

**STATE UNIVERSITIES OF FLORIDA**  
**Limited Access Program Request**  
**Reference: 6C-6.001 Admissions, FAC**

**University:** Florida International University  
**Degree(s) offered:** Bachelor of Science in Social Work (BSSW)  
**Program:** BSSW Program, School of Social Work  
**Six digit CIP code:** 44.0701

**1. Will the entire program be limited access or only a specific track?**

The entire program; there are no tracks.

**2. If only a track is limited access, please specify the name of the track**

N/A

**3. How many students will the program plan to accommodate?**

Approximately 250 students.

**4. When do you propose to initiate limited access?**

Immediately upon approval by the Board of Governors.

**5. What is the justification for limiting access?**

The BSSW is a professional degree, which prepares graduates for generalist practice as a professional social worker. The social work profession requires practitioners with a high degree of knowledge, skill and dedication. The professional foundation courses, taught in the junior and senior years, are based upon a liberal arts base (successful completion of the CLAS and completion of the University Core Curriculum or graduation from a Florida Community College with an AA degree) with common prerequisites, including courses in American Government, Biology with content on humans, Economics, Psychology, Sociology, and Statistics. To succeed in the professional foundation courses and in professional practice after graduation, students must master the liberal arts base at a higher than minimum standard.

Limiting access is not unusual for baccalaureate programs in social work. In the Florida State University System, the undergraduate Social Work programs at the University of Central Florida and the University of South Florida were approved as limited access programs by the Board of Governors on April 21, 2009. Florida Gulf Coast University is in the process of proposing limited access status for its BSW Program. In the Miami area, two private universities have accredited BSW Programs. Both appear to limit access to the major. Barry University requires that transfer students have a 2.7 GPA to be admitted to the undergraduate social work program. Florida Memorial University requires that students have completed 45 semester hours with a GPA of 2.5 or higher.

**6. By what means will access be limited? Please provide a description of the program's admissions requirements and procedures, and indicate how these requirements and**

**procedures ensure equal access for Florida community college Associate of Arts degree graduates in the competition for available space in the program.**

To qualify for admission to the program, FIU undergraduates must have completed 60 semester hours of academic work, meet all lower division requirements, and have a minimum GPA of 2.5. Associate of Arts graduates from Florida community colleges are deemed to have met the University Core Curriculum requirements.

**7. Present the current race and gender profiles of the students in the program. Discuss the impact of the proposed action on the race and gender profiles. Cite sources used for discussion. What strategies, should they be necessary, will be used to promote diversity in the program?**

During the Fall 2009 semester, 87% of students in the BSSW Program were female and 13% were male. Nearly half (47%) of the students in the program were Hispanic, 35% were African American or other Black, and 13% were white. There were very small numbers of American Indian (1%) and Asian (3%) students in the program. Florida International University is a minority-serving institution, and the majority of the students in the BSSW Program are Hispanic or Black. We do not expect these profiles to change.

The program targets Hispanic and Black students in its recruitment at area community colleges. In addition, the School has been sponsoring special events, such as a Social Work Roundtable on Haiti, relevant to a diverse student population, and has made efforts to reach out to Hispanic and Black students on campus. One undergraduate social work course, SOW 3620, Social Work and Human Diversity, is listed with the FIU Latin American and Caribbean Center as a course with 25% or more content on Latin America and the Caribbean. We plan to continue to present special roundtables aimed at issues that are relevant to our diverse student body in order to promote a sense of community within the School; these events should have the effect of promoting diversity.


**8. Are the graduates of the program in high demand? If so, and if the program is to be limited due to lack of adequate resources, provide a justification for limiting access to the program rather than reallocating resources from programs with a low marked demand.**

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment for social workers is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through 2018" with employment for social workers in mental health, substance abuse, health care, and public health expected to grow much faster than average. "Job prospects are expected to be favorable, particularly for social workers who specialize in the aging population or work in rural areas" (Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, 2010-11 edition, available: <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos060.htm>). The proposed limited access to the BSSW Program is based upon the demands of the professional practice portion of the program (limited number of field practicum placements for students) and data that indicate that students entering the BSSW program with a 2.5 GPA or higher are more likely to successfully complete the Social Work curriculum and secure employment as beginning professional social workers.

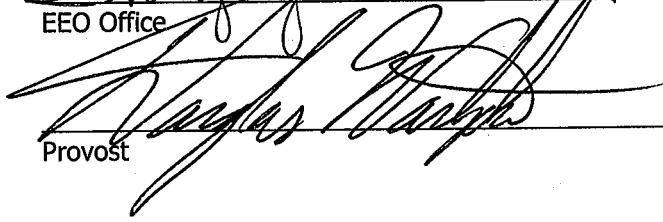
Request Initiated by:

  
Vice Provost

EEO Officer's Signature:

  
EEO Office

Provost Signature:

  
Provost

Send the completed form to: Dr. Dorothy J. Minear  
Interim Vice Chancellor, Strategic Initiatives  
Board of Governors  
State University System of Florida  
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1614  
Tallahassee, Florida 31399-1950

Limited Access Form Update 4/08

**Appendix A: Ethnic Breakdown, BSSW Program, Florida International University, Fall 2009**

	Black	American Indian	Pacific Islander	Hispanic	White	Asian	Race Unknown	Female	Male	Total
<b>Female</b>	63	2		98	21	6	3	193		193
<b>Male</b>	14			7	7	1			29	29
<b>Total</b>	77	2		105	28	7	3	193	29	222

**Source:** Office of Planning and Institutional Research, Florida International University