



ARRUPE JESUIT UNIVERSITY

School of Education and Leadership — Department of Short Courses

Certificate in Social Work

Build the knowledge, skills and confidence to support individuals, families and communities through life's hardest moments.



A one-year foundational programme for community caregivers, faith-based and pastoral workers, corporate social responsibility practitioners, and anyone ready to serve vulnerable populations with skill and compassion.

Why Join Us

The world is grappling with a wide range of social challenges — increasing poverty and inequality, growing numbers of orphaned, abused and neglected children, and rising concerns around mental health, spiritual wellbeing and substance abuse. Global emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, food insecurity and civil unrest have deepened these vulnerabilities at every level of society.

Communities need skilled, compassionate people ready to respond. This is where you come in.

The Certificate in Social Work is a one-year generic programme that equips you with an introductory social work knowledge base — whether you are stepping into the profession for the first time, already working in a social work-related setting and want to formalise your skills, or simply feel called to serve vulnerable populations with greater competence and confidence.

Who Should Apply

- Individuals working in children's homes, old people's homes, or as caregivers and community development activists
- Faith-based leaders, pastoral workers and philanthropy professionals
- Corporate social responsibility practitioners
- Anyone seeking a foundational understanding of social work for self-enrichment or career advancement



Social work meets people where they live: in the family, at work, in community and across society.

What You Will Gain

Programme Objectives

- Explore your own values, identities and ideological perspectives, and understand how these shape social work practice
- Build a strong appreciation of social work methods and their practical utility
- Apply what you learn to real situations that strengthen the resilience of vulnerable populations

- Develop practical skills and competencies through mentored practicums with a variety of vulnerable groups

Expected Outcomes

Graduates of the Certificate in Social Work will leave with a foundation in social work principles, methods and their application — and with the communication skills to engage confidently with individuals, families, groups and communities seeking support.



Social work in practice: helping people adjust, connect, mobilise their own strengths, and move forward.

Full Programme Syllabus

The Certificate in Social Work comprises six courses. Each course carries 8 units and a study load of 160 hours.

CSW 001 · Introduction to Social Work, Social Welfare, Social Policy and Administration

A foundational, critical overview of the history, methods, purpose, values, principles and ethics of the social work discipline — alongside key concepts in social welfare, poverty, social security and policy, and the effects of social policy on marginalised and vulnerable populations.



Content:

1. Defining social work as a professional discipline
2. Historical development of social work
3. Purpose, values, ethics and practice principles of social work
4. Social work methods — the role of social work in various settings
5. Definition and conceptualisation of social welfare, its goals and models

6. Conceptualisation of poverty: causes, manifestations and strategies to ameliorate it
7. Definition of social policy and administration; the social policy formulation process
8. Determinants of social policy, challenges of implementation and impact on vulnerable populations

CSW 002 · Social Work with Individuals / Casework

Prepares students for generalist social work practice with individuals, building an appreciation of the concepts underpinning casework and introducing the casework process, interviewing and assessment with different clients.

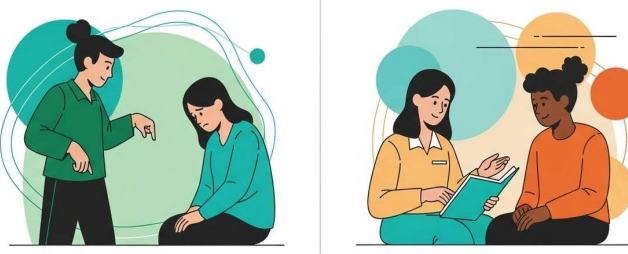


Content:

1. Introduction to casework
2. Components of social casework
3. Interview and assessments in casework
4. Counselling in casework
5. Working with difficult clients
6. Casework approaches
7. Models of casework
8. Self-care

CSW 003 · Social Work with Groups

Examines the concepts and functions of social group work, exploring group dynamics, the phases of group development, and the role and relevance of the social group worker in diverse practice contexts.



Content:

1. Introduction to social group work
2. Models and stages of group development
3. Group dynamics and communication
4. Leadership and decision making in groups

5. Recording and evaluation in social group work
6. Conflict
7. Role of the social group worker
8. Critique of group work practice in the Global South

CSW 004 · Introduction to Social Work with Communities & Advocacy

Builds awareness of social injustices in the community, introduces information-collection techniques, and develops skills in advocacy, community engagement and organising — enabling students to critically address oppression, exclusion and marginalisation.



Content:

1. Introduction and overview of community work and advocacy
2. Historical background
3. Theoretical frameworks
4. Models and strategies of community work
5. Social institutions
6. Indigenous knowledge systems in community work practice
7. Gender mainstreaming
8. Advocacy and lobbying in community work practice

CSW 005 · Social Research, Monitoring and Evaluation

Introduces basic social work research and the importance of evidence-based interventions, using both quantitative and qualitative methods, alongside the fundamentals of monitoring, evaluation and data analysis.



Content:

1. Introduction to basic terms and concepts
2. Introduction to quantitative and qualitative research methods
3. Sampling techniques
4. Methods and tools for collecting data from communities and clients
5. Data analysis and report writing
6. Research ethics
7. Introduction and overview of monitoring and evaluation
8. Monitoring and evaluation tools and techniques

CSW 006 · Social Work with Children and Families

Introduces child development, parenting practices, family systems and common practice settings for social workers, along with public/statutory child welfare and protection systems, relevant legislative frameworks, and case management for children's services.



Content:

1. Introduction and definition of key concepts
2. Child development
3. Parenting
4. International and regional child welfare and protection instruments
5. Child abuse and prevention
6. Domestic violence
7. Children with special needs

8. Children and families in emergencies