

# BSW Program Revision Non-SWRK Complementary Courses

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Proposal for the  
School of Social Work Council

April 12, 2023

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# CASWE & General Education in the BSW

## 2021 Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards

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### SB 3.1.1

A BSW is a university degree with a curriculum that provides a balance of *general education* (at least 40 percent) and professional education (at least 50 percent), including at least 700 field education practicum hours

### SB 3.1.2

The 40 percent *general education* requirement may be met through study undertaken prior to admission to a BSW program (for example, through a previous undergraduate degree, university transfer credits, college transfer credits, or CEGEP levels) with the professional requirements being addressed during BSW study.

**Given that students enter the BSW with 30 credits from U0 or CEGEP, our BSW requires an additional 18 credits to meet the standard, comprised of 12 non-SWRK complementary credits + 6 non-SWRK electives credits (30 + 12 + 6 = 48 credits = 40%)**

# HISTORY OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS: ↑ REQUIRED COURSES; ↑ NON-SWRK RULES

Year:↑	Type of Course:	# Credits:
2000	Required SWRK	48
	SWRK complementary	0
	Non-SWRK <i>social sciences</i> *** CASWE standards mentioned "social sciences"	18
	Electives	24
2005	Required SWRK	48 - 60
	SWRK complementary	0
	Non-SWRK <i>social sciences</i> *** CASWE standards mentioned "social sciences"	18
	Electives	12- 24
2010	Required SWRK	57
	SWRK complementary	6-9
	Non-SWRK from ANTH, ECON, POLI, PSYC, or SOCI (with 200+ courses with approval); 3 in same discipline or 2 at the 300+ level *** CASWE standards mentioned "social sciences" which were now specified + levels introduced	18
	Electives	6-9
2016	Required SWRK	60
	SWRK complementary	6
	Non-SWRK from ANTH, ECON, POLI, PSYC, or SOCI (with 200+ courses with approval); 3 in same discipline or 2 at the 300+ level *** CASWE standards mentioned "social sciences" which were now specified + levels remained	18
	Electives	6
Current	Required SWRK	63
	SWRK complementary	9
	Non-SWRK from EXPANDED list of approved disciplines; 3 in same discipline or 2 at the 300+ level *** *** CASWE standards mentioned "social sciences", "humanities" and "liberal arts", hence the expanded list	12
	Electives	6

# Historical changes: Observations & suggestions from Associate Dean Fronda

- The number of required social work course credits has increased significantly, from 48 to 63 out of 90 credits
  - Adding 9 SWRK comp courses, this demonstrates that the core social work training occurs with SWRK courses, almost fully required (63+9 = 72/90)
  - It also means that students have almost no room in U2 & U3 to take non-SWRK courses, leaving them to U1 for full-time studies (200 level is norm)
- The number of electives has decreased significantly, from 24 to 6 out of 90 credits
  - These 6 credits provide flexibility in terms of selecting remote or online courses and selecting S/U grading option
- The complementary courses have changed *from social sciences to particular social sciences with a list of 200+ exemptions to a broad list of approved disciplines in the social sciences, humanities, literatures and civilization, including interdisciplinary programs*
  - These changes have responded to changes in **CASWE Accreditation Standards** which now simply state “general” education that is not SWRK.
- Regarding “language” only counting as electives, this is not consistent with the Faculty of Arts, though it might have made sense over 20 years ago when required SWRK courses were only 48 of the 90 credits.
  - Improving French proficiency is essential for graduates to join the Professional Order and practice in QC; enormous need for social workers

## **Proposal:**

- Eliminate restrictions for non-SWRK complementary courses (remove 3 in same discipline or 2 at the 300+ level; remove list of disciplines)
- Treat language courses as complementary or electives, consistent with Faculty of Arts
- 63 credits required SWRK courses (no change)
- 9 credits complementary SWRK courses (no change)
- 12 credits non-SWRK complementary courses selected from the Faculty of Arts (or Arts & Science) (no change to # of credits) – or electives (TBD)
- 6 credits of non-SWRK electives (can be S/U; can be online/remote) (no change to # credits)

# Why make this program change?

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- Supportive of students in terms of **flexibility** and **accommodating their non-SWRK courses in U1** when there are no timetable challenges
  - Full-time incoming U1 students are advised to take all 4 non-social work complementary and 1 of 2 elective courses in U1 because of timetable constraints in U2 and U3 due to field placement
- Supportive of – but not confined to - level of courses for U1 students (200 level)
- The BSW has many more 300 & 400 level courses, with student access to 500 & 600 level courses; no concern
- Helpful to faculty in terms of **reducing advising** and addressing urgent **problems just before graduation**
- Much more **consistent with the Faculty of Arts regulations** in that our list of approved disciplines is incorrect because it is missing some interdisciplinary programs and some departments in Arts
- Consistent with the new **CASWE standards that require “general” education – nothing specified**
- Given that French proficiency is becoming more essential for our graduates to join the Order, and that **language courses count as complementary or electives in Arts**, our regulations are now consistent with the Faculty of Arts

# Motions for Discussion

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- The BSW Committee is requesting School of Social Work Council approval to remove the list of approved disciplines and course levels currently required for the 12 credits from non-SWRK complementary courses.
- The BSW Committee is requesting School of Social Work Council approval to remove the restriction that language courses can only count as electives in the BSW program.
- The School of Social Work Council permits the BSW Committee to work with the Faculty of Arts to finalize the wording of the source of the 12 credits (i.e., Faculty of Arts) and to confirm the number of credits that can be allocated to electives (currently 6 credits)