Mi'kmaq/Wolastoqey Bachelor of Social Work

ST.THOMAS UNIVERSITY

Mi'kmaq/Wolastoqey Bachelor of Social Work (MWBSW)

The MWBSW is a specialized, accredited program designed with First Nation peoples to meet their community's needs. It has an intake every three years and is only open to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people.

This program recognizes that First Nation peoples have been historically disadvantaged in educational and other systems. We aim to provide a culturally relevant curriculum that respects and celebrates the traditions and cultures of Indigenous peoples as demonstrated by its flexible and culturally relevant approach to incorporating First Nation systems of knowledge, practice, and ways of learning.

Our MWBSW program recognizes and uses Indigenous holistic and two-eyed seeing world view throughout all courses offered in the program.

Program Structure

The program design also respects that First Nation students are typically employed and have family commitments. In recognition of these commitments:

- Courses are offered one week per month from Sept. to June over two years, for a total of six semesters.
- In the third year, students stay in their communities to complete a 700-hour field placement to meet the Canadian Association for Social Work Education Standards. This field placement can be done at your current place of employment, but it must be done in a different area with a new supervisor.
- Class time involves one intensive immersion week per month in Fredericton with learning being integrated through independent reading and course work during the three weeks back in community.
- The expectation is that students will graduate in May of their third year of study.

St. Thomas University in Fredericton, NB

All courses will take place on the St. Thomas University campus in Fredericton, NB. This allows students to benefit from facilities and resources on campus during their program. There will be a discounted hotel rate for students who travel out-of-town to attend classes. Students will be responsible for booking accommodations and for covering travel and accommodation costs.

Wabanaki Centre at STU

The Wabanaki Centre serves as a home away from home for Indigenous students. It provides a wide range of services designed to support Indigenous students during their studies. It includes a kitchen and lounge area to meet student needs. The lounge area provides a welcoming space where students can relax, study, and work on assignments. This space is also used for Indigenous-specific workshops.

Indigenous Student Support Team

STU's Director of Indigenous Initiatives, Indigenous Student Coordinator, Future Wabanaki Experiential Learning Coordinator, Cultural Coordinator, and Elders in Residence are all available to support students.

Application Instructions

Applicants must have already completed a minimum of 60 credit hours in liberal arts courses as a prerequisite for admission. ***Only Indigenous students are eligible to apply to this program.***

The application deadline for the MWBSW program is April 30. The application, including supporting documents, must be received by the Admissions Office on or before this deadline.

1. Start the Application Process

Click "Sign Up" on STU.ca/apply and follow the instructions to sign into the online application portal. Once you are signed in, click "Start a New Application," followed by "Start Application" under the Post-Degree Program section. Select the Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqey Bachelor of Social Work program, your anticipated enrolment status (Part-time) and the Fall (Sept - Apr) term. You will be prompted to upload your documents (personal statement, personal current résumé), and pay the application fee at the end of the application.

2. Personal Statement Instructions

Your personal statement should outline your reason(s) for applying to a professional program of social work studies and identify your professional/learning goals and any relevant vocational plans. You are encouraged to refer to personal, volunteer, professional and/or employment experiences that have influenced your understanding of social work and your decision to apply. The Selection Committee advises applicants to include in their personal statements what they have learned from their experiences that has relevance for social work. You are also welcome to provide any other information that you believe will be relevant to the Social Work Department and the University in selecting candidates for the social work program. Your personal statement should be approximately 1000 - 1500 words (3 to 4 pages), typed and double spaced in a standard 12-point font.

3. Résumé Instructions

Your résumé should include up-to-date information on your education, work, and volunteer history. It should be approximately 1 to 2 pages, typed and in a standard 12-point font.

4. Guidelines for Referees

Please refer your references to the MWBSW Guidelines for Referees and advise them of the April 30 deadline for references to be received by the STU Admissions office. Please thank them for agreeing to provide a reference using our Reference Form. Their comments will be considered carefully by our admissions committee. Professional suitability is weighted heavily in our selection process.

We ask your referees to share their observations on the applicant's professional and academic suitability. Because of the nature of the program and the profession, it is critical that persons with suitable personal qualities be selected. Referees' comments on social worker suitability are of particular interest to us. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the completed reference forms are received by the Admissions Office from the referees, by the application deadline of April 30.

5. Ensure your application is complete

To ensure your application is complete, refer to the Application checklist on your applicant portal (once your application for admission has been submitted) to make sure you have not forgotten anything. As your documents are received by the Admissions Office, they will be marked as received on your checklist.

Applications: Stage 2

As part of the application process, all eligible candidates will be contacted to attend a group interview with School of Social Work representatives and complete a written social issue analysis. All applicants will receive a letter indicating the status of their application.

For additional information
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STU.ca/mwbsw