

## 22.0 SCHOOL OF INDIAN SOCIAL WORK

### 22.0.1 Faculty and Staff

#### Director

M. Yvonne Howse

#### Faculty

Sharon Acoose  
Thelma Knight (on leave)  
Ruth Turner (on leave)  
Joan Sanderson  
Nancy Linklater

#### Sessionals

Jason Albert  
Walter & Maria Linklater  
Helen Cote  
Danny Musqua  
Burton O'Soup

#### Administrative Assistant

Louise McCallum

### 22.0.2 Location

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[www.firstnationsuniversity.ca/depsw](http://www.firstnationsuniversity.ca/depsw)

## 22.1 General

The School of Indian Social Work (SISW) grants a CISW and BISW, fully accredited by the CASSW (Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work). It is the only First Nations School of Indian Social Work in Canada operated and controlled by First Nations people.

### 22.1.1 Philosophy and Objectives

The School of Indian Social Work operates within the overall mission of the First Nations University of Canada, which states, "is to enhance the quality of life and to preserve, protect and interpret the history, language, culture and artistic heritage of First Nations." Treaties are an integral part of the education of First Nations people, therefore bilateral relationships is taught throughout SISW.

The theory of the SISW is based on the traditional and cultural competencies that are inherent of First Nations people. Traditional elders who are identified by the community are an integral part of the SISW.

The following objectives are based on the teachings of traditional elders at the SISW over the past thirty (30) years.

1. Traditional Elder's help balance First Nation educators with Western oriented curriculum throughout the program.
2. Cultural Camp is experiential and helps develop awareness and understanding of the traditional ways of life in a natural setting.
3. The continued employment of faculty/staff who understand the First Nation worldview and issues should have some experience in a traditional way of life.
4. The instruction of culturally relevant research is supported by traditional elders participation in circles, focus group and individual questionnaires. Both methodologies of Quantitative and Qualitative re-

search is taught with a focus on First Nations worldview and issues.

5. The continuation of teaching First Nations worldview and the discipline of traditional competencies.
6. The ongoing program evaluation is a continuum with the participation of elders, students and faculty.

### **22.1.2 Admission procedures**

All students wishing to enter either the Certificate of Indian Social Work (CISW) or the Bachelor of Indian Social Work (BISW) program are required to successfully complete the following procedures:

1. Must have a GPA of 65% average.
2. Must successfully complete 2 Social Work Qualifying classes including ISW 200, ISW 351, ISW 321, and 1 Social Work elective.
4. Must have a minimum total of 24 credit hours of classes successfully complete (8 courses).
5. Must have current Canadian Police Information Check (CPIC) and Child Welfare Check (CWC).
6. Must have English 100 and be in English 110 by 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

If these requirements are met, you can proceed with your application to the faculty. (Please call Louise McCallum, 931-1800 ext. 5475 for information packages).

#### **Applications MUST include:**

1. A completed application form (in the package).
2. A cover letter explaining your interest in the profession of social work, why you would be a good candidate for our program, life and work experience that is relevant and personal goals and objectives related to a career in Indian Social Work.
3. A current resume which includes a complete employment history and volunteer experience.
4. THREE letters of reference from people who know your character and/or work qualifications. These may be sent directly to the college by the referees, but alternatively you may attach the original to your application. Their phone numbers and/or addresses should be included.
5. A current and valid CPIC (Canadian Police Information Check) and a CWC (Child Welfare Check) submitted confidentially to the Director of the School of Indian Social Work.

The admissions committee will interview students who meet the admission requirements. Selection criteria will place emphasis on maturity, knowledge of social/cultural skills, awareness, personal attributes, and the academic ability of the applicant to successfully complete the program.

#### **22.1.2.1 Admission to the Faculty of Social work (University of Regina)**

Students who are qualifying for Social Work, studying part-time, or who wish to take a social work course(s), can register in a maximum of one 3 credit hour of Social Work per semester.

Before admission to the faculty becomes mandatory, students who intend to obtain a CISW or a BISW are permitted to take a maximum of 12 credit hours or 4 social work. Applicants are accepted twice a year; March 1 and November 1 are the deadline dates for admission; only thirty (30) new admissions are accepted.

For further information:

First Nations University of Canada  
School of Indian Social Work  
Saskatoon Campus  
710 Duke Street  
Saskatoon SK S7K 0P8

## 22.1.3 Academic and Graduation Requirements

1. Indian Social Work 200 (Introduction to Social Work) can be taken concurrently with ISW 351, ISW 321, ISW 377 (co-requisites). ISW 200 is a prerequisite for all other social work classes.
2. Social work qualifying students must complete four social work classes including ISW 200, ISW 351, SW 321, and one social work elective prior to applying for admission to the Indian Social Work program. Upon completion of these classes, students must be admitted to the social work program before taking other social work classes.
3. Students must have a final grade of 70% or better in ISW 346 before enrolling in ISW 448 (Practicum I).
4. Students must have a final grade of 70% or better in ISW 447 before enrolling in ISW 458 (Practicum II).
5. Students registering for ISW 458 (Practicum II) must have applied for and been admitted to the Indian Social Work program, and have completed 45 credit hours, 24 of which must be in Social Work.
6. Students must have an overall average of 65% and must have an average of 70% in social work courses to register for ISW 448 and ISW 458 (Practica).

Exceptions to any of the above criteria must be approved by the Director of the School of Indian Social Work.

## 23.2 Course Descriptions

### ISW 200

#### Introduction to Social Work

3:3-0

An introduction to the philosophical and practical basis of social work in the First Nations and Euro-Canadian community. Attention is given to the values, concepts and ethics involved in social work. There is also an overview of the areas in which social workers become involved and an introduction to the role of the social worker.

**Co-requisite:** ISW 351, ISW 321, ISW 377

### ISW 321

#### Human Growth and Development

3:3-0

An examination of the human growth and development cycle from conception to death, including a discussion of milestones and crisis times in the life cycle. A comparison of different cultures is used for illustrations.

**Prerequisite:** SW 200

### ISW 346

#### Social Work Practice I

3:3-0

This class provides students with the basic principles, concepts, and skills related to social work intervention with individuals, families, and groups. These tools are examined as a means of providing a framework for working in First Nations' and non-First Nations' communities. (Admission to BISW or CISW)

### ISW 352

#### Cultural Camp

9:0-9

This course provides an opportunity to learn about traditional First Nations' values, philosophy, spirituality, and ceremonies. It includes a ten-day experiential camp under the direction of First Nations' Elders.

**Prerequisites:** ISW 351; acceptance into the Faculty.

### ISW 351

#### Human Relations From First Nations Perspective

3:3-0

An introduction to the philosophy and practice of human relations, primarily from a First Nations' cultural world-view. From this perspective, students examine the principles and dynamics of self-awareness and personal development, of interpersonal relationships and communications within the family and community, as well as with other tribes, nations, peoples, and with the environment.

**Prerequisite:** ISW 200

- ISW 377**  
**Introduction to Traditional Self-Healing** **3:3-0**  
 This class will assist students through a process of self-healing following traditional First Nations ceremonies. To help students understand, demonstrate and utilize First Nations traditional healing concepts. To help students develop a personal agenda of self-healing following these First Nations principles.  
**Prerequisite:** None.
- ISW 390**  
**Communication Skills in Social Work Practice** **3:3-0**  
 An introduction to communication theory and skill development. Emphasis is placed on helping students increase their competence as communicators. The course will be taught principally in laboratory style. Videotape practice sessions are required between classes to help develop communication skills. Restricted to Social Work students only
- ISW 402**  
**Human Sexuality and Family Planning** **3:3-0**  
 A examination of human-sexuality and family-planning concepts and theories. Attention is given to values and attitudes and their relationship to policies, programs and practice.  
**Prerequisite:** ISW 200
- ISW 403**  
**Death, Dying, Loss & Grief** **3:3-0**  
 This course deals with the emotional impact of serious illness on “patients,” their families and helping professionals. The role of the social worker in assessing and facilitating coping skills will be explored through the use of case examples.
- ISW 414**  
**Indian Children’s Services** **3:3-0**  
 This course considers children’s services generally and child welfare specifically. It examines the needs and rights of children, legislation, policies, and services that exist or need development, child abuse and protection, childcare, and support services. Issues such as rights of the First Nations’ child and the idea of “the best interest of the child” are considered. Some comparative work related to children in the third world is also done.
- ISW 416**  
**Aging** **3:3-0**  
 Introductions to concepts of life-span development as these relate to the physical, social and psychological needs of the elderly. Attention is given to the majority who are not receiving special care or assistance, as well as the small minority, who is or will be institutionalised. The course also examines the adaptation of generic social work skills in effective intervention with, and on behalf of the aged.
- ISW 417**  
**Alcohol and Drug Abuse** **3:3-0**  
 This course discusses alcohol and other drugs in terms of the effects on individuals, families, and society.
- ISW 437**  
**Social Work with Indian Families** **3:3-0**  
 An introduction to social work with families, which emphasizes viewing the family as a system progressing through various stages of development. The course discusses several dimensions of family functioning and exposes students to historical and current approaches to family practice.
- ISW 440**  
**Counselling Theories and Applications Relevant to Indian Social Work** **3:3-0**  
 A survey of several counselling theories and approaches with specific emphasis on their application. Also, an examination of various counselling relationships and counselling processes. From a generalist orientation, the focus is on the social worker in the role of counsellor, both with individuals and groups.

- ISW 447**  
**Indian Social Work Practice II** **3:3-0**  
 This course increases skills in social-work intervention by focusing on techniques and methods of counseling and treatment with individuals, groups, family systems, and communities.  
**Prerequisite:** SW 448
- ISW 448**  
**Social Work Practicum I** **3:3-0**  
 Students are directly involved in a social work agency within the community where they integrate theory and skills learned in the classroom. Students are encouraged to do their practicum on reserve and with native organizations. 2<sup>nd</sup> year in Social Work or beyond and 70% in SW 346 (  
**Prerequisite:** ISW 346)
- ISW 450**  
**Community Development from a First Nations Perspective** **3:3-0**  
 This class studies methods and strategies relating to community work and community organizing, particularly in First-Nations communities. It examines methods of intervention and ways to enhance community autonomy.
- ISW 451**  
**Introduction to Human Service Research With/For First Nations** **3:3-0**  
 In this introductory research course, students examine research and methodologies specific to contemporary social work and social welfare studies.  
**Prerequisite:** ISW 448
- ISW 458**  
**Social Work Practicum II** **3:3-0**  
 All degree students must take this class. The purpose of this course is to increase a student's ability and skill in the area of social work intervention through practice. It is intended that a student will continue from where he or she finished in Practicum I. 3<sup>rd</sup> year in Social Work or beyond and 70% in ISW 447; overall 70% in all Social Work courses for convocation (  
**Prerequisite:** ISW 447)
- ISW 469**  
**Social Policy and Development and Service Delivery** **3:3-0**  
 This class considers social policy as well as a field of study and practice for social workers. It also considers the development of social policy as well as characteristic functions and processes common to human service organizations and delivery systems. A base for understanding the interaction of the values, structures, purposes, services, and policies is provided. (Senior Student - 2<sup>nd</sup> year in Social Work or beyond
- ISW 478**  
**Traditional Counseling and Western Counseling** **3:3-0**  
 This course will consider the characteristics of traditional counseling from a First Nations perspective and how this perspective may be better suited to counsel clients from First Nations backgrounds. The focus of the course will be experiential and will examine Native spiritual/cultural philosophy (wisdom), characteristics/qualifications of the helper/healer, and community organizations that employ traditional counselling techniques. Emphasis will be on talking, observing and participating with Elders/Elders helpers.  
**Prerequisite:** None.
- ISW 482**  
**Themes in International Social Work with Indigenous People** **3:3-0**  
 Through student reading and research, as well as through resources provided by the instructor, the international context of human rights will be explored, with particular emphasis given to the experiences of Indigenous people from around the world. An historical overview of colonization and the many efforts to resist colonization will be made integral to the course. Popular struggles for self-determination will be placed within the broader context of globalization, international trade, the United Nations, non-government agencies, and new social movements. Required reading will be supplemented with handouts and videos. 2<sup>nd</sup> year Social Work or beyond.