

The University of Kansas

**Undergraduate Studies in  
Spiritual Diversity and Social Work**

-Guidelines for a Double Major-  
2013

Bachelors in Social Welfare  
And  
B.A. in Religious Studies

Note: All current requirements set by The University of Kansas, the School of Social Welfare, and the Department of Religious Studies must be followed. These guidelines are intended to help students plan a double major. Their academic advisors must approve the details of any student's plan.

**B.A. in Religious Studies**

The Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies acquaints the student with the academic study of religion and introduces the student to the methods appropriate to the objective study of religion. The program encourages students to look at the role that religion plays, past and present, as an important phenomenon of human experience and an expression of meanings and values in the context of what is perceived as the ultimate. Students examine the forms in which religious experience has been described, organized, and practiced in history and in varying cultures and how they interact with social institutions.

**BSW**

The School of Social Welfare provides the education and experience necessary for a career in social work. By helping shape students' capacity for caring, the school prepares social workers to carry out the unique purposes of the profession, to develop human potential, to promote individual wellbeing, and to bring about a more just society. The BSW educates students in ways to promote well-being and social and economic justice for all people by building on their personal and community strengths and resources and the vitality of diversity.

**Spiritual Diversity in Social Work: How the B.A. and BSW Programs Connect**

In social work, we think of spirituality as the quest for meaning, purpose, and connectedness. It provides a source of resilience. For most people, this includes religious expression. Religion influences the institutions that surround us; it organizes and brings meaning to existence at large, shaping personal and community identities and values. For many, it shapes their very wellbeing including physical and mental health and social justice.

The fields of religious studies and social work complement each other to provide students with preparation to understand spiritual diversity and to work with clients for whom this is important.

They find common cause in the conviction that an awareness of religious difference is essential to our ability to function well as a social worker or as an educated citizen of the world.

Social work has a strong commitment to developing culturally appropriate and spiritually sensitive practice that supports diversity and promotes well-being and justice.

### **CURRICULUM OUTLINE**

Each student will have an advisor in both Religious Studies and Social Work to help tailor a specific enrollment plan. Some summer courses will be required in order to graduate in 4 years.

#### **Sample Four Year Plan**

1<sup>st</sup> year – Pre-Social Work KU courses including Introductory courses in Religious Studies

2<sup>nd</sup> year – Pre-Social Work KU courses and Upper Level Religious Studies (covering at least one course in Religions of the West, Religions of the East and Religions in America)

3<sup>rd</sup> year – Social Work Major and Upper Level Religious Studies

4<sup>th</sup> year – Primarily Social Work courses

#### **For more information:**

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