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Social Work Interest Survey Report: A Survey of Psychology  
and Sociology Students at Angelo State University

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## Social Work Interest Survey Report

The purpose of the social work interest survey at Angelo State University, Department of Psychology and Sociology, was to determine the amount of interest in baccalaureate level social work among students in efforts to establish student desire for a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree. A second goal was to determine how many students would be potential social work majors if a BSW degree is offered at Angelo State University. Ultimately, this is an important aspect of the proposal process for a new degree, specifically the BSW degree at Angelo State University. In fact, such data is required by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB; Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 5, Subchapter C, Rule §5.4, 2005) when a new degree is proposed. Additionally, this data is paramount in the accreditation of a new BSW degree by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE; Council on Social Work Education, 2003).

### *Survey Development*

After discussion among several faculty in social work ( $n = 2$ ), sociology ( $n = 1$ ), and psychology ( $n = 1$ ) within the department, and considering the amount of time that is estimated to establish a BSW degree at Angelo State University, it was decided to survey students within the Department of Psychology and Sociology, specifically in introductory level classes. Consequently, all students enrolled in face-to-face sections of Psychology of Adjustment (PSY 1301), General Psychology (PSY 2301), Social Problems (SOC 1301), Introduction to Sociology (SOC 2301), and Introduction to Social Work (SOC 2307) were surveyed; this resulted in 20 total sections. Students who take these courses represent psychology and sociology majors within the department, and they also

represent students who are enrolled in these courses to meet their social science general education requirements in other majors. Our above defined population resulted in a possible 724 participants.

Once the initial survey was drafted, it was reviewed by the team of faculty described above and appropriate modifications were made to ensure quality of the survey and its face validity. The survey included nine closed ended items that were designed to tap student interests in and desire for a BSW degree program at Angelo State University. Three of the survey items asked demographic questions; for example, student classification, current major, and current minor field of study. One item asked the participants if they had, plan to, or do not plan to review the social work minor website. The remainder of the five items more directly tapped student interest in a BSW degree program at Angelo State University. For these five Likert type items, respondents were asked to select from “strongly agree,” “agree,” “disagree,” “strongly disagree,” or “undecided”. The fifth selection for one of the items was “undecided/don’t care” (see appendix A).

### *Methods*

The instructors of the identified course sections were given the survey; a sheet that defined social work practice, baccalaureate social work, the need for a license to practice social work, and the requirement for a CSWE accredited BSW degree to be eligible to sit for the basic level social work exam to become a Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker (LBSW) in Texas (see appendix B); and they were instructed on how to administer the survey. Specifically, they were instructed to tell the students that the survey was voluntary. It was left to the instructors’ discretion to offer “extra credit” for

completing the survey. Additionally, they were instructed to pass out the surveys, the definitions sheets, and allow the students enough time to read through the material and complete the survey. It was specifically stated that no names should be placed on the surveys.

### *Data Analysis*

*Frequencies.* The above described efforts produced a 70.7% ( $n = 512$ ) return rate. All of these surveys were used in the data analyses. Of the students who responded, 54.1% ( $n = 227$ ) reported to be freshman, 24.4% ( $n = 125$ ) reported to be sophomores, 13.9% ( $n = 71$ ) reported to be juniors, and 7.6% ( $n = 39$ ) reported to be seniors (see table 1).

Table 1

		<b>Student Classification</b>			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Freshman	277	54.1	54.1	54.1
	Sophomore	125	24.4	24.4	78.5
	Junior	71	13.9	13.9	92.4
	Senior	39	7.6	7.6	100.0
	Total	512	100.0	100.0	

Concerning the self-reported major of the student respondents, 12.1% ( $n = 62$ ) indicated a major in psychology, 2.7% ( $n = 14$ ) indicated a major in sociology, 67.8% ( $n = 347$ ) indicated a major in a field other than psychology or sociology, and 17.2% ( $n = 88$ ) indicated that they were undecided or had not yet declared a major (see table 2).

Table 2

Current Student Major					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Undecided/Undeclared	88	17.2	17.2	17.2
	Psychology	62	12.1	12.1	29.3
	Sociology	14	2.7	2.7	32.0
	Other	347	67.8	67.8	99.8
	No Response	1	.2	.2	100.0
	Total	512	100.0	100.0	

Concerning the self-reported minor of the student respondents, 9.2% ( $n = 47$ ) indicated a minor in psychology, 4.7% ( $n = 24$ ) indicated a minor in sociology, 52.1% ( $n = 267$ ) indicated a minor in a field other than psychology or sociology, and 34.0% ( $n = 174$ ) indicated that they were undecided or had not yet declared a minor (see table 3).

Table 3

Current Student Minor					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Undecided/Undeclared	174	34.0	34.0	34.0
	Psychology	47	9.2	9.2	43.2
	Sociology	24	4.7	4.7	47.9
	Other	267	52.1	52.1	100.0
	Total	512	100.0	100.0	

As a general indicator of student interest in social work, it was decided to determine if students would like Angelo State University to offer the BSW degree, and if they would consider taking social work courses to augment their current degree program. Concerning the item stating, "I would like ASU to offer a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree," 19.7% ( $n = 101$ ) "strongly agreed," 45.3% ( $n = 232$ ) "agreed," 2.1% ( $n = 11$ ) "disagreed," 0.8% ( $n = 4$ ) "strongly disagreed," and 32.0% ( $n = 164$ ) indicated that they were "undecided" or did not care if the BSW degree was offered. Cumulatively, the data indicated that 65.0% ( $n = 333$ ) of the students who responded had a positive

response to the item while only 2.9% ( $n = 15$ ) of the students who responded had a negative response to the item (see table 4).

Table 4

<b>I Would Like ASU to Offer a BSW Degree</b>					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	101	19.7	19.7	19.7
	Agree	232	45.3	45.3	65.0
	Disagree	11	2.1	2.1	67.2
	Strongly Disagree	4	.8	.8	68.0
	Undecided/Don't Care	164	32.0	32.0	100.0
	Total	512	100.0	100.0	

Concerning the item stating, “I would consider taking courses in social work,” 16.2% ( $n = 83$ ) “strongly agreed,” 37.7% ( $n = 193$ ) “agreed,” 16.0% ( $n = 82$ ) “disagreed,” 3.7% ( $n = 19$ ) “strongly disagreed,” and 26.4% ( $n = 135$ ) indicated that they were “undecided” about their consideration of taking social work courses to augment their current degree program. Cumulatively, the data indicated that 53.9% ( $n = 276$ ) of the students who responded had a positive response to the item while only 19.7% ( $n = 101$ ) of the students who responded had a negative response to the item (see table 5).

Table 5

<b>I Would Consider Taking Courses in SWK</b>					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	83	16.2	16.2	16.2
	Agree	193	37.7	37.7	53.9
	Disagree	82	16.0	16.0	69.9
	Strongly Disagree	19	3.7	3.7	73.6
	Undecided	135	26.4	26.4	100.0
	Total	512	100.0	100.0	

*Crosstabs.* Crosstabs were used to examine the relationship between students’ classification at Angelo State University and their willingness to consider social work as a major. This is important for two reasons. First, if the proposal of the BSW at Angelo

State University goes well and the degree is established by the target date (Fall 2008), current Freshmen and Sophomores who indicated that they would consider social work as a major are potential majors in the program. Additionally, it was thought that it would be important to know how many students would change their currently declared major as opposed to selecting social work as their initial choice of major. Two statements were presented to the respondents in an effort to tap this information. One statement was for students who had not yet declared a major; "I would consider selecting social work as my major if Angelo State University offered a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree". The second statement was for students that already had a declared major, "I would consider changing my major to social work if Angelo State University offered the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree". The respondents were asked to select from "strongly agree," "agree," "disagree," "strongly disagree," or "undecided" for each of these two questions.

Out of the 512 responses to the item "I would consider selecting social work as my major if Angelo State University offered a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree," all cases were valid and no cases were missing for this analysis. Of the 512 total respondents, 82.4% ( $n = 422$ ) reported that they had already declared a major in another field. The following statistics do not consider these 422 respondents; consequently, 90 respondents were included in this analysis. Of the 90 respondents who reported to be Freshmen and who had not yet declared a major, 8.6% ( $n = 6$ ) reported that they strongly agreed to the statement "I would consider selecting social work as my major if Angelo State University offered a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree," 31.4% ( $n = 22$ ) agreed, 17.1% ( $n = 12$ ) disagreed, 2.9% ( $n = 2$ ) strongly disagreed, and 40.0% ( $n = 28$ )

reported to be undecided. Of the 20 respondents who reported to be Sophomores and who had not yet declared a major, 15.0% ( $n = 3$ ) reported that they strongly agreed to the statement “I would consider selecting social work as my major if Angelo State University offered a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree,” 35.0% ( $n = 7$ ) agreed, 20.0% ( $n = 4$ ) disagreed, 10.0% ( $n = 2$ ) strongly disagreed, and 20.0% ( $n = 4$ ) reported to be undecided. All Juniors and Seniors reported to have already declared a major. For all student classifications, 42.2% ( $n = 38$ ) reported that they strongly agreed or agreed that they would consider selecting social work as their major if Angelo State University offered a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree, while only 22.2% ( $n = 20$ ) reported that they disagreed or strongly disagreed that they would consider selecting social work as their major if Angelo State University offered a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree (see table 6).

Table 6

**Student Classification \* I Would Consider Selecting SWK as My Major if Offered at ASU Crosstabulation**

		I Would Consider Selecting SWK as My Major if Offered at ASU						Already Declared a Major in Another Field	Total
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Undecided			
Student Classification	Freshman	Count	6	22	12	2	28	207	277
		% within Student Classification	2.2%	7.9%	4.3%	.7%	10.1%	74.7%	100.0%
		% of Total	1.2%	4.3%	2.3%	.4%	5.5%	40.4%	54.1%
	Sophomore	Count	3	7	4	2	4	105	125
		% within Student Classification	2.4%	5.6%	3.2%	1.6%	3.2%	84.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	.6%	1.4%	.8%	.4%	.8%	20.5%	24.4%
	Junior	Count	0	0	0	0	0	71	71
		% within Student Classification	.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%	100.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%	13.9%	13.9%
Senior	Count	0	0	0	0	0	39	39	
	% within Student Classification	.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
	% of Total	.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%	7.6%	7.6%	
Total	Count	9	29	16	4	32	422	512	
	% within Student Classification	1.8%	5.7%	3.1%	.8%	6.3%	82.4%	100.0%	
	% of Total	1.8%	5.7%	3.1%	.8%	6.3%	82.4%	100.0%	

Out of the 512 responses to the item “I would consider changing my major to social work if Angelo State University offered the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree,” all cases were valid and no cases were missing for this analysis. Note that of the 512 total respondents, 17.6% ( $n = 90$ ) reported that they had not yet declared a major. The following statistics do not consider these 90 respondents; consequently, 422 respondents were included in this analysis. Of the 207 respondents who reported to be Freshmen and who had already declared a major, 3.4% ( $n = 7$ ) reported that they strongly agreed to the statement “I would consider changing my major to social work if Angelo State University offered a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree,” 15.9% ( $n = 33$ ) agreed, 38.2% ( $n = 79$ ) disagreed, 21.3% ( $n = 44$ ) strongly disagreed, and 21.3% ( $n = 44$ ) reported to be undecided. Of the 105 respondents who reported to be Sophomores and who had already declared a major, 8.6% ( $n = 9$ ) reported that they strongly agreed to the statement “I would consider changing my major to social work if Angelo State University offered a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree,” 15.2% ( $n = 16$ ) agreed, 36.2% ( $n = 38$ ) disagreed, 30.5% ( $n = 32$ ) strongly disagreed, and 9.5% ( $n = 10$ ) reported to be undecided. Of the 71 respondents who reported to be Juniors and who had already declared a major, 9.9% ( $n = 7$ ) reported that they strongly agreed to the statement “I would consider changing my major to social work if Angelo State University offered a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree,” 11.3% ( $n = 8$ ) agreed, 40.8% ( $n = 29$ ) disagreed, 31.0% ( $n = 22$ ) strongly disagreed, and 7.0% ( $n = 5$ ) reported to be undecided. Of the 39 respondents who reported to be Seniors and who had already declared a major, 5.1% ( $n = 2$ ) reported that they strongly agreed to the statement “I would consider changing my major to social work if Angelo State University offered a Bachelor of Social

Work (BSW) degree,” 7.7% ( $n = 3$ ) agreed, 41.0% ( $n = 16$ ) disagreed, 35.9% ( $n = 14$ ) strongly disagreed, and 10.3% ( $n = 4$ ) reported to be undecided. For all student classifications, 20.1% ( $n = 85$ ) reported that they strongly agreed or agreed that they would consider changing their major to social work if Angelo State University offered a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree, and 64.9% ( $n = 274$ ) reported that they disagreed or strongly disagreed that they would consider selecting social work as my major if Angelo State University offered a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree (see table 7).

Table 7

**Student Classification \* I Would Consider Changing My Major to SWK if Offered at ASU Crosstabulation**

		I Would Consider Changing My Major to SWK if Offered at ASU							
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Undecided	Not Decided or Have Not Declared a Major	Total	
Student Classification	Freshman	Count	7	33	79	44	44	70	277
		% within Student Classification	2.5%	11.9%	28.5%	15.9%	15.9%	25.3%	100.0%
		% of Total	1.4%	6.4%	15.4%	8.6%	8.6%	13.7%	54.1%
Sophomore		Count	9	16	38	32	10	20	125
		% within Student Classification	7.2%	12.8%	30.4%	25.6%	8.0%	16.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	1.8%	3.1%	7.4%	6.3%	2.0%	3.9%	24.4%
Junior		Count	7	8	29	22	5	0	71
		% within Student Classification	9.9%	11.3%	40.8%	31.0%	7.0%	.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	1.4%	1.6%	5.7%	4.3%	1.0%	.0%	13.9%
Senior		Count	2	3	16	14	4	0	39
		% within Student Classification	5.1%	7.7%	41.0%	35.9%	10.3%	.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	.4%	.6%	3.1%	2.7%	.8%	.0%	7.6%
Total		Count	25	60	162	112	63	90	512
		% within Student Classification	4.9%	11.7%	31.6%	21.9%	12.3%	17.6%	100.0%
		% of Total	4.9%	11.7%	31.6%	21.9%	12.3%	17.6%	100.0%

*Discussion*

The first goal of the survey was to determine student interest in a BSW degree program at Angelo State University. A possible way to determine student interest is to ask students if they would like their university to offer a BSW degree, and if they would

consider taking courses in social work. Of the 512 total respondents, 65.0% ( $n = 333$ ) responded affirmatively that they would like Angelo State University to offer the BSW degree, and 53.9% ( $n = 276$ ) responded affirmatively that they would consider taking social work courses. These data seem consistent with the frequency of student requests for a degree offering in social work at Angelo State University that occurs quite often per faculty report.

The second goal of the survey was to determine how many potential majors a BSW degree program would generate at Angelo State University. A possible way to determine this is to ask students if they would either consider selecting social work as their major, or change their major to social work if the BSW degree was offered at Angelo State University. Of 90 responses from students without a declared major, 42.2% ( $n = 38$ ) responded affirmatively that they would consider selecting social work as their major if Angelo State University offered a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree. Additionally, of 422 responses from student who reported to have a declared major, 20.1% ( $n = 85$ ) responded affirmatively that they would consider changing their major to social work if Angelo State University offered a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree. If these reports are taken collectively, a new BSW program at Angelo State University could have 123 potential new majors with 38 of these potential majors being students who would initially select social work as their major. This is a significant number of potential majors given that, under CSWE requirements and with the current faculty staffing in the Department, a new BSW program would be capped at 50 majors. This is because the CSWE requires a faculty to student ratio of 1:25 for BSW programs (CSWE, 2003).

If one considers the reported interests of students and the number of potential majors in a BSW degree program at Angelo State University, there seems to be adequate evidence of a need for such a program at Angelo State University. However, while it is believed that these data are accurate, one must be mindful of the fact that students may not follow through with declaring social work as their major if that opportunity arises. Additionally, these data only reflect the attitudes of students enrolled in introductory level psychology and sociology courses. Nevertheless, given the optimistic job market data in the nation, state, and local region for the social work profession, a social work degree program promises to be well received by the students at Angelo State University.

Appendix A

Social Work Interest Survey

## Social Work Interest Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine the level of interest in a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree offering at Angelo State University. This information is necessary to decide if a BSW program is needed at Angelo State University, and to estimate the number of potential majors if a BSW degree is authorized at Angelo State University. Your complete and honest responses are appreciated and strongly encouraged. Thank you for taking your time to complete this survey concerning your interests in social work at Angelo State University.

**Please CLEARLY circle your desired response to each question.**

1. What is your student classification at Angelo State University from the following choices?

- [1] *Freshman*
- [2] *Sophomore*
- [3] *Junior*
- [4] *Senior*

2. I would like for Angelo State University to offer a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree.

- [1] *Strongly Agree*
- [2] *Agree*
- [3] *Disagree*
- [4] *Strongly Disagree*
- [5] *Undecided/Don't Care*

3. I would consider taking courses in social work to complement my current major.

- [1] *Strongly Agree*
- [2] *Agree*
- [3] *Disagree*
- [4] *Strongly Disagree*
- [5] *Undecided*

**PLEASE TURN OVER THIS PAGE AND CONTINUE THE SURVEY**

4. What is your current major at Angelo State University?

- [1] *Undecided/Undeclared* (Please answer item 4a.)
- [2] *Psychology* (Please answer item 4b.)
- [3] *Sociology* (Please answer item 4b.)
- [4] *Other* (Please answer item 4b.)

**4a.** I would consider selecting social work as my major If Angelo State University offered a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree.

- [1] *Strongly Agree*
- [2] *Agree*
- [3] *Disagree*
- [4] *Strongly Disagree*
- [5] *Undecided*

**4b.** I would consider changing my major to social work if Angelo State University offered a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree.

- [1] *Strongly Agree*
- [2] *Agree*
- [3] *Disagree*
- [4] *Strongly Disagree*
- [5] *Undecided*

5. What is your current minor at Angelo State University?

- [1] *Undecided/Undeclared* (Please answer question 5a.)
- [2] *Psychology*
- [3] *Sociology*
- [4] *Other*

**5a.** I would consider a minor in social work to complement my current major.

- [1] *Strongly Agree*
- [2] *Agree*
- [3] *Disagree*
- [4] *Strongly Disagree*
- [5] *Undecided*

6. The Department of Psychology and Sociology at Angelo State University has a website for its proposed minor in social work located at

[http://www.angelo.edu/dept/psychology\\_sociology/Social%20Work%20Minor.htm](http://www.angelo.edu/dept/psychology_sociology/Social%20Work%20Minor.htm);

[1] *I have reviewed the website.*

[2] *I plan to review the website.*

[3] *I have not reviewed and do not plan to review the website.*

**THANK YOU AGAIN FOR TAKING YOUR TIME TO COMPLETE THIS  
SURVEY.**

Appendix B

A General Definition of Social Work Practice

### **A General Definition of Social Work Practice**

**“Social work practice** - Services and actions performed as an employee, independent practitioner, consultant, or volunteer for compensation or pro bono to effect changes in human behavior, a person's emotional responses, interpersonal relationships, and the social conditions of individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. For the purpose of this definition, the practice of social work is guided by special knowledge, acquired through formal social work education development and behavior within the context of the social environment, and methods to enhance the functioning of individuals, families, groups, communities, and social welfare organizations. Social work practice involves the disciplined application of social work values, principles, and methods, including psychotherapy, marriage and family therapy, couples therapy, group therapy, case management, supervision of social work services, counseling, assessment, and evaluation. Social work practice may also be referred to as social work services, of social welfare policies and services, social welfare systems and resources, human services” (Texas Administrative Code, Title 22, Part 34, Chapter 781, Subchapter A, Rule 781.102, 2006).

### **The Definition of Baccalaureate Social Work Practice**

**“Practice of Baccalaureate Social Work** - is the application of social work theory, knowledge, methods, ethics and the professional use of self to restore or enhance social, psychosocial, or biopsychosocial functioning of individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations and communities. Baccalaureate Social Work is basic generalist practice that includes interviewing, assessment, planning, intervention, evaluation, case management, information and referral, problem solving, supervision, consultation, education, advocacy, community organization, and the development, implementation, and administration of policies, programs and activities” (Texas Administrative Code, Title 22, Part 34, Chapter 781, Subchapter D, Rule 781.402, 2005).

### **A License is Required to Practice Social Work**

“The [Social Work Practice] Act restricts the use of the titles "social worker," "licensed master social worker," "licensed social worker," "licensed baccalaureate social worker," "licensed clinical social worker" or "social work associate" or any other title that implies licensure or certification in professional social work services” (Texas Administrative Code, Title 22, Part 34, Chapter 781, Subchapter A, Rule 781.101, 2005).

To Practice Baccalaureate Social Work, a baccalaureate degree in social work from a CSWE accredited social work program is required as well as a passing score on the basic exam administered nationally by ASWB (Texas Administrative Code, Title 22, Part 34, Chapter 781, Subchapter C, Rule 781.301, 2005).

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## Author Biographical Information

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