



## **Certificate in Christian Social Service Work**

### **Overview**

Social workers are trained professionals who help individuals and families meet their personal and social needs. The Christian Social Service Work Certificate program at Regional Christian University offers a broad base of classroom instruction and field experiences to prepare students to make a positive and lasting impact in people's lives. Courses cover multiple social perspectives with a focus on the most vulnerable populations, addressing needs and offering solutions from a faith-based point of view.

The Certificate in Christian Social Service Work is designed to prepare students for entry into the social service profession. The Certificate in Christian Social Service Work provides a pathway to have a Degree Minor in one of our bachelor's degrees. Credits earned will be applied toward any Associate or Bachelor's degree. Students are strongly encouraged to explore this option a month before finishing the certificate.

The Curriculum for Christian Social Service Work consists of 18 semester credit hours that are included in a larger program.

### **Program Learning Outcomes**

Students who earn the Certificate in Christian Social Service Work will:

- Be prepared to intelligently discuss the relationship of social evil to the problem of sin, and have a clear understanding of the hope brought by the redemptive work of Christ.
- Be equipped with an introductory knowledge of Social Service Work, concepts, and techniques for applying critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.
- Recognize, understand, and apply the social work's goal of advancing human rights and social and economic justice, as well as the core values of social work as stated in the Code of Ethics.
- Students will explain how they can integrate the Gospel concepts into aspects of one's own life to build equitable and sustainable change in the world.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this certificate, students should be able to:

- Discuss the historical roots and current development of social work theory and practice.
- Explain the wide variety of social work professional practice settings and social concerns such as poverty, mental health, and crime.



- Demonstrate an increased awareness of the dynamics of human suffering.
- Demonstrate increased understanding of the needs of the human experience in a social/cultural context.
- Demonstrate awareness and increased sensitivity for complex social issues.
- Understand, interpret, and apply results of research, needs assessment, and program evaluation studies to his/her professional pursuits.
- Be a biblically equipped advisor to work to address biases, prejudices, and discriminatory practices.
- Recognize sociopolitical contexts in conducting evaluation and providing interventions.

### Program Structure

This Certificate in Christian Social Service Work is 18 credit hours. Students must complete the specified courses to earn the Christian Social Service Work. Work may be completed in any order. Course substitutions for certificate programs must be approved by the student's academic advisor and the registrar.

All certificate programs include practicum hours (20) in the educational institutions associated with RCU before graduation.

Course ID	Course Name	Credits
SOC2103	Contemporary Social Problems	3
SOC2203	Introduction to Social Work	3
BIB1113	The Gospel of John	3
SOC3203	Anthropology	3
GOVT2113	Texas State and Local Government	3
SOC3213	Social Welfare: Legislation, Programs, and Services	3



## Course Descriptions

### BIB1113 The Gospel of John

This course will deepen your understanding of John's Gospel and strengthen your relationship with its subject—Jesus Christ.

### SOC2103 Contemporary Social Problems

In this course, we will investigate how social conditions come to be defined as social problems. This course will be divided into two sections. The first section will be an overview of how sociologists have approached the study of social problems including theoretical perspectives (symbolic interactionist, conflict, structural-functionalist, and constructionist perspectives). In this section, we will also examine the roles of policymakers, social advocates, and the media in the process of defining social problems. In the second section of the course, we will use the perspectives and conceptual tools from the first part to analyze contemporary social problems including bullying, violence among young people, and the effects of the media on children and teenagers. As a class, we will also examine the debates surrounding several social problems (such as what to do about bullying) to understand how interested parties can define a similar situation as problematic, but for very different reasons and in doing so suggest very different solutions.

### SOC2203 Introduction to Social Work

Students will gain a historical and practical overview of the social work profession, which includes practice theory. You will learn how social workers engage in generalist practice and how it is applied with individuals, groups, and communities. You will hear from social workers who practice in a variety of settings, such as the juvenile justice system, hospitals, and government and private agencies. This course integrates knowledge of social work practice, values, ethics, social welfare policy, and social justice issues. Students will explore current topics and career opportunities in social work.

### GOVT2113 Texas State and Local Government

This course is an introduction to state and local government. The course includes an introduction to a framework for understanding TX government and politics, the constitutional basis for TX government and politics, and the processes, institutions, and policies of TX government and politics.

### SOC3213 Social Welfare: Legislation, Programs, and Services

This course offers a historical and contemporary examination of legislation and resulting programs, policies, and services in the context of the social welfare system in the United States.

Special attention is given to the political, economic, environmental, and social conditions that prompted the development of legislation to meet the needs of vulnerable populations. Societal responses to legislation are also considered. This course is primarily designed to challenge students to become better critical thinkers so that they can identify strengths and weaknesses in the current U.S. social welfare system, hence, encouraging students to envision and work towards creating a more effective social welfare system in the U.S.A.



SOC3203 Anthropology

A study of humankind, culture and cultural peculiarities, and how the Gospel can be presented in the cultural setting.