SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Information Session

Course Selection
Choose your Major
Arts Major Reset
REVIEW

Let’s all get on the same page!
**Terminology**

**Program** = your **degree** = Bachelor of Arts (Honours or General)

Your **program requirements** are **Arts** requirements to get your degree, such as:
- [English Language Proficiency Requirement](#)
- [Residency Requirement](#) (number of courses at UW and number of courses with grades)
- [Breadth Requirements](#)
- Number of overall courses (30 or 40) and number of courses above 100-level (minimum 16)
- Minimum overall average (60%)

**Plan** = your **major** = Social Development Studies

Your **plan requirements** include:
- 8 required courses
- Electives from the [list of approved courses](#) (major courses) – the number and kinds of electives depend on which plan you’re following
- Minimum average in your major courses (General - 65%, Honours - 75%)
**Specialization** = a grouping of electives in a specific theme area.
- Most of these will be SDS electives, but some may be outside of SDS and count as general electives.

**Minor** = also a plan with its own requirements
- There are many interesting Arts minors but you can also have a minor in another Faculty.
- (More information about popular minors for SDS students later)

**Double major (formerly called a Joint honours)** = you need to meet the requirements for two Arts honours plans
- Honours plans only
Terminology (continued)

**Pre-requisites** = you must take one course before the other, e.g. SDS 250R is a prerequisite to SDS 251R

**Anti-requisites** = are overlapping but not equivalent – you CANNOT get credit for both courses (e.g. SOCWK 220R and SMF 301)

**Quest will normally prevent you from enrolling in antirequisites but it has happened!**

**Cross-listed** = are equivalent courses under different subject codes, e.g. History of Education SDS 205R and HIST 225, and are completely interchangeable

**Double-counting** = one course counting towards two plans

- Applies to minors, but does not apply to specializations
- Can double count up to 50% of a plan, maximum 5 courses (i.e. 4 for a minor; 5 for a joint major)
Terminology (last one!)

**Cumulative** average = includes ALL courses to date (not just in a term)

**Major** average (aka MAV) = the cumulative average of all your major courses to date

**Overall** average = the cumulative average of all your courses to date, regardless of the subject

**Your standings** each term is determined by your overall and major cumulative averages, NOT your term average!
ARTS MAJOR RESET

- Also known as “Plan Standardization”
- What’s it all about?
- What does it mean to me?
Background

Arts has many majors with a wide variety of requirements regarding number of courses.

E.g.
SDS Honours: 20 courses  PSYCH Honours: 18 courses
SDS General 4-year: 18 courses  PSYCH General 4-year: 14 courses
SDS General 3-year: 14 courses  PSYCH General 3-year: 10 courses

Arts decided that all plans should have the same number of courses:
- All Honours (including Arts & Business and Double Majors): 16 courses
- All General 4-year: 16 courses and must be identical to Honours
- All General 3-year: 12 courses

Another change: all Honours require a minimum 70% major average.

Some departments also took the opportunity to make other changes to their major requirements. More about this later …
What does it mean to me?

You will NOT be following the new requirements unless you request to!

You will continue to follow the plan requirements set out in the Undergraduate Calendar published at the time you were admitted to SDS.

You need to look at the various options, and your goals, to decide whether a switch would be beneficial! Consider:

- your current major average and likelihood of staying there
- how far along you have progressed in your major:
  - how many electives have you completed
  - what kinds of electives
- your long-term goals: second major, minor, grad school requirements, returning to upgrade?

You will need to actively choose to follow the new requirements by filling out a Plan Modification/Internal Transfer form to officially follow the requirements in 2016-2017 Undergraduate Calendar. More details later …
SDS PLANS

- Tell me about the “OLD” plans?
- Tell me about the “NEW” plans?
- What’s the difference?
- What are the changes to the specializations?
- Considerations for applying to Renison’s BSW program
First: what plan I am following!??

You follow requirements for the year you were admitted to SDS. This may be your 1\textsuperscript{st} year if admitted from high school, or another year if you were admitted with credits, or switched in.

All requirements for your degree, major and as a UW student, are outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar for that year.

How to switch to your year (demo): [http://ugradcalendar.uwaterloo.ca/group/ARTS-Social-Development-Studies](http://ugradcalendar.uwaterloo.ca/group/ARTS-Social-Development-Studies)

Students are \textit{solely responsible} for understanding all requirements that apply to them.

Advisors can give guidance but are not responsible for errors or omissions.

To assist you, we have prepared checklists which should be used as guidelines/worksheets only.
Students admitted to SDS between Fall 2010 and Spring 2016 (this likely means you)

Link to comparison of plans and checklists: https://uwaterloo.ca/social-development-studies/current-students/academics/degree-and-plan-requirements#old-plan

* Printed versions are also available on the bulletin board outside of the advisors’ offices in the SDS hallway (REN 1605 and 1607)

SUMMARY:
- All SDS major plans have the same 8 required courses
- All SDS major plans have the same breadth requirements
- All Arts plans require minimum 16 courses above the 100-level
- All Arts plans require 60% minimum cumulative average
- Variations are between # of SDS electives and General Electives
- Variations between discipline spread requirements
- Variations in minimum major average (65% or 75%)
Students admitted to SDS Fall 2016 OR who opt into these plans (this MIGHT mean you)

Link to comparison of plans and checklists: https://uwaterloo.ca/social-development-studies/current-students/academics/degree-and-plan-requirements#new-plan

* Printed versions will also available on the bulletin board outside of the advisors’ offices in the SDS hallway (REN 1605 and 1607)

SUMMARY:

- All SDS major plans still have the same 8 required courses
- All SDS major plans still have the same breadth requirements
- All Arts plans still require minimum 16 courses above the 100-level
- All Arts plans still require 60% minimum cumulative average
- Variations are between # of SDS electives and General Electives
- No discipline spread requirements – now require minimum # of SDS subject courses
- General (3- or 4-year) = 65% major average / Honours 70%
SDS Specializations

Existing Specializations

Open to all SDS Students:
- Social Work (equivalent to the BSW pre-requisite courses – more later)

Open to Honours SDS Students only (may also choose ONE of):
- Cultural Diversity
- Education
- Individual Well-being and Development
- Social Policy
SDS Specializations (cont’d)

Changes to Specializations

- Cultural Diversity
- Education
- Individual Well-being and Development
- Social Policy and Social Action
- Social Work (NOT completely equivalent to the BSW pre-requisite courses – more later)

- ALL open to any SDS Majors, and may take any number of them
- Fewer courses required (6 instead of 7)
- No average requirements
- No requirement for 400-level courses

All specialization checklists available here: https://uwaterloo.ca/social-development-studies/current-students/academics/specializations
So should I make the switch?

Some situations in which it may be beneficial to switch to the new plans:

- You want to graduate with an honours degree and you have an SDS average over 70% AND you’re confident you can keep it there! (If you drop below 70%, you will be switched to General but be completing the same requirements).

  *Keep in mind:* for many post-degree programs (BSW, grad schools) it’s your OVERALL average of 75% that matters; being in honours won’t necessarily be enough.

- You want to complete a double major – in the new plans, less courses are required within each major and some may overlap.
So should I make the switch? (cont’d)

Some situations in which it may be beneficial to switch to the new plans:

- You like your SDS courses and don’t want to (necessarily) take electives from all disciplines (SOCWK/PSYCH/SOC).

- You want/are willing to take 400-level courses, which are higher-level, more intensive seminar courses.

- Are in 3-year General with 70% or higher and might want to return to complete the new Honours plans later.

- If you are just adding a specialization now, you will automatically be following the 2016/2017 requirements.
So should I make the switch? (cont’d)

Likely not necessary to switch if you:

- Are already in Honours with a 75% or more SDS average
- Are planning to, or already have, completed the discipline spread in your electives
- Are not sure if you’ll maintain a 70% SDS average
- Are in 4-year General and DON’T want to take 400-level courses, which are higher-level, more intensive course
So should I make the switch? (cont’d)

Steps:

1. Complete a checklist for your current plan and/or the plan you want to be in.

2. Complete the checklists for the equivalent new plan(s).

   *This can give you an overview of where you might be in terms of switching.*

3. Complete a plan modification form, specifying the plan and starting Fall 2016. Form available on Registrar’s website: https://uwaterloo.ca/registrar/forms

   *Do not submit the forms until August – they will not be processed until September or October.*

4. Contact your advisor if you need clarification.
Local phone #

Make sure to CLEARLY STATE that you want to follow the 2016/2017 requirements

Sign and date

Don’t submit before August 2016

Submit to advisor or Registrar’s office

### Sample Plan Modification Form

#### Instructions
1. Print in block capital letters.
2. Sign and date the form below.
3. Attach a resume of your work experience if you are applying for a Co-op Plan and were not previously registered in Co-op.
4. Make a copy for your records, and submit the original Plan Modification Application for Internal Transfer Form and resume (if applicable) to the Office of the Registrar.

#### Note
Normal processing time is 2 weeks, but may be subject to a review of your most recent academic performance.

#### Please select one as appropriate:
- Plan Modification
- Application for Internal Transfer, e.g., Faculty transfers (complete pages 1 and 2)

**Last name** SMITH

**First name** JOHN

**Middle name(s)**

**Street address** 123 FIRST AVE

**Postal code** N2J 1K1

**City** WATERLOO

**Province** ON

**Email address** JSMITH@UWATERLOO.CA

**Home phone** (area code) 519 (number) 123-4567

**Business phone** (area code) (number)

#### Requested academic information
- Include all majors, minors, options, and specializations under current and requested academic plans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current academic plan</th>
<th>SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic program</td>
<td>Honours □ 4-Year General □ 3-Year General □ Non-degree/Post-degree □ Exchange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form of study</td>
<td>Regular □ Co-op □ Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus</td>
<td>UW □ ETJ □ REN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requested academic plan</th>
<th>SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, SPECIALIZATION IN EDUCATION, MINOR IN APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic program</td>
<td>Honours □ 4-Year General □ 3-Year General □ Non-degree/Post-degree □ Exchange</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus</td>
<td>UW □ ETJ □ REN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start term</td>
<td>Fall □ Winter □ Spring Year 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Reason for Request
Indicate your academic interests in the requested plan and explain the reasons for changing your plan. Attach additional pages as necessary.

### TO ADD SPECIALIZATIONS, MINORS, AND ELECT TO FOLLOW NEW PLAN REQUIREMENTS

**Student signature** ________________________________ **Date** ___________

**Plan Modification Approvals** — See page 2 for internal transfer approvals.

- □ Admit
- □ Refuse

**Academic program type calendar year (e.g., 2010-2011):**

**Academic plan calendar year (e.g., 2010-2011):**

**Options/minors calendar year (e.g., 2010-2011):**

**Comments**

**Department approval name** ________________________________ **Signature** ________________________________ **Date** ___________

**Co-operative Education and Career Action**

**Approval (if applicable):**

**Signature** ________________________________ **Extension number** ____________ **Date** ___________
COURSE SELECTION

- Tools and Tips
- Picking Electives
- Specializations and Minors
- Considerations for BSW
Course Selection Tools

- UW Undergraduate Calendar for the plan you’re following: [http://ugradcalendar.uwaterloo.ca/group/ARTS-Social-Development-Studies](http://ugradcalendar.uwaterloo.ca/group/ARTS-Social-Development-Studies)

- Checklists
  - to help you make sense of it all, and keep track

- Schedule of Classes: [https://info.uwaterloo.ca/infocour/CIR/SA/under.html](https://info.uwaterloo.ca/infocour/CIR/SA/under.html)
  - to determine if a course is offered in a specific term and what format
  - find out how many spots are available
  - find out if any spots are reserved

- Quest: [https://quest.pecs.uwaterloo.ca/psp/AS/?cmd=login&languageCd=ENG&](https://quest.pecs.uwaterloo.ca/psp/AS/?cmd=login&languageCd=ENG&)
  - to actually do enrollment
  - confirm your enrollment and schedule
  - check on fees
  - Important Dates: [https://uwaterloo.ca/quest/undergraduate-students/important-dates/important-dates-2016-2017](https://uwaterloo.ca/quest/undergraduate-students/important-dates/important-dates-2016-2017)
Course Selection Tips

Complete your **SDS required courses** if you haven’t already.

- For 2A and 2B: SDS 250R and SDS 251R
- SDS 250R – important to keep on top of the assignments so consider this in your course load and choices
- SDS 250R only offered on campus in Fall terms and SDS 251R on campus in Winter terms

**Maximum Course Load = 5 courses**

- 6 permitted only if 75% overall average and have completed 10 courses OR by permission
- 3 courses minimum for OSAP/financial purposes only – check with Student Finance; no minimum for academic reasons

**Dropped or failed a course?**

- Do you want to keep on track for graduation? You’ll likely need to take a course in spring term sometime.
- If not, then follow your own pace/goals. There’s no requirement to graduate by a set time.
Course Selection Tips

Consider if you would like a minor and/or specialization, and which one(s).

Review requirements and courses in the Undergraduate Calendar

- If the courses interest you, it might be a good fit! You can take a few courses to test it out; you don’t have to commit right away.
- You will likely need 2 courses in the minor to be admitted anyway.
- You may be able to fulfill breadth requirements as you’re working towards the minor/specialization.
- Can mix and match
- Watch double-counting and triple-counting!
- Plan for pre-requisites (e.g. SMF will require a history course)

If you’re not sure -- or you do not want minor/specialization -- then work on breadth requirements, pick a few SDS electives, and a few general electives.
Picking Electives

Check calendar for specific courses:
  o Descriptions
  o Pre-requisites / anti-requisites

**Watch the number of 100-level electives** you select – you need at least 16 courses at 200-level or higher regardless of the plan you’re following. Careful if you’re following or planning to follow the 3-year general plans.

**You can take more than the minimum required SDS electives** – they will “overflow” into your general electives, *but they will STILL count towards your SDS average.*
Picking Electives (cont’d)

Select your general electives according to your interests – but note that post-degree programs (e.g. BSW) generally look at your OVERALL average, so you need to do well in ALL courses.

Advisors will help you with understanding your requirements but will not help you pick courses. Your goals, backgrounds and interests are diverse and individual; an “easy” course for one person is not necessarily “easy” for another.

For recommendations, you could ask peer leaders, other SDS students, talk to the prof, or find a course syllabus (although these can change slightly depending to the instructor!)
Some interesting courses to consider!

**SDS 495R – Research Apprenticeship**

- Work on a professor’s research project to acquire skills and gain understanding of the research process and of the discipline itself
- Good way to make connections for academic references
- 6-8 hours per week (approximately) throughout the term, plus final reflection paper
- CR/NCR grade (yes, NCR is a possibility!)
- Prerequisite: SDS/ISS 250R and 251R; Level at least 3A
- Application Required – student to approach a faculty member; you will determine the exact duties and complete the application together
- Can count towards a specialization if the project is applicable (part of the application form)
Some interesting courses to consider!

**SDS 496R – Applied Apprenticeship**

- Get practical experience and make connections in the community
- 6-8 hours per week at a placement plus biweekly seminar
- CR/NCR grade
- Prerequisite: Level at least 3A
- Application required and interview process in the preceding term (typically fall since course is usually offered in winter). Course instructor arranges placements.
- Can count towards specialization if the placement/project is applicable
Some interesting courses to consider!

**Honours Thesis (SDS 499A/B) and Independent Study Courses (SDS/SOCWK/PSYCH/SOC 398/399/490)**

- Study a topic of your interest in-depth
- Graded courses
- Prerequisite: Level at least 3A. Honours Thesis requires 80% SDS avg.
- Application Required – student to approach a faculty member; you will determine the exact duties and complete the application together
- Honours Thesis – must take SDS 499A and 499B, so takes two terms
- SDS 499A/B and SDS 490R can count towards specialization if the project is applicable
- Normally can only do two courses in each category (see course description)
Specializations and Minors

SDS Specializations – Recall:
- Specializations are a grouping of electives with a theme
- Shows on your degree and transcript
- Could indicate an area of focus to an employer/post-grad program
- No minimum average required
- Can complete more than one (if following new plans)

Which one should I pick?
- **Education**: interested in teaching, guidance, educational policy; working with children, youth
- **Individual Well-Being and Development**: working one-on-one with people, life coaching, leadership development; human resources
- **Social Policy and Social Action**: promoting change at the community or “big picture” level; personal activism
- **Cultural Diversity**: applicable to many careers in order to understand and work in multicultural communities; international opportunities
- **Social Work**: *(more in the next slides)*
Specializations and Minors (cont’d)

Minors

- Offered by a different department (e.g. History, Psychology) – need to talk to a different advisor
- Shows on your degree and transcript
- Minimum average required (65%)
- Could indicate to an employer your focus OR use to diversify!
- Use plan modification form to add the minor. Usually need 2 courses in the plan before being admitted
- Being in the minor *sometimes* gives access to department courses
Specializations and Minors (cont’d)

Popular Minors for SDS Students

“Single Discipline”
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Legal Studies
- Religious Studies
- English

“Interdisciplinary”
- Applied Language Studies *Renison
- East Asian Studies *Renison
- Studies in Islam *Renison
- Human Resources
- Sexuality, Marriage, Family Studies (SMF)
- Peace and Conflict Studies
- Public Policy and Administration
- Gerontology (minor – 10 courses, 4-yr programs only; option – 6 courses)

Reminder: In addition to enhancing your personal interests and goals, some minors may overlap with SDS and/or meet breadth requirements!

Reminder: You should connect with an advisor for the minor you’re interested in to confirm requirements and when to apply.
Considerations for applying for BSW

Requirements for Renison BSW application: [https://uwaterloo.ca/school-of-social-work/bachelor-social-work-bsw/admissions-requirements](https://uwaterloo.ca/school-of-social-work/bachelor-social-work-bsw/admissions-requirements)

Degree

“The successful completion of either a three-year or four-year undergraduate university degree (Bachelor of Arts or equivalent) … with a 75% [overall] average and at least 6.0 academic units (12 one-semester courses) in the social sciences, AND the ten prerequisite courses listed below or their equivalents.”

What does this mean to me?

• Since you need a 75% overall average, consider staying in Honours, but aim to have 3-year requirements done by end of 3rd year. If not accepted to BSW, you will still have options.
• You have until the end of spring term to finish your degree, if conditionally accepted for fall
Considerations for applying for BSW

Ten Prerequisite Courses

Already included in all SDS plans (3 courses):
- SOCWK 120R  Introduction to Social Work
- SDS 250R Social Statistics
- SDS 251R Social Research

Already part of the CURRENT specialization in Social Work (7 courses):
- SOCWK 220R  Social Work with Individuals - Theory and Practice 1
- SOCWK 221R  Social Group Work
- SOCWK 222R  Community Organization 1
- SOCWK 300R  Canadian Social Welfare Policy
- SOCWK 321R  Social Work with Families
- One of: SOCWK 301R  Understanding Diversity in Canada
  OR PSYCH 349R Cross-Cultural Psychology
  OR SDS 311R Public Policy and Native Peoples in Canada
- One of: SOC 224R  Poverty in Canada and its Social Consequences
  OR SDS 312R Homelessness & Public Policy
Considerations for applying for BSW

Already part of the NEW Social Work Specialization

- SOCWK 220R Social Work with Individuals - Theory and Practice 1
- SOCWK 221R Social Group Work
- SOCWK 222R Community Organization 1
- SOCWK 300R Canadian Social Welfare Policy
- SOCWK 321R Social Work with Families

NOT in the new specialization, so must still take as electives:

- SOCWK 301R Understanding Diversity in Canada
  OR PSYCH 349R Cross-Cultural Psychology
  OR SDS 311R Public Policy and Native Peoples in Canada
- SOC 224R Poverty in Canada and its Social Consequences
  OR SDS 312R Homelessness & Public Policy
Considerations for applying for BSW

Other

Resume

“… experiences of applicants in any or all of the following areas: educational qualifications, practica, employment experience, volunteer experience, membership in volunteer associations, membership in professional associations; and additional skills, attributes or other information.”

Contact details for THREE referees (1 academic, 2 professional)

- Academic = an instructor who has taught you in one or more courses
- Professional = an employment supervisor; a volunteer supervisor; a helping professional (eg, social worker, religious leader, doctor, psychiatrist or similar community-based professional).

Personal statement (Supplemental Information Form)

Hint: these will also likely apply to other post-grad opportunities! Start early! Keep these in mind as you take your classes!
COURSE SELECTION – “HOW TO”

- Pre-enrollment
- Enrollment
- Enrollment Problems
Pre-enrollment

There is a one week pre-enrollment (“course selection”) period approximately three months in advance of the term. **For Fall 2016 this period is May 20-30.**

- You can select your courses and rate them in order of priority.
- You will not know the scheduling of the course or the instructor, or even how many sections are available, but you will know if it’s online or not.

The scheduling of the course is determined by all the students who pre-enrolled – the system tries to make a “best fit” for everyone including prof and room availability. **Yes – this might mean 8:30am, Friday or evening classes!**

Students are still highly recommended to pre-enroll:

- You are **more likely** to get into a high demand course
- Number of **reserved spots** is based on pre-enrollment
- **Courses may get cancelled** if not enough interest during pre-enrollment.
Enrollment

HOWEVER, pre-enrollment is NOT a guarantee of enrollment (sorry!)

Drop-add (= “open enrollment”) begins about a month before term begins (check [Quest Important Dates](#)). For Fall 2016, this will be July 25th.

You should be able to see class times, instructors, and your schedule about one week before this but you cannot make any changes until open enrollment begins.

If a course does not show on your schedule, you were not enrolled but you will not get an error message. Possible reasons:

- Don’t have pre-requisite, or already have anti-requisite
- Did not fit in your schedule
- You ranked it lower priority
- Didn’t meet the reserves (i.e. 30 of 40 spots reserved for PSYCH majors and the other 10 spots were already filled. Check Schedule of Classes.)
Enrollment

➢ Watch for your enrollment appointment time – this is to prevent the system from crashing! Also gives upper year students priority access so that they get into the courses they need to graduate.

TIP – as you are preparing for course selection, pick a few “backup” courses.
Enrollment Problems

- Check this page for instructions: https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/course-selection/enrolment-problems-and-course-overrides

- Note regarding “Department Consent” for SDS courses:
  - Only a few SDS courses require true department consent, and these are noted in the course descriptions – e.g. SDS 496R Applied Apprenticeship, SDS 495R Research Apprenticeship, and the independent study courses. These require applications.
  - The Renison Registrar’s office uses this message to indicate a course is full and waitlisted.
  - The only way to get into these courses is to put your name on the Renison waitlist (available on the Renison main page when open enrollment begins).
  - DO NOT contact the department, advisors, or professors – we have no control over enrollment.
NOW YOU’RE READY, RIGHT?

Any Questions?
Questions?

You are encouraged to make use of all the resources you’ve been provided here, before seeking additional help.

We may refer you back to this presentation or to the website.

If an advising meeting is booked, prepare your checklists and bring them with you.

Please email questions or requests to book an appointment. This way we can review your records and prepare material to answer your questions most completely and accurately.

We aim to respond as quickly as possible but during peak times, there may be many queries ahead of yours so it may take 2-3 days to respond.
Questions?

Your academic advisors

SDS Majors with last name A to M, and joint majors -
Gwen Bisset (gwen.bisset@uwaterloo.ca)

SDS Majors with last name N to Z, and minors -
Florence Bray (fbray@uwaterloo.ca)

Currently in 1B and have questions other than course selection (e.g. academic difficulty, standings, petitions, rules, need academic or other resources)
Shauna Elliott (selliott@uwaterloo.ca)
BONUS FEATURE:
Consider a minor in East Asian Studies
Consider a minor in Applied Language Studies
Consider a minor in Studies in Islam