

Master of Social Work

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Admission Requirements

Admission to the ~~M.S.W.~~ MSW Program requires admission to the University of Missouri-St. Louis Graduate School and acceptance by the School of Social Work. Applicants to the program must meet the following requirements to be considered for admission:

- Completion of a bachelor's degree from a college or university accredited by a recognized regional accrediting organization.
- Completion of a liberal arts education including courses in the humanities, the social and behavioral sciences, and the physical sciences. These courses must include one ~~in human biology and one in~~ statistics.
- Attainment of a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for all undergraduate course work and a grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in the major field.
- Submission of the following documents by the admission deadline:
- A completed application to the UMSL Graduate School and a completed ~~M.S.W.~~ MSW supplemental application.
- ~~Three~~ Two written essays.
- Three letters of reference. – One from a professor in your major field of study, and one from a work or volunteer supervisor or other professional reference. Letters from employees/supervisees, friends, and family may not be used.
- Official transcripts from all colleges and university attended.
- Applicable fees.

Application Deadline

The deadline for application to the MSW program is ~~February 15~~ March 1 for admission in the following fall semester and October 15 for admission in the following Spring semester. See School of Social Work's website, for more details.

Admissions to the Advanced Standing Program

Applicants with a ~~B.S.W.~~, ~~B.A.S.W.~~, BSW, BASW, or ~~B.S.S.W.~~, BSSW, from an accredited social work program may be given up to 24 credit hours of advanced standing for foundation social work courses. Admission to the advanced standing program is available to applicants who meet the general admission requirements and who:

1. have earned a bachelor's degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education within five years of applying to the ~~M.S.W.~~ MSW Program, and
2. have earned a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in the social work foundation curriculum, and no less than a B in all courses that are applicable.

Course Waivers

A student who does not have a bachelor's degree in social work but who can document successful completion (with at least a B) of foundation courses from an accredited ~~B.S.W.~~ BSW program within the last five years will be given course waivers and be allowed to replace these courses with electives.

Students from non-accredited ~~B.S.W.~~ BSW programs or students who have taken comparable course work in other undergraduate programs may take place-out examinations for select foundation courses; waivers will be given if students successfully pass place-out examinations. The waiver does not provide graduate credit; it is a mechanism for allowing elective courses to be substituted for required foundation courses.

Academic credit cannot be given for life experience and/or previous work experience, in whole or in part, in lieu of field practicum or foundation year courses.

Degree Requirements

The ~~M.S.W.~~ MSW is a two-year program comprising a foundation year and a ~~concentration~~ specialization year. All students are required to take the foundation year courses. These provide a common base of knowledge across all practice settings and populations. Beyond the general requirements of the Graduate School, the department requires a minimum of 60 semester hours of course work,

of which 48 must be at the 5000 or 6000 level and 48 must be in social work or cross-listed with social work, including the following foundation courses:

SOC WK 5100	Generalist Social Work Practice	3
SOC WK 5200	Social Policy And Social Services	3
SOC WK 5300	Community Practice And Social Change	3
SOC WK 5350	Social Work And Human Service Organizations	3
SOC WK 5410	Social Work Research Methods And Analysis I	3
SOC WK 5450	Social Work Research Methods And Analysis II	3
SOC WK 5500	Foundations Of Human Behavior In The Social Environment	3
SOC WK 5700	Diversity and Social Justice for Social Work	3
SOC WK 5800	Graduate Field Practicum I	4
SOC WK 5801	Foundation Field Practicum Seminar	2
Total Hours		30

Upon completion of the 30 credits of foundation year requirements, students move into a year of ~~specialization~~, ~~advanced study~~, called the ~~concentration~~ ~~specialization~~. The ~~concentration~~ ~~specialization~~ year requires 30 hours of course work that includes up to 12 hours of elective graduate-level courses approved by the adviser. Students plan their degree program to reflect their career interests in the following concentration areas:

- Family Practice
- ~~Social Work~~ Leadership and ~~Management~~ Social Change
- ~~Gerontology~~

Additionally, if students choose, they may elect to participate in one of the following elective specializations:

- Health & Mental Health
- School Social Work
- Aging and Social Work Practice
- Social Work with the Military

The MSW program has organized courses into ~~areas of emphasis~~ specializations which are suggested courses based on interest.

To remain in good standing, students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better.

The field practicum is an integral part of the ~~concentration~~ specialization year. Students will complete 300 hours (20 hours of ~~full-time work each~~ per week) of ~~M.S.W.~~ MSW supervised practice in an agency during the second semester of the foundation year, and 600 hours total (20 hours of ~~full-time~~ work per week) in the ~~concentration~~ specialization year. A student must receive a grade of B or better in the first-year field practicum course in order to be eligible to enter the second year field practicum. S/U grades are given for the ~~concentration~~ specialization practicum.

Part Time Status

Students who enter the program as part-time students complete the foundation year in two years and the ~~concentration~~ specialization course work in an additional two years.

All students must complete the ~~M.S.W.~~ MSW in four years.

Sign-offs from other departments affected by this proposal

None

Rationale

These changes correct some previous errors (e.g. to correct the requirements to reflect that a biology class is no longer required), to correct dates at which applications for admission are due (from February 15 to March 15 and to add another deadline of October 15 for a new Fall application period), to change some wording (e.g. “areas of emphasis” to “specializations”), and to change the concentrations from three to two and to add the information on the elective specializations. The MSW Admissions Committee reviews 150 or more applications each year and found over the years that two essays are ample to give a sense of the applicants’ writing abilities. Having a third essay from 150 applicants did not give any additional insight into predicted success in the MSW program.