



SOCIAL WORK 9803 (570/571)
The Canadian Context: Responses to Poverty and Social Problems
Summer 2026

Professor: Dr. Kowa Qiyomiddin

Course and Faculty Contact:

For Course Information (Day, Time and Location), please go to student.uwo.ca, login, select academics; course registration; by class – your schedule should appear. For Faculty Contact information please see the class OWL.

Calendar Description:

The purpose of this course is to advance graduate students' understanding of the structural factors that lead to poverty and income inequality in Canadian society. Given that these problems adversely affect many of the people social workers will work with in the future, it is important that students have a thorough knowledge of what these factors are, and how they might actively resist them in order to help improve the lives of disadvantaged populations. Students will be asked to critically reflect on a variety of theories, perspectives, and approaches to poverty and will be asked to consider what alternatives are available that might better address the problem of poverty. Emphasis will center on how the current charitable model might be transformed to reflect a rights-based framework, an approach that might advance social justice principles of equity, dignity, and self-determination.

Prerequisite(s): Registration in the Master of Social Work program.

Learning Outcomes – Essential Knowledge:

At the conclusion of this course students will be able to:

- Describe the current contextual and demographic trends related to poverty in Canada today;
- Identify federal and provincial income security provisions, and explain the socio-economic and policy issues that impact Canadians today.
- Identify a variety of perspectives and models associated with poverty (e.g., charitable model, rights-based model; structural, fatalistic and individual explanations of poverty)
- Describe the current evidence base for interventions associated with poverty, food insecurity, and homelessness;

- Outline theoretical frameworks useful in understanding and explaining policies related to poverty and social inequality; and
- Identify unique population needs, social work interventions and policy issues

Learning Outcomes – Essential Skills:

After completing this course, students will have the ability to:

- Develop oral communication skills demonstrated through participation in group and class discussions;
- Foster critical thinking and analytic skills by reviewing course materials and engaging in group and/or class dialogue;
- Cultivate the ability to communicate in a clear and succinct manner demonstrated by drafting a funding application that outlines the key arguments and recommendations to be included in the student’s final grant application;
- Improve written communication skills by writing a funding application that makes persuasive arguments to make a compelling case to fund an intervention and/or innovation to address poverty

Course Website – OWL

The course website (<https://westernu.brightspace.com>) is accessible to all students registered in this course. It contains the course outline (syllabus), announcements, and other course resource material. The OWL may be used for in-class communication, discussion boards, tests, quizzes, posting of lecture materials, etc., at the instructor’s discretion.

Class Policies (boundaries and expectations):

- All students are expected to engage in a professional and respectful manner. This includes all interactions with peers, as well as with your professor. Failure to do so will result in Academic discipline;
- Recording of lectures or tutorials without the explicit consent of the professor is ground for academic discipline;
- Course content created by a faculty member is considered the faculty member’s intellectual property; it should not be distributed, shared in any public domain, or sold by a student or other third party without prior written consent of the faculty member;
- All assessment or examinations done online are expected to be done by the student registered in this course, following the instructions outlined by the assignment;
- Do not post group pictures of your meeting on social media without consent from each participant.

Class-specific policy on AI (e.g. Chat GPT)

King’s is committed to fostering a culture of professionalism, honesty, and academic integrity, and all members of our community—faculty, staff, and students—have a role to play in promoting an ethical learning environment. Furthermore, through the work they submit for

academic evaluation, students develop important habits of critical thinking, independent inquiry, and creativity. Thus, it is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor.

Within this course AI tools [such as Chat GPT] are permitted exclusively for: information-gathering and preliminary research purposes. If AI tools are used, students must acknowledge use and state how the tool was used. If you are unsure of AI use in this class, please consult with your instructor.

Evaluation:

Activity	Due Dates	% Course mark
Assignment # 1: Participation	Weekly in class	20%
Assignment # 2: Policy Analysis Paper	May 11 at 11:55pm	35%
Assignment # 3: Proposals for Change	June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	45%

Assignment # 1: Participation

The purpose of this assignment is to assist you in arriving at your own questions, ideas and wonderings about poverty, social policy and their analysis, the connection of policy to social work practice work and to feel okay about discussing them in an academic setting as well as responding to other views and ideas.

Assignment # 2 Policy Analysis Paper

In dyad the students are responsible for selecting a current social problem or issue in Canada that is impacted by poverty (e.g., homelessness, domestic violence, food insecurity, discrimination, health care, mental health, child welfare, juvenile or adult justice, developmental disabilities etc.).

Part A: Complete preliminary background research on the nature and extent of the social problem, provide a summary of the issue/problem, and critical analysis and link it to at least two particular values and underlying principles in the CASW Code of Ethics that are of specific relevance to this topic.

Part B: Following the same social problem: Identify and critique the leading strategies (policies, programs, legislation) the Canadian federal/provincial/municipal governments have implemented in response to the problem.

Part C: A critical self-reflection of your own personal beliefs, values, morals, and ethics as pertains to this topic and a consideration of how you may approach any ethical dilemmas that this topic may present for you in your practice.

Length of paper: 6 to 7 pages (excluding title page and references), APA formatting (NO grades assigned for using APA only deductions for incorrect use), 12 font (Times New Roman), double-spaced and submitted in word format. At least five peer-reviewed journal article references published within the last 10 years are required to be included in the paper.

Assignment # 3: Proposals for Change

The class will be divided into 5 groups. Students will create a 60-minute PowerPoint presentation on a social policy related to poverty in Canada.

The presentation will include a summary overview of a chosen problem or issue, how it has historically been addressed from a policy and programmatic perspective, and a critical evaluation of these approaches (how well the policy responded to the problem: evidence of unintended consequences arising from the policy, etc.), including its main proponents and critics. The presentation must be oriented towards change strategies by increasing awareness and advocacy, stressing the importance of the policy issue, impacts of policy and/or the need for action.

Each group will be responsible for facilitating a 20-minute moderation on the selected issue following their presentation. Students must show evidence of facilitation, preparation and engagement, including critical discussion questions relevant to the topic

Course Readings

Text Book

Raphael, D. (2020). Poverty in Canada: implications for health and quality of life (Third edition.). Toronto: Canadian Scholars

Print: \$109; eBook \$105

Online journal articles and selected chapters from a variety of resources will form the basis of readings for this course. Please see the weekly schedule for required and optional readings.

Course Schedule:

Week 1 – April 20

Topic: **Introduction, history of poverty, review course syllabus**

Readings:

Raphael, D. (2020). Poverty in Canada: Implications for health and quality of life. Canadian Scholars (Chapter 1)

Smith-Carrier, T. (2018). Rights-based approach is key to alleviating poverty. Policy Options.

Available at: [Rights-based approach key to alleviating poverty \(irpp.org\)](https://www.irpp.org/en/2018/04/18/rights-based-approach-key-to-alleviating-poverty/)

Week 2 –April 27

Topic: **The politics of poverty**

Readings:

Raphael, D. (2020). Poverty in Canada: implications for health and quality of life (Third edition.). Toronto: Canadian Scholars (Chapter 11).

Smith-Carrier, T. (2020). Charity isn't just, or always charitable: Exploring charitable and justice models of social support. *Journal of Human Rights and Social Work*, 5, 157-163. Available at: [Charity Isn't Just, or Always Charitable: Exploring Charitable and Justice Models of Social Support | Scholars Portal Journals \(uwo.ca\)](#)

Week 3 – May 4

Topic: **Who experiences poverty?**

Readings:

Raphael, D. (2020). *Poverty in Canada: implications for health and quality of life* (Third edition.). Toronto: Canadian Scholars (Chapters 2 & 3).

The affordability crisis in Canada

[Affordability-White-Paper-Final-viewing.pdf](#)

Week 4 – May 11

Topic: **Social inequity and social exclusion**

Reading:

Raphael, D. (2020). *Poverty in Canada: implications for health and quality of life* (Third edition.). Toronto: Canadian Scholars (Chapter 4).

Berzin, S.C. (2012). Where is social work in the social entrepreneurship movement? *Social Work*, 57, 185-188.

Available at: [Where is social work in the social entrepreneurship movement? - Document - Gale Academic OneFile \(uwo.ca\)](#)

Week 6 – May 18 - Victoria Day – No Class

Week 5 – May 25

Topic: **Pathways to poverty**

Readings:

Raphael, D. (2020). *Poverty in Canada: implications for health and quality of life* (Third edition.). Toronto: Canadian Scholars (Chapter 5).

Broadbent, A. & Mclsacc, E., (2022). We have plans for snow, why not for people who are homeless?

Available at: [We have plans for snow, why not for people who are homeless? - Maytree](#)

Week 7 – June 1

Topic: **Lived experience of poverty**
Presentation # 1

Reading:

Raphael, D. (2020). Poverty in Canada: implications for health and quality of life (Third edition.). Toronto: Canadian Scholars (Chapter 6).

Week 8 – June 8

Topic: **Poverty and health**
Presentation #2

Reading:

Raphael, D. (2020). Poverty in Canada: implications for health and quality of life (Third edition.). Toronto: Canadian Scholars (Chapter 8 & 9).

Week 9 – June 15

Topic: **Poverty and quality of life**
Presentation #3

Reading:

Raphael, D. (2020). Poverty in Canada: implications for health and quality of life (Third edition.). Toronto: Canadian Scholars (Chapters 10).

Week 10 – June 22

Topic: **Anti-Poverty Strategies and Programs**
Presentation #4

Reading:

Raphael, D. (2020). Poverty in Canada: implications for health and quality of life (Third edition.). Toronto: Canadian Scholars (Chapter 12).

Week 11 – June 29

Topic: **The future of the Canadian Welfare State**
Presentation #5

Reading:

Raphael, D. (2020). Poverty in Canada: implications for health and quality of life (Third edition.). Toronto: Canadian Scholars (Chapter 14).

Assignment # 1 Participation

The participation grade will be assigned based on:

- Physical presence through attendance in the class
- Meaningful contributions to both large and small group discussions on a weekly basis

Participation in this class refers to your active involvement in your own learning and your meaningful contributions to the collective learning of the class. It reflects your sustained engagement from the first class to the last.

Participation is *not* about:

- Dominating discussions with excessive comments.
- Limiting yourself to sharing ideas or questions without deeper interaction.

Instead, it *is* about:

- Listening actively to peers and building on their points.
- Asking thoughtful questions to clarify or explore topics further.
- Connecting discussions to practicum experiences, or relevant work/life examples.
- Engaging in dialogue - fostering a collegial environment.

Participation means taking responsibility for creating a dynamic, inclusive learning space where everyone's contributions matter.

Passive attendance isn't enough. While you'll still learn by listening, you'll miss the *reciprocity* of learning - exchanging ideas, refining perspectives, and developing skills essential for professional practice

"I'm Not Confident Speaking in Class. Can I Succeed Without Participating?"

Yes, but with limitations:

- You'll gain foundational knowledge from readings and lectures.
- However, you'll miss the *collaborative* depth of learning, likely making the course less engaging.

The goal is to cultivate democratic, seminar-style discussions where all voices are valued. Participation isn't about "right" answers; it's about sharing perspectives grounded in readings, lived experiences, or practicum insights.

How to Participate Effectively

Be present: Avoid distractions (e.g., social media, side conversations). Active listening is the first step.

Engage authentically: Build on peers' comments with examples ("Your point reminds me of [reading/working]...").

Assignment 2 - Policy Analysis Paper

Select a current social problem or issue in Canada that is impacted by poverty (e.g., homelessness, domestic violence, food insecurity, discrimination, health care, mental health, child welfare, juvenile or adult justice, developmental disabilities etc.).

Part A: Complete preliminary background research on the nature and extent of the social problem, provide a summary of the issue/problem, critical analysis and link it to at least two particular values and underlying principles in the CASW Code of Ethics that are of specific relevance to this topic.

Part B: Following the same social problem: Identify and critique the leading strategies (policies, programs, legislation) the Canadian federal/provincial/municipal governments have implemented in response to the problem.

Part C: A critical self-reflection of your own personal beliefs, values, morals, and ethics as pertains to this topic and a consideration of how you may approach any ethical dilemmas that this topic may present for you in your practice.

Length of paper: 6 (excluding title page and references), APA formatting (NO grades assigned for using APA only deductions for incorrect use), 12 font (Times New Roman), double-spaced and submitted in word format. At least five peer-reviewed journal article references published within the last 10 years are required to be included in the paper.

Criteria	Marks
Part A - Summarize the issue and identify importance	/3
Part A – Link the issue to 2 values and principles in CASW Code of Ethics that are of relevance	/10
Part B – Identify and critique leading strategies the government has implemented in response to problem	/10
Part C – Critical self-reflection	/10
Quality of Writing and Citations	/2
Total	/35

Assignment 3 - Proposals for Change

60-minute PowerPoint presentation on a social policy related to poverty in Canada.

The presentation will include a summary overview of a chosen problem or issue, how it has historically been addressed from a policy and programmatic perspective, and a critical evaluation of these approaches (how well has the policy responded to the problem: evidence of unintended consequences arising from the policy, etc.), including its main proponents and critics. The presentation must be oriented towards change strategies by increasing awareness and advocacy, stressing the importance of the policy issue, impacts of policy and the need for action.

Each group will be responsible for facilitating a 20-minute moderation on the selected issue following their presentation. Students must show evidence of facilitation, preparation and engagement, including critical discussion questions relevant to the topic.

Area	Criteria	Marks
Introduction & Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Summary/overview of chosen social problem ■ How has it historically been addressed from a policy perspective? ■ Who have been the main advocates and critics? 	/5
Critical Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ How well has the policy responded to the problem? 	/17
Recommendations for future improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Possible change strategies 	/13
Moderation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Group Cohesion ■ Actively engage the audience and effectively moderate the discussion ■ Responses are helpful in terms of providing more detailed information on the topic? ■ Responses timely and appropriate? 	/5
Overall Quality of the Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Resources to help the audience understand key points? (e.g., Power Point presentations, e-books, audio clips, videos, YouTube, stories, etc.)? What is the quality of the content of the slides? Are resources appropriately cited in the presentation? (e.g., Power Point presentations, e-books, audio clips, videos, YouTube, etc.)? 	/5
	Final Grade=	/45

School of Social Work Policies 2025 - 2026

School of Social Work Attendance Policy

The Bachelor and Master of Social Work programs are intensive professional preparation programs that emphasize both academic and professional integrity. Regular attendance is not only essential for student success but is also a requirement set by the Canadian Association of Social Work Education (CASWE) for program accreditation and by the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (OCSWSSW) as part of professional expectations. A key aspect of this integrity is active engagement in all classes, integration seminars, and practicum activities. We recognize that students may encounter challenges that affect their ability to attend, and we are committed to working collaboratively to support student success while upholding professional expectations.

Attendance Expectations

1. Regular attendance is expected in all BSW and MSW professional Social Work courses. Each class provides essential learning experiences that cannot always be replicated outside the classroom. Engaging fully in coursework supports both individual learning and the integrity of the social work profession.
2. No more than two unapproved absences per class, per semester (approximately 20% of any one class)
3. If a student is facing barriers to attendance, we encourage early communication with instructors and the School of Social Work support staff to explore potential solutions.
4. If a student is experiencing ongoing difficulties attending class, they will be required to meet with the Coordinator of Academics and Development to discuss available supports and strategies (Please see Student in Difficulty Policy).
5. Instructors require regular attendance as part of course participation. In cases where attendance is inconsistent, students may be asked to engage in additional learning activities to ensure they meet course requirements. Instructors have the discretion to determine if and how alternative learning activities may substitute for missed coursework.
6. Absenteeism (more than two unapproved absences) may result in failure of the course and provides grounds for requiring a social work student to withdraw from the program. Please note: regularly arriving late and/or leaving early will be considered absenteeism, unless an accommodation is in place.

Absences from Practicum: Students should refer to the relevant Professional Practicum Education Policies and Guidelines Manual for policies about attendance at placement.

Absences Due to Illness, Injury, Bereavement, or Other Compassionate Circumstances

We understand that unexpected situations may arise. If you are absent due to illness, injury, bereavement, religious observance, or other compassionate circumstances, you will not be penalized. However, you remain responsible for any missed coursework and should communicate with your instructor as soon as possible to discuss how to stay on track.

Student Responsibilities:

- **If you miss a single class (or more than one class in a single week)**, inform your instructor(s) at the earliest opportunity. You will not be penalized, but you are responsible for making up any missed content.
- **If you are going to miss an assignment deadline, test, or exam**, contact the **Coordinator of Academics and Development** and provide documentation to support the absence. The Coordinator will work with you and your instructors to arrange accommodations.
- **Upon your return**, speak with your instructor(s) to clarify expectations for catching up on missed coursework.

Instructor Responsibilities:

- Students will not be penalized for absences due to illness, bereavement, religious observance, or other compassionate reasons.
- Instructors will provide reasonable alternatives to help students meet academic requirements while maintaining fairness and consistency across the course.

For more details, refer to Western University's **Absence Due to Illness Policy**: [Western University Absence Policy](#).

Absences for Religious Observance

King's University College and Western University are committed to valuing religious diversity. Students observing religious holidays that require absence should provide written notice to their instructor and the Coordinator of Academics and Development at least two weeks in advance.

Instructors will ensure students are provided with fair and reasonable alternatives to meet academic expectations.

For a list of approved religious observance dates, visit: [Accommodation for Religious Observance](#).

Unapproved Absences

Absences that are not related to illness, injury, bereavement, compassionate grounds, or religious observance are considered unapproved. Students may have up to two unapproved absences per course without penalty.

Process for Unapproved Absences

- **Single unapproved absence:** If you miss a class, notify your instructor as soon as possible. While you will not be penalized, you are responsible for catching up on missed content.
- **Three or more unapproved absences:** Missing three classes in a single course (30% of a course) will trigger the **Student in Difficulty Policy**. You will be required to meet with the Coordinator of Academics and Development to discuss your absences and explore available supports to help you succeed.
 - If you miss more than 30% of a course, you may be placed on academic probation and could face further actions under University Senate Regulations, which may include failing the course or being required to withdraw from the program.

If you are unsure whether an absence qualifies as approved or unapproved, we encourage you to reach out to your instructors or the Coordinator of Academics and Development for clarification.

Make-Up Work

If a student misses classes, instructors may assign make-up work to ensure that learning outcomes are met. While this work may not always be identical to what was completed in class, it is designed to provide meaningful learning opportunities.

Supporting Student Success

We recognize that students may face challenges in balancing their academic and personal responsibilities. Our goal is to work together to find solutions that support your learning and overall well-being while maintaining the integrity of the social work profession. If you are struggling with attendance or other academic concerns, please reach out to your instructors or the Coordinator of Academics and Development for support.

For additional guidance or clarification, please contact the School of Social Work.

School Council 03/25

Grade Adjustment for Late Assignments

Students should negotiate any extension requests (whether an accommodation is applicable or not) in writing with the Instructor prior to the assigned due date.

Failure to meet deadlines without prior permission of the Instructor will result in a reduction of marks. **Marks for papers/assignments received after the due date will be reduced by 2% per day** (including weekends) to a maximum of 5 days, after which time the assignment will not be accepted. Should the Student be granted an extension (based on a negotiated accommodation or extension request), they are expected to submit their paper/assignment by the negotiated due date, and are not subject to the provisions outlined in the Grade Adjustment

for Late Assignments policy. The Instructor has the authority to refuse to grade a paper/assignment submitted past the negotiated due date (for which the Student has not negotiated a new due date based on extenuating circumstances).

School Council 04/18

CODES OF CONDUCT

MSW students are expected to comply with the Code of Ethics set out by the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) and the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (OCSWSSW) both in the academic environment and practicum settings. Students must also adhere to the university codes of conduct:

[Code of Ethics of the Canadian Association of Social Workers](#)

[OCSWSSW Code of Ethics](#)

[Western Code of Student Conduct](#)

[King's Code of Student Conduct](#)

[King's Harassment and Discrimination Policy](#)

Review for Professional Conduct in the School of Social Work

Preamble:

The Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards for Canadian Social Work Education approved by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE) Board of Directors (2021) stipulates that Schools of Social Work have policies relevant to the unique professional and educational requirements of professional social work programs to augment those policies of the broader university (section 1.3). In particular, 1.3.2 references the need for policies and procedures related to student codes of conduct. Also, section 3.3 outlines core learning objectives for students, which include the need to develop an appropriate professional identity and develop appropriate values and ethics in professional practice.

1. General standards of student conduct are defined by the King's University College Code of Student Conduct. The following policy pertains to professional conduct and applies to any social work course or related learning environment including Practicum. It is an attempt to balance the commitment of the School of Social Work to support and assist students in becoming professional social workers, with the need to protect the safety and well-being of all students, staff, professional officers, and faculty as well as vulnerable individuals, families, groups and

communities. Thus, the School of Social Work holds an expectation that its students will adhere to recognized ethical obligations and professional standards such as the Social Work Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice adopted by the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers, and that the School has an obligation to take action when a student acts in an unethical or unprofessional manner. The purpose of this policy is to provide examples of conduct that may require a review and to provide guidelines for a process of review. The School of Social Work will undertake to resolve any concerns in a fair, timely, reasonable and effective manner.

2. The major values and principles as included in the Social Work Code of Ethics that guide professional social work practice are:

- Empathy and concern for clients
- Respect for individual worth and dignity
- Human capacity for growth and change
- Self-determination
- Honesty and integrity
- Confidentiality
- Social and individual responsibility
- Social justice, human rights and equality

3. It is important that students review and become familiar with the Canadian Association of Social Workers' Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Ethical Practice; the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers' Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice; and relevant School, College, University and in the case of Practicum, agency policies, regulations and procedures, including:

- King's University College Code of Student Conduct
- King's University College Harassment and Discrimination Policy
- The School of Social Work Field Education Policies and Guidelines Manual
- The School of Social Work Policy on Extension of Placement
- Western University Academic Policies/Regulations
- Western University Senate Policy on Off-Campus Placements
- Western University Guide for Students in Professional Program Placements, Clinics, Practica

4. Limits of Confidentiality:

The School of Social Work recognizes that the safety and confidentiality of students, clients, or others who have been subject to unprofessional conduct under this Policy must be an important priority. The School of Social Work must balance the need for confidentiality against its duty to protect present and future students or persons who might otherwise be placed in jeopardy by a student who is acting in an unprofessional or unethical manner under this Policy. Information disclosed during meetings with instructors, program coordinators, the Field Education Team, or

the Director will not be kept confidential if the information raises concerns about the student's capability of assuming the professional responsibilities of social work practice. Instructors and/or program coordinators and/or the Director will share pertinent information with each other in a respectful and professional manner, for the purpose of identifying student issues and enhancing problem solving about the concerns. The School of Social Work reserves the right to share information with the University or third parties as required by law and University regulations.

5. Behaviour That May Result in a Review

Student reviews can occur under any of the following circumstances:

5.1 Serious or persistent behaviour that would constitute a breach of the professional codes of ethical conduct and standards of practice mentioned above, were the student a practicing social worker.

5.2 Behaviour that causes individuals in the School of Social Work to have a serious or persistent concern about the harmful effect of the student's behaviour on the learning environment that would constitute a breach of the Harassment and Discrimination Policy and the Code of Student Conduct at King's University College. Reasons for the serious or persistent concern may include but are not limited to the following: speech or behaviour that contravenes the Ontario Human Rights Code (e.g. discrimination or harassment because of race, creed, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, sex, sexual orientation, age, record of offences, marital status, same sex partnership status, family status or disability); sexual harassment, including unwelcome conduct or gestures; any threat or attempt to physically harm another person; and intimidation or threats to harm another person in non-physical ways.

5.3 Behaviour that results in offenses involving property, including misappropriation, damage, unauthorized possession, defacement and/or destruction of premises or property of the College or the property of others.

5.4 Behaviour that results in illegal use, possession, or distribution of a controlled or restricted substance, or possession, use, or storing of dangerous objects (including unlicensed firearms).

In situations where the jurisdiction is unclear, the Dean of Students and/or the Vice-Principal and Academic Dean may be involved.

6. Three Stages of Review:

Three stages of review can occur in the School of Social Work regarding behaviour that is not consistent with the recognized ethics and standards of the profession of the social work. The stage of review is dependent upon the seriousness of the allegation of the breach of this Policy. The overall commitment of the School of Social Work is to resolve any concern related to professional conduct of a student, at Stage One or Stage Two through a mediation approach

with the student.

6.1 Stage One:

6.1.1 A Stage One review involves a classroom instructor and a student. When a classroom instructor has concerns about a student's behaviour as it relates to professional conduct, the instructor will:

- Discuss the concerns directly with the student and seek to work with the student to resolve the concern within a defined time frame;
- Document dates and contents of meetings with the student.

6.1.2 If the problem arises in the practicum, the Field Instructor will discuss the concerns directly with the student and Faculty Consultant, and follow the procedure outlined in the School's Field Education Policies and Guidelines Manual.

If the concerns are not resolved at Stage One, the individuals involved will proceed to Stage Two.

6.2 Stage Two:

6.2.1 If the concern is expressed by a classroom instructor and cannot be resolved at Stage One, a Stage Two review involves the instructor, the student and the Social Work Programs Liaison. Students may elect to have someone accompany them to the meeting, but must inform the instructor and Programs Liaison of the identity of the individual accompanying the student in advance of the meeting. If students elect to have someone accompany them, that individual should be referred to the Western University Office of the Ombudsperson document "[Support Person: Students Helping Students](#)".

6.2.3 Stage Two Review will include:

- Determination of the nature and specifics of the concern
- Development of a written plan (including time lines and specific actions) to address the concern. A copy of the written plan will be signed by and provided to all parties personally or by registered mail within ten (10) business days.
- A follow up meeting with all parties to determine if the concern has been resolved. If it is determined that further intervention is required a Stage Three Review will be conducted.

6.3 Stage Three:

6.3.1 Generally a Stage Three review is conducted when issues are considered by the School of Social Work to be of such a serious nature that formal intervention is required. A Stage Three review is most often conducted when concerns have not been resolved in Stages One and Two. A Stage Three review always occurs when a student is being considered for withdrawal or

discontinuance in the program or if a recommendation for suspension or expulsion from the University is being considered. Any decision is based on a simple majority vote of the Review Committee at Stage Three.

6.3.2 The Review Committee is comprised of the Director (chair), the Graduate Program Coordinator, and Coordinator of Field Education, or designate.

6.3.3 When a Stage Three review is called for and the Director determines that there are sufficient grounds to continue, he/she may temporarily withdraw the student from courses, as warranted. Within two weeks of being advised, the Director will convene an in-camera meeting of a review committee. The student has the right to express to the Director any perceived conflict of interest with any member of the review committee. Any individual who has participated in the Stage One and Two reviews will not be a voting member of the Stage Three review committee. The student (and an accompanying person if the student wishes) will be invited to attend the review committee meeting. The following individuals may also be invited to attend the meeting: the Social Work Programs Liaison, and any other persons deemed appropriate by the Director to gather further information, determine the nature of the problem and identify alternatives for resolution. Members of the review committee will be informed ahead of time of the identity of a person accompanying the student.

6.3.4 The student will be notified in writing of the specific concerns and meeting date with sufficient time to prepare for and attend the meeting. Should the student choose not to attend the review, the Committee will determine a decision in the student's absence.

6.3.5 The review committee will review any available information (facts) related to the concern(s), review any actions taken to date, hear the student's position related to the concern(s), permit the student to ask questions, and seek clarifications. Hearsay evidence (information) is to be avoided if at all possible. The review committee will control information flow and limit questions to issues of relevance. At the conclusion of the meeting, the review committee will determine a decision based on all information gathered. The Director of the School of Social Work will inform the student of the decision in writing within ten (10) days of the review committee's decision.

6.3.6 When the concern does not arise in the practicum, any faculty member of the School, or the Programs Liaison may advise the Director in writing of an alleged incident or series of incidents. Any incident related to a course or instructional activity will be reported to the Vice Principal and Academic Dean. Any incident that comes under the jurisdiction of the Code of Student Conduct will be reported to the Dean of Students immediately.

6.4 The review committee's decision may include one or more of the following:

6.4.1 Continue student in the program with no conditions;

6.4.2 Establish formal conditions for student's continuance in the program – (e.g., setting goals, actions, timelines, monitoring, mentoring and support, placing the student on probation for a period of time and monitoring the student during the probationary period, referring the student to counselling, requiring the student to temporarily withdraw from the program);

6.4.3 Consult with and/or refer to the King's University College Harassment Advisor (if a referral is made, the student must be notified).

6.4.4 Recommend withdrawal of student from the program and/or University

On rare occasions, it may be recommended that the student no longer continue in the social work program, be suspended, or be withdrawn from the University. The student will be counselled to voluntarily withdraw. If that does not occur, the student will be reported by the Director to the Vice Principal and Academic Dean, with a recommendation for suspension or withdrawal. Under the jurisdiction of the Student Code of Conduct, the student will be reported to the Dean of Students. The student will be provided with specific reasons for the recommendation. Any readmission will be subject to the regulations pertaining to "unsatisfactory performance" outlined by the Western Academic Calendar.

6.5 In any Stage Three review, there must be clear, concise documentation of concerns as well as verification that these concerns have been discussed with the student, and that attempts have been made to address the concerns where appropriate. Retention of information on the student's academic record will comply with the regulations outlined under "Offence Record" and "Release of Information Concerning Scholastic Offences" in the Western Academic Calendar.

7. Retention and Disposition of Documentation

Any documentation pertaining to any of the Stages of Review will be kept in the student's academic file, which is located in a locked cabinet in the office of the Social Work Programs Liaison. Documentation will be kept until such time as the student graduates from the social work program. If the student is asked to withdraw from or discontinue in the program, or is suspended or expelled from the University, the documentation will be retained in the file in perpetuity.

8. Access to Student File

Only those parties who are involved in the review process, the current Director of the School of Social Work, the Coordinator of Field Education and the Programs Liaison shall have access to the files.

9. Appeals

Any decision made by the Stage Three review committee or the Director can be appealed to the Vice Principal and Academic Dean, King's University College and the King's University College Discipline Committee.

Practicum Committee 10/06
Faculty Committee 10/06
School Council 10/06
Revised School Council 10/19

School of Social Work Course Policy

Students are expected to complete all required evaluation components, by the dates indicated in the course syllabus, successfully pass this course and progress in the program. Students must achieve a cumulative average of 60%+ on all individual assignments, before late penalties, to pass the course and meet progression requirements. A student who fails to submit all the required assignments (including tests and exams if applicable), by the agreed upon timeline, will not meet progression requirements of the program. In courses where group work and individual assignments are part of the evaluation components, students must earn a passing mark on their individual work (case write-ups, essays, reports, and/or class contribution) to pass the course and meet progression. If you receive a failing mark on your individual work and a passing grade on the group presentation/report, you will not meet progression requirements.

Students with course conflicts and approved inter-university athletic conflicts, or students unable to hand in a summary or participate in the report based on medical or compassionate grounds, may appeal for an extension, or for concessions to the above policy. Requests for accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds must always be accompanied by appropriate documentation – either with the request, or as soon as possible after the fact and be made through the Social Work Programs Liaison and/or the student's Accessibility Counselor. Students who have any problems that may hinder their academic performance are encouraged to discuss these issues with their professor and/or the Social Work Programs Liaison before the assignments are due.

School Council January 2024



General Course Policies 2025–2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf.

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this

course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

GBSV Support:

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference

database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.