Policies Concerning Transfer of Credits

The Avila BSW program will accept social work courses transferred from another BSW program accredited by CSWE, only if they are deemed equivalent to the Avila Social Work major required courses and are below 352 level. This determination will be made by the Chair of the Social Work department in consultation with other full-time social work faculty. The transferring Institution’s Course Descriptions and/or Course Syllabi may be requested from the student in order to evaluate equivalency. If equivalency is validated, a student must have received a grade of “C” or better in the course, as well. Due to the concurrent nature of the field instruction process and advanced foundation course work, upper level Social Work courses (above 352) and SW 495, SW 496, SW 497 and SW 498 will not be considered for transfer. After transferring to Avila, the social work student must successfully complete their final thirty (30) hours of course work at the University, and at least twelve (12) of those hours must be in upper level social work courses.

Students transferring from another CSWE accredited social work program must submit an Admission Application at least one semester prior to transferring. This will include a Personal Statement, Field Worksheet, current GPA (verified), self-assessment inventory, and at least one letter of professional reference from a social work educator or practitioner familiar with the student. The Admission Packet will be reviewed by social work faculty to determine the student’s attainment of the Admission criteria and their overall demonstrated readiness to enter Field Experience I in the next fall semester. Application Packet materials are available by request by contacting the department office 816.501.3641.

Life Credit

In compliance with the Council on Social Work Education guidelines, the Avila BSW Program does not grant academic credit for life experience or previous work experience or allow such experience to substitute for any of the courses in the Social Work curriculum. Students are informed of this policy through the BSW Program Student Handbook (p.46), on the Social Work Program website, through the University Course Catalog (p.120), which they are required to review prior to admission, and clarified during advising. While the Avila University policy on prior or experiential learning allows for academic credit for life experience or previous work experience, the final decision on prior learning credit is left up to the individual program or department.

The Avila BSW Program faculty has reviewed the social work and social welfare courses offered at several local community colleges. These courses are taught by MSW instructors known to the Avila BSW Program faculty and contain content equivalent to Avila’s Social Problems/Social Change and Introduction to Social Welfare courses. Therefore, the Avila BSW program will accept the specified courses from local community colleges in place of the Avila BSW Program’s Social Problems/Social Change or Introduction to Social Welfare courses, provided students have obtained a C or better in the course.

Human service courses from other community colleges will be reviewed by the faculty for content and instructor qualifications on a case by case basis.

Procedures Concerning Transfer of Credits

Any student transferring to Avila University has his/her transcript reviewed by an evaluator in the Office of Registration and Student Records at the time of formal application to the University. Social Work Faculty will be consulted about social work course equivalencies. Faculty may request copies of the course syllabi and instructor qualifications if there is a question on any course. Once the transcript evaluation process is completed, there are three signed copies of the transcript evaluation. One is kept in the Registration and Student Records office; a second is kept in the advisor’s file and
a third is sent to the student. Students can request the University and Avila BSW program to review any course, if he/she feels an error has been made and the course meets the content criteria. While the social work faculty is willing to reassess any course once to prevent the possibility of error, when a final decision is reached it is not subject to appeal.