

Nipissing University offers a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program that prepares students for the practice of social work through the development of competencies in working to effect change in a variety of situations which affect individuals, families, groups, organizations or communities. Students will develop a knowledge base related to the ways in which social, cultural and institutional contexts influence human behaviour, shape social work interventions and how social structures benefit and disadvantage various segments of society. In addition to fostering intervention skills related to individuals, groups, families, communities and policies, students will develop a critical awareness of the role of social work in the development, maintenance, and resolution of social and personal troubles.

The program is grounded in principles of social justice, with a particular emphasis on the historical and contemporary position of Indigenous peoples in Canada, to foster an understanding of current challenges and opportunities. Concurrently, the program content will focus on the practice of social work in rural and Northern contexts. The curriculum will be grounded in an intersectional approach to social justice, which acknowledges the salience of diverse identities such as level of ability, race, ethnicity, age, sexuality, among others.

A 900-hour practicum will be a core foundation of the program, designed to enable the development of practice skills and the integration of theoretical knowledge with practice. This integration will be supported and reinforced through close collaboration between field instructors and classroom curriculum. Graduates of the BSW program will be self-reflexive and knowledgeable practitioners, with a solid background in the realities of northern and rural contexts.

Application Procedure

a) Applicants who ARE currently attending or have previously attended Nipissing University

Apply using the Nipissing University BSW Professional Years Application by **February 2, 2026**. The application can be found at www.nipissingu.ca/registrarforms. Click on Full-time – September start. Click on the application link that reads Bachelor of Social Work – Professional Years (3 & 4) (current or former Nipissing students). When filling out your application please ensure you list all postsecondary institutions you have attended and/or are currently attending including Nipissing University. Ensure that Nipissing is your most recent institution attended to avoid supplemental fee costs. As the professional years of the BSW program are limited enrollment, current Nipissing students should register for courses for their alternate degree choice prior to an admission decision being made for their BSW application.

b) Applicants who ARE NOT current or former Nipissing University students (Canadian citizens and permanent residents)

Apply through the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) using the Undergraduate application by **February 2, 2026**. The application can be found at www.ouac.on.ca. As the professional years of the BSW program are limited enrollment, all applicants should indicate a second Nipissing program they wish to be considered for.

c) *International Applicants who ARE NOT current or former Nipissing University students (studying in Canada on a study permit or are studying or have completed studies in another country and have no status in Canada)*

Apply using the Nipissing University International Application portal by **February 2, 2026**. The application can be found at www.nipissingu.ca/applyintl. As the professional years of the BSW program are limited enrollment, all applicants should indicate a second Nipissing program that they wish to be considered for.

Supplemental Application Instructions

Applicants to the professional years of the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program are required to submit a supplemental application. This application includes a course requirement summary form, statement of interest, analysis of a social issue, resume of volunteer, work, and educational experience, two (2) references, an optional course requirement summary form and a voluntary equity declaration form.

Applicants who have applied or who have had their application moved to the Nipissing University International Application portal should refer to the supplemental application for International Applicants for instructions. If you do not have access to this form, please email internationaladmiss@nipissingu.ca to request a copy.

Upon receipt of your application, you will receive instructions on how to access our online portal MyNipissing. It is a helpful tool to check that we have received all the required documentation for admission consideration as well as track the status of your application.

Please submit all transcripts* and supplemental documentation by **4:30 pm EST on February 9, 2026**, to:

admissions@nipissingu.ca

OR

Office of the Registrar
ATTN: BSW Admissions
Nipissing University
100 College Drive
North Bay, ON P1B 8L7

*Transcripts that are sent by email **must** be sent to us directly from the issuing institution and we must be able to verify this information for the transcript to be considered an official document.

Please do not staple or bind your supplemental application package. You may paperclip all your documents together. No folders please.

Please ensure that all documents that are being submitted clearly state your name and/or Nipissing ID or OUAC reference number. Additional references, letters or other supporting documents not requested as part of the application process should not be sent. Any additional information received will be removed and will not be reviewed.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all documents are received by the deadline. Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.

If the completion of any part of this application raises any concerns or sensitive issues for you please visit <https://www.nipissingu.ca/nulistens> or <https://www.nipissingu.ca/needhelpnow> for a list of resources and support.

Admissions

Admission to the professional years of the Bachelor of Social Work is limited and based on both academic and non-academic criteria. Admission consideration is determined on the following criteria:

1. Grades (50%)
 - Minimum 70% overall average required.
2. Statement of Interest (15%)
3. Analysis of a Social Issue (15%)
4. Volunteer and Work Experience (10%)
5. References (10%)

Admission consideration will be given to applicants who have completed or be in the position to complete 60 credits (10 full course equivalents) including SWRK-1007 (or equivalent), SWLF-1006 (or equivalent), SWRK-2006 (or equivalent) SWRK-2106 (or equivalent), and 6 credits (one full course equivalent) in Humanities by the end of **April 2026**. Students admitted to Nipissing University from May 2020 onward will be required to have a minimum 70% in each of SWRK-1007 (or equivalent), SWLF-1006 (or equivalent), SWRK-2006 (or equivalent) and SWRK-2106 (or equivalent). Transcripts submitted at time of application must show all courses required for admission consideration either completed or in progress. If admitted, a final transcript indicating that all courses have been completed and required grades/averages have been met must be received by **June 30, 2026**.

A list of approved course equivalencies for Nipissing University's SWRK-1007, SWLF-1006, SWRK-2006 and SWRK-2106 can be found at <http://www.nipissingu.ca/registrarforms> under Other Information at the bottom of the page. Applicants who have completed course(s) not listed and wish to have them evaluated for equivalency should contact the Admissions Office at admissions@nipissingu.ca. We recommend that prospective applicants send their request prior to applying. You may be asked to provide detailed course outlines when requesting the equivalency.

Examples of subject areas that can satisfy Humanities and Science requirements can be found at <http://www.nipissingu.ca/breadthrequirements>.

The [Course Requirement Summary Form](#) should be submitted to assist with the determination of whether applicants have met the prerequisite requirements. It by no means guarantees that you have met the minimum course requirements. It is up to the discretion of the Admission Office to determine if the courses you have completed or are in progress meet these requirements.

The [Equity Declaration form](#) is an optional form that you can submit if you wish to self-identify. Further information can be found below in the Equity Declaration section.

Meeting the minimum admission average does not guarantee admission.

Transcripts

Official transcripts are required from all post-secondary institutions (college and university) attended, including transcripts from institutions attended on exchange and Letter of Permission (even if courses are incomplete and grades do not appear on the transcript). Transcripts submitted at time of application must show all courses required for admission consideration either completed or in progress. All transcripts must be received by **4:30 pm EST on February 9, 2026**.

Nipissing University transcripts need not be submitted, however, if you attended Nipissing University prior to 1992 you are considered a Laurentian University student and you must submit that transcript.

If you have completed courses outside of Canada or the United States, you must have all your foreign transcripts evaluated and translated by World Education Services (WES): www.wes.org/ca . A WES Credential Evaluation Report, including a Course-By-Course Analysis, must be sent directly to Nipissing University by **4:30 pm EST on February 9, 2026**. Applicants are responsible for the costs associated with the WES evaluation and any translation required. Note that it can take upwards of six weeks for WES to receive official transcripts from a foreign academic institution, after which point the WES evaluation can take a week or longer to complete. Applicants should begin the evaluation process as early as possible.

English Language Proficiency

Applicants whose first language is not English may be required to supply proof of proficiency in English. Among other options, acceptable proof of English proficiency includes the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), International English Language Test Service (IELTS), the Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic, Canadian Academic English Language (CAEL/CAEL Online) or Cambridge English Qualifications. Refer to our Academic Calendar or <http://www.nipissingu.ca/englishproficiency> for our complete English Language Proficiency policy.

Statement of Interest

All applicants will prepare a Statement of Interest. The Statement of Interest will be a response to the following:

Describe your REASONS for pursuing professional education in Social Work. What EXPERIENCES have influenced your choice?

The Statement of Interest should be two (2) single pages double spaced (12pt, Arial). **Please ensure that your name is included on your Personal Statement.**

Analysis of a Social Issue

All applicants will prepare a response to the following:

**Identify a current social issue and discuss the factors that contribute to or cause this issue.
Discuss what the impact or the consequences of the issue are on people and on society.
How do you see a social worker's role in contributing to resolving or reducing this issue?**

Your analysis should be linked to your classroom learning as much as possible. Ensure that you are demonstrating engagement in critical thinking and critical reflection, and good academic writing skills.

Your response should be two (2) single pages double spaced (12pt, Arial) not including references. **Please ensure that your name is included on your Analysis.**

Resume of Volunteer, Work and Educational Experience

This is not a traditional resume. This resume should contain only three headings: *Work Experience*, *Volunteer Experience* and *Educational Experience*. Under each heading your experiences should be listed in chronological order beginning with the most recent. There is no page limit to this list. Please use 12pt Arial font for your resume. **Please ensure that your name is included on your Resume.**

Work Experience

This should include both social work/social service and non-social work/social service-related fields. Please indicate if the experience was paid or unpaid. Work experience can be traditional experiences but can also include co-op placements or practicum/clinical/experiential learning placements completed as part of your educational experience.

Indicate the following for each experience:

- Paid or unpaid
- Full-time or part-time
- Name of business/organization
- Position held
- Dates position was held
- Brief description of duties and responsibilities
- If applicable, indicate if the experience was a part of a co-op or practicum/clinical/experiential learning placement
- If applicable, indicate any relevant training that you may have received (ie. workshops and/or conferences attended, certificates received)

Volunteer Experience

This should include both social work/social service and non-social work/social service-related fields.

Indicate the following for each experience:

- Name of organization
- Position held
- Dates position was held
- Number of volunteer hours (approximation is acceptable)
- Brief description of duties and responsibilities
- If applicable, indicate any relevant training that you may have received (ie. workshops and/or conferences attended, certificates received)

Educational Experience

Please list all post-secondary educational achievements (ie. diplomas, degrees, certificates) and list the courses you have taken that have prepared you for a career in social work.

References

All applicants will submit one (1) academic and one (1) professional reference. Your references should be chosen from people who know your academic skills and/or potential as a professional social worker. They should also be able to address the information below. References from friends or relatives will not be accepted. References should send their letter to you in a sealed envelope, with their signature on the back of the envelope over the seal.

Each letter should address the following:

How long have you known the applicant?

In what capacity have you known the applicant?

Indicate your assessment of the applicant in the following areas:

- Quality of interaction with people
- Ability to work co-operatively with others
- Ability to communicate effectively
- Capacity for independent thought and action
- Ability to carry out responsibilities
- Ability to organize own work
- Ability to work under pressure
- Ability to perceive and solve problems
- Capacity for change and openness to feedback/constructive criticism
- Compassion for others
- Leadership skills
- Awareness of social problems
- Ability to demonstrate sensitivity and understanding

Provide a candid assessment of this individual's potential for success in completing the program including a description of specific activities or accomplishments that reflect the applicant's strengths and opportunities for development. Provide contact information should the selection committee need any further information.

Equity Declaration

Nipissing University welcomes applications from persons of diverse backgrounds. We recognize that there are institutional processes and cultural differences that present barriers to some applicants obtaining access to programs. The School of Social Work is committed to diversity, equity, and accessibility. Approximately 10% of the places in the Bachelor of Social Work (Professional Years) program are reserved each year for students from groups including, but not limited to, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, economically disadvantaged, Franco-Ontarians, visible minorities, LGBTQ+ and those from northern/remote/rural areas.

Applicants who are members of one or more of these groups are encouraged to self-identify using the Equity Declaration form. Completion of this form is completely voluntary.

[Click here to access the Equity Declaration form.](#) If you have trouble accessing this link, please email the Admission Office at admissions@nipissingu.ca.

BSW Essential Requirements

Prior to application, all applicants are asked to review the BSW Essential Requirements document. It can be found at www.nipissingu.ca/socialwork. This document discusses the essential requirements necessary to provide reasonable assurance that students can successfully complete the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program at Nipissing University and participate in all aspects of social work education and practice. Students are expected to be able to meet these standards in the classroom and in the practicum. By submitting an application, you are acknowledging that you have reviewed this document and understand its contents. If you have any questions, please contact socialwork@nipissingu.ca.

Important Dates

Application Deadline	February 2, 2026
Transcript Deadline Supplemental Application Deadline (Course Requirement Summary Form, Statement of Interest, Analysis of a Social Issue, Resume of Volunteer, Work and Educational Experience, References and voluntary Equity Declaration)	February 9, 2026 (4:30 pm EST).
Offers of Admission sent out	April 2026
Deadline to meet conditions of offer	June 30, 2026

Questions

All questions can be directed to the Admissions Office at admissions@nipissingu.ca.

Note: Neither this application nor supplementary acknowledgement material constitutes an offer of admission. Successful candidates will receive admission letters clearly outlining the program of admission and other pertinent details. Applicants are also advised that supporting material cannot be returned.

Supplemental Application Checklist

Use the following checklist to ensure that you have completed all the necessary steps for the application process. This form does not need to be submitted.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Completed application by February 2, 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nipissing University BSW Professional Years Application at www.nipissingu.ca/registrarforms for current and former Nipissing students www.ouac.on.ca for all other applicants
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transcripts ordered/submitted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Transcript section in the Supplemental Application package for specific instructions. Must be submitted by February 9, 2026, at 4:30 pm EST.
<input type="checkbox"/>	BSW Essential Requirements document reviewed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By submitting an application, you are acknowledging that you have reviewed this document and understand its contents.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Completion of or expected completion of 60 credits (10 full course equivalents) by the end of April 2026 including: <input type="checkbox"/> SWRK-1007 (or equivalent) * <input type="checkbox"/> SWLF-1006 (or equivalent) * <input type="checkbox"/> SWRK-2006 (or equivalent) * <input type="checkbox"/> SWRK-2106 (or equivalent) * <input type="checkbox"/> 6 credits (one full course equivalent) in Humanities <small>*Minimum 70% required for those who started at Nipissing from May 2020 onward</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	WES evaluation assessment submitted by February 9, 2026, at 4:30 pm EST (if required)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Official English proficiency test scores submitted by February 9, 2026, at 4:30 pm EST (if required)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Course Requirement Summary Form <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See the Course Requirement Summary Form for more details. Must be submitted by February 9, 2026, at 4:30 pm EST.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Statement of Interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Statement of Interest section in the Supplemental Application package for specific instructions. Must be submitted by February 9, 2026, at 4:30 pm EST.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Analysis of a Social Issue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Analysis of a Social Issue section in the Supplemental Application package for specific instructions. Must be submitted by February 9, 2026, at 4:30 pm EST.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resume of Volunteer, Work and Educational Experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Resume of Volunteer, Work and Educational Experience section in the Supplemental Application package for specific instructions. Must be submitted by February 9, 2026, at 4:30 pm EST.
<input type="checkbox"/>	References <input type="checkbox"/> One (1) academic <input type="checkbox"/> One (1) professional <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See References section in the Supplemental Application package for specific instructions. Must be submitted by February 9, 2026, at 4:30 pm EST.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Equity Declaration Form (optional) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Equity Declaration Form and review the appropriate section in the Supplemental Application package for specific instructions. Must be submitted by February 9, 2026, at 4:30 pm EST.

Protection of Privacy

Information requested from students and applicants is collected under the authority of the Nipissing University Act, 1992.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act you are hereby notified that: "By applying for admission to Nipissing University and by registering in programs or courses at the University, you are accepting the University's right to collect pertinent personal information. The information is needed to assess qualifications for entry, establish a record of performance in programs and courses, provide the basis for awards and government funding, and to assist the University in the academic and financial administration of its affairs".

Additionally, personal information may be used by University staff in many offices on a "need to know" basis to identify and contact students who require their services. Personal information is also provided to the Nipissing University Student Union in order to enroll students in their Health Care Plan.