



OPEN UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

Undergraduate Programme Specification

Diploma and Top Up/BSc (Hons) in Social Work [OUbs027]

This programme documents detail the aims, learning strategies, structure and intended learning outcomes that students should achieve if they fully engage with the learning provided within the programme. The document is intended to support and inform prospective students, current students, academic and support staff, external stakeholders and external examiners.

1. PROGRAMME INFORMATION																																	
Title of final award	Bachelor of Science with Honours in Social Work BSc (Hons) Social Work																																
Code	OUbs027																																
Awarding Body	Open University of Mauritius																																
Disciplinary Division	Humanities																																
Programme Manager	Mrs Meera Gungea																																
Administrator in charge	Mrs Kalindee Lucknauth																																
Programme duration	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Entry Point/Level</th> <th rowspan="2">Programme Duration</th> <th colspan="2">Degree</th> <th colspan="2">Diploma</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Min</th> <th>Max</th> <th>Min</th> <th>Max</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Fresh Intake</td> <td></td> <td>3</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>With an OU Certificate in Social Protection</td> <td></td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>With an OU Diploma in Social Work</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>For the above award, all modules of the programme must be completed. The Diploma is provided as possible exit points in the programme. A learner may opt for a Diploma in Social Work provided he/she satisfies the minimum credit requirements.</p>					Entry Point/Level	Programme Duration	Degree		Diploma		Min	Max	Min	Max	Fresh Intake		3	6	2	4	With an OU Certificate in Social Protection		2	4	1	2	With an OU Diploma in Social Work		1	2		
Entry Point/Level	Programme Duration	Degree		Diploma																													
		Min	Max	Min	Max																												
Fresh Intake		3	6	2	4																												
With an OU Certificate in Social Protection		2	4	1	2																												
With an OU Diploma in Social Work		1	2																														
Total Credits	180 credits																																
Credits per year	<i>Normally 60 credits per academic year Minimum number of credits per semester: 18 for Y1 and Y2 ; 22.5 in Y3</i>																																
MQA NQF level	Level 8																																
EHEA EQF level	Level 6																																
External Accreditors	Not applicable																																
Collaborative Partners	Not applicable.																																
Programme approval date	Tbc																																
Last revision	Programme developed and approved in 2017																																
Last update	Not applicable																																

2. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General:	<p>General Entry Requirements under Direct Entry to Undergraduate Programmes. Applicants should fulfil the following conditions:</p> <p>OPTION 1: Cambridge School Certificate with at least five credits or equivalent and Either</p> <p>i) For fresh HSC holders: Three passes at Principal Level (A-Level) and Two passes at Sub Level (in appropriate subjects as indicated in the specific programme requirements)</p> <p>ii) For mature candidates: Either Two passes at Principal Level (A-Level) (in appropriate subjects as indicated in the specific programme requirements) Or One pass at Principal Level (A-level), should be above 25 years old and possess three years of working experience.</p> <p>Or An appropriate equivalent Diploma/Certificate/Foundation programme approved by the Open University of Mauritius.</p> <p>Learners who do not qualify under option I may register for Foundation Courses offered by OU. Learners must successfully complete four modules (semester 1 and semester 2) at the level of foundation in order to be eligible to apply for undergraduate programmes.</p> <p>OPTION 2: Submission of a comprehensive portfolio for possible recognition of prior learning/experience (RPL/RPE) as an alternative to above along with evidence for the language/numeracy/ICT skills required for the programme of study with a minimum of Cambridge School Certificate with at least three credits or equivalent.</p> <p>Programme Specific Requirement</p> <p>a. Those holding a OU Certificate in Social Protection (OUAC005) awarded within 4 years may be admitted to Year 2 of the programme.</p> <p>b. Those holding a OU Diploma in Social Work (OUad003) awarded within 4 years may be admitted to Year 3 of the programme.</p>
----------	--

3. PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Aims and objective of the programme:	<p>The aim of this program is to enable learners to earn a high level, specialist qualification, while also acquiring a skill set and expertise in social work. In this program, learners will acquire the basic tenets in social work. There are multiple avenues in social work which require social workers to take the time to understand the conditions of the individuals and communities they work with to improve their conditions in effective and safe ways. As social workers, learners may need to assist people with everyday issues like personal, family, and relationship issues. Sometimes they may be involved in helping individuals with disabilities, diseases, or social issues like substance abuse or unemployment. Families with domestic conflicts can also turn to social workers for relief and guidance during difficult times. Social workers</p>
--------------------------------------	---

	<p>are thus trained in areas and particular service or setting, like child, family or school social work.</p> <p>Career path:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hospitals, medical clinics, and nursing homes - Community mental health agencies and substance misuse clinics - State and local governments including child welfare agencies and departments of health and human services - Schools and other youth-serving organizations - Correctional facilities - Private practices
Intended Learning outcomes:	
After completion of the programme, students will be able to:	
Knowledge and understanding	<p>K1 Define the key concepts in social work</p> <p>K2 Outline the different theories and emerging research about social work</p> <p>K3 Describe the values and ethical standards needed for the profession</p>
Cognitive skills	<p>C1 Discuss theories in the areas of engagement, assessment, intervention, and evaluation with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.</p> <p>C2 Develop sound theoretical knowledge in the social work discipline</p> <p>C3 Develop a professional orientation and identity as a social worker.</p> <p>C4 Apply legal and ethical standards in the administration of social work.</p> <p>C5 Analyse social protection and social welfare programmes</p> <p>C6 Appraise evidence-based research and critical thinking skills to inform practice in meeting the needs of the society</p>
Practical/professional Skills	<p>P1 Demonstrate skills in applying principles of advocacy toward promoting social work and positive social change in individuals, communities, and society.</p> <p>P2 Apply professional standards as social workers in generic settings</p> <p>P3 Show the link of theory to the practice of social work</p> <p>P4 Develop social work intervention strategies network with civil society organisations</p> <p>P5 Devise and manage social research to analyse social problems</p> <p>P6 Interpret research findings to formulate appropriate social policies in line with the SDGs</p> <p>P7 Apply professional social work skills and techniques</p>
Transferable skills	<p>T1 Demonstrate how to manage and best respond to situations of crisis</p> <p>T2 Appreciate the value of sustainable community development projects</p> <p>T3 Utilize the evidence-based research methods to assess social problems</p> <p>T4 Exhibit positive behaviours in academic, professional and social settings using knowledge acquired</p> <p>T5 Mentor novice social work practitioners</p>

4. PROFESSIONAL, STATUTORY AND REGULATORY BODIES (where applicable)
Not applicable

5. LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY

The programme is run on a blended-learning mode combining face to face learning interactions with e-learning. Using practical and hands-on approaches to learning, participants will be given the opportunity to develop knowledge in youth and development related areas through learning activities geared towards developing analytical and critical thinking.

Learning and teaching methods:

Students will be provided with opportunities to engage in a diverse range of learning environments so as to maximise their learning. For this programme students will interact with their tutor and their fellow students mostly through the e-platform.

The e- platform will use the following tools:

- Online activities: for every unit covered in each module students will be given opportunities to complete interactive learning activities including discussion forums, quizzes, field trips, webinars and problem-solving activities. Students will be encouraged to work independently but also to engage in collaborative work.
- Independent study: Independent study forms an essential part in the development of your knowledge and understanding. We will guide you, via the e-platform, on the reading and reflection of primary and secondary texts. Students should use this independent study time to link knowledge with e-class and face-to-face activities and develop their own understanding and critical perspective on the topics they are studying.

Strong experimental/practical elements that learners need to grasp.

We also offer optional face-to-face sessions.

The face-to-face sessions are an opportunity to untangle complex concepts and provide students with an opportunity to apply the knowledge acquired in the preceding weeks. During the face-to-face sessions, students can be expected to:

- Engage in discussions around youth development activities
- Engage with reading material to engage in class discussions
- Review core/complex concepts through applied work.

Research supervision:

In the final part, students will undertake a dissertation, supervised by one of our tutors with expertise in the area of the dissertation topic. Students will have the opportunity to meet with the supervisor to explore the topic, receive guidance on the research and receive feedback on the work as it progresses.

Overall Workload:

Your overall workload as a student consists of independent learning, e-learning activities and, if you choose to, face to face sessions. The following gives you an indication of how much time you will need to spend on the different components of your programme at each level. Each ECTS credit taken is equivalent to 25 hours of study time.

The expected study time for this programme will be as follow:

Year 1: 1,500 hours for 60 ECTS credits.

Year 2: 1,500 hours for 60 ECTS credits.

Year 3: 1,500 hours for 60 ECTS credits.

Typically, for each year of your degree you will spend 0-10% of your time in face to face sessions, 30-40% of your time engaging with e-learning activities and 60% of your time in independent study time.

A typical study week for a student will involve some optional face to face sessions, required engagement in online discussion forum, the completion of online activities and independent study time to review attached readings, textbooks and relevant sections of the module document. Students should expect to devote 8 to 12 hours of study time per week per module.

These are indicative and may vary from student to student.

6. ASSESSMENT STRATEGY

Assessment Methods

A range of formative and summative assessment exercises are designed to enable you to demonstrate and apply your knowledge and understanding.

Most modules will consist of a Tutor Marked Assessment component and an examination. TMAs include:

- Tests
- Essays
- Written projects
- Practical projects
- Exercises and problem set
- Webinars
- Team projects

In addition to TMAs, this programme includes final examination for all modules except the Final year dissertation module.

Assessment mapping: See Appendix page 12

Academic Feedback

Throughout the course of your studies, tutors will provide informal feedback on your online activities and class contributions. Feedback may be individual or provided to the class as a whole.

Each summative assessment will be accompanied by detailed marking criteria and marking scheme detailing the expectation of the assessment at each grade classification level. Feedback on assessment will be provided along the marking criteria. Marking criteria will be made available to the student at the same time as the assessment details.

Students will receive written individual feedback on all TMA components.

The university policy on assessment feedback and guidance on provisional marks can be found in the General Rules

Late submission, Extension and Resit Policy

The university policy on late submission, Extension and re-sits can be found in the General Rules

Special Circumstances

The university policy on special circumstance can be found in the General Rules

Continuous assessment and Exam Regulations

The university regulations on continuous assessment and examination can be found in the General Rules.

7. ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

As a safeguard to the quality and standard of Open University's qualifications and awards, the university takes any incidence of academic misconduct seriously and will investigate any reported case.

Academic Misconduct refers to any activity where a student, through unpermitted means, seeks to gain an advantage in the completion of an assessment. Any unpermitted action will be considered as academic misconduct when occurring during a formal examination, a TMA, or any other form of assessment considered by Board of Examiners and undertaken in pursuit of a University qualification or award.

Plagiarism (using, intentionally or unintentionally another person's work and presenting it as its own) will be systematically checked through an text-matching automated detection software that support the detection of plagiarism: Turnitin.

Any suspected cases of academic misconduct will be reported and investigated. Academic misconduct offences, may lead to suspension or expulsion from the University.

The university regulations on Academic Misconduct can be found in the General Rules.

8. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

C= Core i.e. modules which must be taken to be eligible for the award

S1 = Semester 1

S2 = Semester 2

Year 1 – Level 5 (NQ-MQA) – Short cycle Introductory (QF-EHEA)

Code	Module Title	Type	Semester	Credits
OUBs027111	Nature and History of Social Work	Core	S1	7.5
OUBs027112	Applied psychology for social work	Core	S1	6
IT100	Academic Literacies	Core	S1	3
OUBs027114	Social Welfare Services	Core	S1	6
OUBs027115	Social perspectives: an Introduction	Core	S1	6
OUBs027121	Ethics and the Law in Social Work	Core	S2	7.5

OUBs027122	Social Psychology	Core	S2	6
OUBs027123	Basic counselling skills for social workers	Core	S2	6
OUBs027124	Family & Child Welfare	Core	S2	6
QMBUS100	Quantitative Methods	Core	S2	6
Credit Total				60

Year 2 – Level 6 (NQ-MQA) – Short cycle Intermediate (QF-EHEA)				
Code	Module Title	Type	Semester	Credits
OUBs027211	Social Work Practice I	Core	S1	6
OUBs027212	Social Policy and social welfare	Core	S1	6
OUBs027213	NGOs, CSR & Social Work	Core	S1	6
OUBs027214	School Social Work	Core	S1	6
OUBs027215	Critical Perspectives on Social Work	Core	S1	6
OUBs027221	Social Work Practice II	Core	S2	6
OUBs027222	Clinical Social Work	Core	S2	6
OUBs027223	Sexuality and Health	Core	S2	6
OUBs027224	Social Work Research	Core	S2	6
OUBs027225	Society, Social Issues and social work intervention	Core	S2	6
Credit Total				60

Year 3 – Level 8 (NQ-MQA) – 1st Cycle Honours (QF-EHEA)				
Code	Module Title	Type	Semester	Credits
OUBs027311	Assessment and intervention with Groups, Communities, Organisations & Institutions	Core	S1	7.5
OUBs027312	Globalisation and Contemporary issues in social Work	Core	S1	7.5
OUBs027313	Gender and Social Issues	Core	S1	7.5
OUBs027321	Assessment and Intervention with vulnerable populations	Core	S2	7.5
OUBs027322	Social Project Development & Management	Core	S2	7.5
OUBs027323	Ageing and social work practice	Core	S2	7.5
OUBs027324	Dissertation	Core	S1 and S2	15
Credit Total				60
Overall Programme Credit Total				180

9. GRADING

Grading system:

Assessments are graded in percentage and correspond to a letter grade and a grade point.

To pass a module, students need an overall of 40% weighted average of their combined continuous assessment (TMA) and examination.

Marks (x) %	Description	Letter Grade	Grade point
$X \geq 70$	Excellent	A	5
$60 \leq X < 70$	Very Good	B	4
$50 \leq X < 60$	Good	C	3
$40 \leq X < 50$	Satisfactory	D	2
$X < 40$	Ungraded	U	0
Non-graded/pending	See section 17.1.1 in assessment rules and regulation for pending grades letter codes		

To pass a module, students need an overall of 40% weighted average of their combined continuous assessment and examination. All components of TMAs will have to have be submitted and examination sat to pass the module.

Students will normally not be allowed to postpone more than two modules for the following semester.

If a student obtains grade "U" in three or more modules in the same semesters, and the CPA is below 40 for that semester, the student will be requested to repeat the semester unless decided otherwise by the Academic Council upon the recommendation of the Board of Examiners. When repeating a semester, a student may or may not take the modules for which Grade C or above have been obtained.

If after completing a level the student's CPA < 40, the student will have to repeat the entire academic year, and retake the modules as and when offered. However, s/he will not be required, if s/he wishes, to retake 3 module(s) for which Grade C or above has been obtained.

Students will not be allowed to repeat more than two semesters during the entire duration of the programme.

University general marking criteria for undergraduate exams and undergraduate dissertations can be found in the General Rules.

Cumulative Point Average (CPA):

Total CPA for Undergraduate degrees is calculated by:

- a) multiplying the module credit by the % marks for the module and then summed up and divided by the total credits attempted over the cumulative period at each level (1 semester or 1 year). AND
- b) Taking the weighted average of the obtained CPAs at each level. The respective weights being set as follow: the CPA of level 5 modules (year 1) will be weighted at 15% (0.15), the CPA of level 6 modules (year 2) will be weighted at 35% (0.35) and the CPA of level 7/8 modules (year 3 and/or 4) will be weighted at 50% (0.5).

Example calculation of the CPA at level 5 for undergraduate programmes:

Course Level 5	% Scores	ECTS Credit unit	Module Credit x % Score
BAXX1	64	7.5	$64 * 7.5 = 480$
BAXX2	71	7.5	$71 * 7.5 = 533$
BAXX3	44	7.5	$44 * 7.5 = 330$
BAXX4	59	7.5	$59 * 7.5 = 443$
BAXX5	82	5.0	$82 * 5 = 410$
BAXX6	62	5.0	$62 * 5 = 310$
BAXX7	65	5.0	$65 * 5 = 325$
BAXX8	54	15.0	$54 * 15 = 810$
Total		60	3640
CPA = 3640/60			61.7

Example Calculation Total CPA:

Level	Score	Weighted score
CPA level 5 (60 credits)	61.7	$61.7 * 0.15 = 9.11$
CPA level 6 (60 credits)	63.4	$63.4 * 0.35 = 22.19$
CPA level 7/8 (60 credits)	65.5	$65.5 * 0.5 = 32.75$
Total CPA (180 credits)		64

10. PROGRESSION, EXIT POINTS AND AWARD

Progression	<p>If a student fails to achieve 60 credits at the end of a year level, the board of examiners will make a decision with regard to the student's progression. At its discretion, the board of examiners may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - allow a student to carry forward up to 15 credits in the following year level in order to retake these units in attendance; - require the student to repeat the year; - award of an exit award once you've exhausted all the opportunities to retrieve failed assessment.
-------------	--

Classification of Awards	For the award of the Honours degree, all modules of the programme must be completed.				
	The Certificate of Higher Education and the Diploma of Higher education are awarded as possible exit points in the programme as indicated in the table below:				
	Award	Title	Level NQ-MQA	Total required Credits	Classification Based on Cumulative Point Average (CPA)
	BSc (Hons)	Social Work	8	180	1st Class Honours (First): CPA ≥70 2nd Class 1st Division Honours (2:1): 60 ≤ CPA < 70 2nd Class 2nd Division Honours (2:2): 50 ≤ CPA < 60 3rd Class Honours: 45 ≤ CPA < 50
Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)	Social Work	6	120	Distinction: CPA ≥ 70 Pass: 40 ≤ CPA < 70 No Award: CPA < 40	
Certificate of Higher Education (CertHe)	Social Work	5	60	Distinction: CPA ≥ 70 Pass: 40 ≤ CPA < 70 No Award: CPA < 40	

11. STUDENT SUPPORT

Support available through:
studentsupport@open.ac.mu

12. Have you say

Open University values student feedback and students will be given opportunities to have their say on their learning experience in the following way:

- Student programme and module evaluation surveys;
- Acting as student representative and participate in a range of committees such as the staff-student consultative committee;
- Participate in programme validation processes.

The University will respond to student feedback through the following channels:

- Response and action taken following the module evaluation survey will be posted on the e-platform;
- Action from minutes will be monitored by the chair of the relevant committees;
- Annual programme monitoring process will take into account student feedback;
- Programme review process (every five years).

Curriculum Map of Modules against programme intended learning outcomes

Module unit and code				Knowledge and understanding						Cognitive Skills						Practical Skills							Transferable Skills and Personal Attributes						
Module title	Code	Type	Mode	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	K6	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5		
Year 1 NQ-MQA Level 6																													
Nature and History of Social Work	OUBs027111	C	BL	√		√				√	√	√				√	√			√		√		√					
Applied psychology for social work	OUBs027112	C	BL	√	√						√				√	√	√	√			√								
IT Essentials	IT100	C	BL																										
Social Welfare Services	OUBs027114	C	BL	√		√				√	√	√	√	√		√	√						√	√					
Social perspectives: an Introduction	OUBs027115	C	BL	√						√	√				√						√								
Ethics and the Law in Social Work	OUBs027121	C	BL	√	√	√				√	√	√	√											√					
Social Psychology	OUBs027122	C	BL	√		√				√	√					√	√	√	√					√				√	
Basic counselling skills for social workers	OUBs027123	C	BL	√							√	√						√				√	√					√	
Family & Child Welfare	OUBs027124	C	BL		√						√	√		√			√	√											
Quantitative Methods	QMBUS100	C	BL																										
Year 2 NQ-MQA level 7																													
Social Policy and social welfare	OUBs027211	C	BL	√	√	√				√	√			√		√		√						√				√	
Social Work Practice I	OUBs027212	C	BL	√						√	√	√	√	√		√							√					√	
NGOs, CSR & Social Work	OUBs027213	C	BL	√							√		√	√	√	√		√	√		√								
School Social Work	OUBs027214	C	BL	√	√					√	√			√				√											
Critical Perspectives on Social Work	OUBs027215	C	BL	√	√						√							√						√					
Social Work Practice II	OUBs027221	C	BL	√							√	√		√		√	√	√					√	√	√			√	
Clinical Social Work	OUBs027222	C	BL	√	√						√					√		√										√	
Sexuality and Health	OUBs027223	C	BL	√	√						√					√		√	√							√			
Social Work Research	OUBs027224	C	BL		√						√	√					√	√			√				√				
Society, Social Issues and social work intervention	OUBs027225	C	BL							√	√	√					√	√											
Year 3 NQ-MQA level 8																													
Assessment and intervention with Groups, Communities, Organisations & Institutions	OUBs027311	C	BL	√	√						√			√						√									
Globalisation and Contemporary issues in social Work	OUBs027312	C	BL	√	√					√	√					√		√						√					
Gender and Social Issues	OUBs027313	C	BL	√							√							√						√	√				
Assessment and Intervention with vulnerable populations	OUBs027321	C	BL	√	√						√							√	√			√	√	√					
Social Project Development & Management	OUBs027322	C	BL		√						√					√		√	√			√	√				√		
Ageing and social work practice	OUBs027323	C	BL								√			√			√	√	√	√	√	√						√	
Dissertation	OUBs027324	C	BL																										

C = Core; E = Elective; DL = Distance Learning; BL = Blended Learning; CD = Campus delivery

