical foundation, and teaching the diversity and social justice. "

LSW304 Social Work with Communities 3 credits

"This course will discuss theoretical framework of community practice, contexts, challenges, diverse population and emerging issues for community practice. It will also cover the major approaches and different models of community practice in global and local perspectives.

To address this emerging challenges and issues on globalization, this course will integrate the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will be implemented in the community-based programs and services in Macau, China Regions and other countries. "

LSW305 Gerontological Social Work 3 credits

This course will examine the aging process with associated biopsychosocial changes in the context of the ecological and person-in-environment perspectives. The course will focus on strengths, needs, and concerns of older adults and their families as well as caregivers. The assessment process will be presented, along with intervention approaches and challenges. Ethical principles and dilemmas will be addressed that are particularly applicable to older adults around issues of autonomy and end-of-life concerns.



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LSW306 Social Welfare Policies and Programs 3 credits

"This course will discuss the definition and functions of social welfare policy, social problems, theories of social change and factors that triggers social change.

It shall also cover the different national and international policies on social welfare and development that respond and address the emerging challenges, issues and social problems of different clientele groups, vulnerable and people at risk such as children, young people, women, older people, victims of natural and man- made disasters/calamities or emergency situations. It shall discuss the existing programs, services and psychosocial interventions in response to the emerging challenges and social problem in Macau as well as in other countries. Social welfare programs and psychosocial support services are being implemented both at the center-based and community-based settings. "

LSW307 Social Agency Management 3 credits

This course module will discuss the theoretical framework on organizational, management and administration of social welfare agencies of the government, non-government organizations (NGOs) and faith-based associations that cater and provide the appropriate programs, psychosocial support services, and interventions in addressing the emerging social problems, challenges and concerns of the various clientele groups, vulnerable, mariginalized, abandoned, neglected and people at risk.

LSW308 Social Work and Addictive Behavior 3 credits

"This course module will discuss the etiology, theoretical framework of behavioral addiction or addictive behavior, cycle of addiction, types of behavioral addiction and co-dependency in the family system. It shall discuss the roles and responsibilities of the social worker in the preventive, treatment and rehabilitation, recovery, relapse prevention and after-care programs and services for the young people with behavioral addiction problems and their family members.

It will discuss the nature and extent of the behavioral addiction problems in Macau, China Regions and other countries. "

LSW309 Medical Social Work 3 credits

"Medical Social Work (MSW) addresses the emotional, social and financial needs that frequently accompany health care issues.

The roles of MSW as case managers, counsellors and advocates, providing patients and families/carers with the psycho-social and non-medical support needed to deal with acute, chronic and terminal conditions will be discussed.

The majority of MSW work in hospitals but this module will also emphasize the community-based services and residential care facilities. "

LSW310 Social Protection 3 credits

"This course aims to introduce and discuss the conceptual framework for social protection systems, the role of social work in social protection systems, the role of social services and its implementation. It shall also discuss the social protection policies as indicated in the UN Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs).

It shall cover and analyze the existing social protection programs of other countries, social protection index and assessing the results for Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Europe. "

LSW311 Programme Planning, Implementation and Evaluation 3 credits

This module will provide a fundamental understanding of the purpose, design, and implementation of programmes or projects in social service settings. Proficient knowledge of the concepts, skills and steps to plan, implement and evaluate a programme will enable students to acquire skills in organizing programmes, and to assess and conduct programme evaluation.



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Year 4

CHN101 Putonghua I 3 credits

"This accelerated course module is designed for students of Chinese heritage and advanced beginners with good speaking and listening skills. The focus is on reading, writing, and grammar, along with continuing improvement of oral communication skills. The purpose of instruction is to utilize previous language background to lay a solid foundation for further Chinese language study. 本課程為母語為粵語或具有較高漢語水平的人士開設，旨在通過對學習者普通話聽、說、讀、寫的訓練，提高語言水平，瞭解普通話的基本知識，為更高層次的普通話學習打下基礎。"

CHN102 Putonghua II 2 credits

"This accelerated course module is designed for students of Chinese heritage and advanced beginners with good speaking and listening skills. The focus is on reading, writing, and grammar, along with continuing improvement of oral communication skills. The purpose of instruction is to consolidate the foundation which students have built in their first level Chinese courses, to expand their vocabulary, and to introduce them to more complex grammatical structures. 本課程為母語是粵語或具有較高漢語水平的人士開設。在进一步提高学习者听、说能力，改善交际技巧的同时，重点对学习者进行阅读、写作和语法的训练。"

CHN103 Putonghua III 3 credits

"Students read and discuss material from sources such as newspapers, journals, contemporary literature, media broadcasts and films. Students complete assignments in areas which focus on a practical application of Mandarin including in business, trade, tourism, education or linguistics. 本課程在學生完成普通話 I、普通話 II 課程的基礎上，通過報紙、期刊、廣播、電影等大量現實語料的學習，幫助進一步讓學生進行提高語言水平，並能在商務、貿易等日程生活實際中正確運用。"

CHN104 Putonghua IV 2 credits

"This module covers a variety of modern Chinese literary genres including essays, short stories, biographies, and criticisms. Emphasis will be on reading comprehension and expansion of vocabulary. Class discussions are on some substantive issues related to the readings. 普通話 IV 的講授主要包括三個內容：一是將繼續幫助學生提昇普通話水平，主要選用一些中國現代文學作品，包括散文、故事、人物傳記、評論等，作為補充材料，幫助學生理解、擴展詞彙的同時，瞭解中國社會及文化，並對一些相關問題進行討論，從而讓學生達到普通話的高級水平；二是普通話水平測試介紹及應試訓練；三是講授普通話教學法，幫助學生在教與學兩方面，於更高層次上瞭解和掌握普通話。"

LCO108 Directed Reading 2 credits

This module explores the demands and conventions of academic reading and writing. Students will develop the skills needed to master academic writing in scientific areas. They will learn how to analyse and synthesise information from several sources and how to apply critical reading and writing skills. In addition students will learn how to identify and avoid plagiarism in their own writing. Academic reading and writing exercises are central to the module.

LSW218 Social Policy and Legislation 3 credits

"This course provides a framework of analyzing and formulating social policy in the current political, economic and social environment in local context. It examines the roles and processes in social policy and the translation of policy to social service delivery in bringing about social welfare. By understanding how and why social policies develop, students learn to analyze policy and think critically about the use of policy for intervention in the social welfare sector.

Students will become familiar with the roles of government and non-government organizations in implementing social policies. This should further the understanding of the development of welfare services to meet the needs of the vulnerable groups in the context of rapid economic and social change.



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This course is also designed to provide students with a basic understanding of the law, legal processes, and legal systems as they relate to social work practice.

Students will become familiar with the roles of government and non-government organizations in implementing social policies. This should further the understanding of the development of welfare services to meet the needs of the vulnerable groups in the context of rapid economic and social change.

This course is also designed to provide students with a basic understanding of the law, legal processes, and legal systems as they relate to social work practice."

LSW401 Fieldwork Practice I 6 credits

"This course module is an essential component of social work education. It is a partnership between University of Saint Joseph(USJ)-Faculty of Health Sciences(FHS) and the social service organizations, schools, medical settings, private companies, faith-based welfare agencies and government agencies in Macau, who work with USJ-FHS to help the students integrate theories and practice in social work. It is conducted in the field or community agencies where professional social work practitioners are working.

This course module aims the following objectives: (1) to provide students with an opportunity to apply theoretical framework of social work practice; (2) to enhance their social work knowledge, skills and competence in working with individuals, groups, families, organizations and communities; (3) to understand and appreciate the existing social policies, programs, services and working patterns of service organizations in Macau. "

LSW402 Fieldwork Practice II 8 credits

"In this course module, the students will be matched and assigned to another and different social service organizations from their previous field work placement in the first semester.

This course module aims the following objectives: (1) to provide students with an opportunity to apply theoretical framework of social work practice; (2) to enhance their social work knowledge, skills and competence in working with individuals, groups, families, organizations and communities; (3) to understand and appreciate the existing social policies, programs, services and working patterns of service organizations in Macau. "

LSW403 Social Work & Transnational Issues 3 credits

"This course will discuss that social work as a global profession, theoretical perspectives of transnational social work, acculturation, coping, adaptation, international social work practice and international migration of professional social workers.

It will also cover the challenges of transnationalism and the global labour market, its opportunities and challenges for social workers. Likewise, the emerging issues of the migrant workers in Macau and other countries and the role of social workers in addressing the problems /challenges of migrant workers. "

LSW404 Social Work Skills Laboratory 3 credits

"The Social Work Skills Laboratory is intended to strengthen integration of theory and practice through experiential and reflective learning.

Students can learn and practice social work skills through in-house role plays, demonstrations and workshops. In-house skills teaching and demonstration are structured to help students gain mastery of basic communication and social work practice skills. It serves as a preparatory course for the students to acquire intervention skills in casework, group work and community work; to organize programmes or projects; to critically reflect the social work values and to enhance their self-understanding for the preparation to fieldwork placement. "