

Master of Social Work

The MSW program prepares students for advanced practice social work in a variety of fields of practice. The curriculum is founded on the program's mission and goals and emphasizes social justice advocacy, leadership, and social work with, and on behalf of, vulnerable families. The program offers both in-person and online options. The full-time curriculum can be completed in two calendar years for students entering at the Generalist level or one year for students entering at the Specialized level. A part-time program is also available which can be completed in nine semesters for students entering at the Generalist level or five semesters for students entering with advanced standing at the Specialized level. A key element of the program is the opportunity for students to integrate and apply their classroom learning in a field internship setting.

Admission Requirements

The program seeks applicants who have demonstrated academic potential for graduate study, readiness and suitability for advanced-level social work, and who are able to articulate a commitment to social work. In addition, the program seeks applicants with demonstrated human services experience and sensitivity to multi-cultural practice, social justice, and leadership/advocacy.

Required Qualifications

To be considered for admission to the MSW program, the following criteria must be met:

1. An undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited university by the time classes start.
2. A 3.0 grade point average (GPA), measured on a 4.0 scale. GPA is based on the last 60 credits taken in bachelor's degree studies or graduate level course work. Consistent with Graduate Studies policy, students from schools not using a grading system will be evaluated on an individual basis. Students who do not meet the 3.0 GPA requirement or who have other deficiencies may be admitted on a provisional basis. Provisionally admitted students who receive at least a B grade in courses totaling nine credits of graduate work, after acceptance, will be fully admitted.
3. An academic background in the liberal arts with completion of a minimum of 12 credits in the social sciences. Examples include coursework within or across the following disciplines: psychology, sociology, anthropology, economics and political science.
4. A total of four prerequisite courses are required and include one course from each of the following areas: Biological Life Sciences, Lifespan Development, Statistics, and Research Methods. Students without a BSW degree who are applying for admission to the Generalist Program must have completed all prerequisites prior to the start of the program. Students who have a BSW degree are considered to have met all four prerequisites.
5. International students must provide evidence of English proficiency. Please see the Graduate Studies website for more information.
6. To be considered for admission, applicants with social work degrees from international universities must substantiate their academic credentials via the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) International Social Work Degree Recognition and Evaluation Service (ISWDRES). Information is available here: <https://cswe.org/Centers-Initiatives/Initiatives/International-Degree-Review.aspx>

Preferred Qualifications

In addition to meeting the required admissions qualifications noted above, applicants with the following qualifications will be given preference for admission.

1. Demonstrated post-high school human services-related experience. Examples include paid employment, volunteer work, and internships.
2. Written communication that demonstrates clear and succinct conceptualization of ideas, application of critical thinking, the ability to coherently communicate and organize ideas, and the ability to write using correct grammar, spelling and syntax.
3. Commitment to social justice, advocacy, and multicultural practice on behalf of vulnerable and oppressed populations.

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required.

Additional Admission Information

The MSW program follows a cohort model and admits students once per year. Applications and specific instructions for submission are posted on the MSW program website in August with applications for priority review due on or before December 1. Only completed applications will be reviewed. Applications may be considered by cohort until the cohort has reached capacity. Applicants are encouraged to review the MSW program website for specific admission dates, fees, and application submission requirements.

Degree Requirements

For program applicants who do not have a Bachelor of Social Work degree, 56 credits are required for graduation. This includes a 26-credit two-semester Generalist curriculum (fall and spring), and a 30-credit three-semester Specialized curriculum (summer, fall and spring). Applicants with a BSW degree may receive advanced standing status in the MSW Program if they meet one of the following two options described below.

Part-Time Option

Students entering the Generalist Program complete the part-time option in four years. Students entering with advanced standing complete the part-time option in two years.

Progress to Degree

Steps Toward the Degree

1. Prospective student submits an admission application and is recommended for admission.
2. Applicant is admitted to the Master of Social Work graduate program.
3. The student develops a Capstone project which is defined in consultation with the program faculty and adviser.
4. The student files an *Application for Graduation* with the Registrar's Office through the Student Information System (SIS). The application must be completed and submitted to the Office of the Registrar in the fall semester for spring and summer semester graduates.
5. Upon successful completion of the Capstone project the instructor files the *Approval of Thesis Defense or Project Presentation* (GR-4 Form) with the Office of Graduate Studies.
6. Degree is awarded and graduate receives diploma.

Curriculum Guide

Course	Title	Credits
First Year		
Fall		
Generalist Curriculum		
SOC WORK 700	Gateway to the Profession of Social Work	2
SOC WORK 702	Generalist Practice I	3
SOC WORK 711	Foundations of Social Welfare	3
SOC WORK 712	Field I	4
SOC WORK 713	Seminar I	1
Credits		13
Spring		
Generalist Curriculum		
SOC WORK 701	Contemporary Social Work Ethics	3
SOC WORK 704	Generalist Practice II	3
SOC WORK 707	Human Behavior and the Social Environment	2
SOC WORK 714	Field II	4
SOC WORK 715	Seminar II	1
Credits		13
Second Year		
Summer		
Specialized Curriculum		
SOC WORK 728	Advanced Policy: Leadership, Advocacy and Practice	3
Elective		3
Credits		6
Fall		
Specialized Curriculum		
SOC WORK 716	Field III	5
SOC WORK 717	Seminar III	1
SOC WORK 720	Diversity, Social Justice & Advocacy	3
SOC WORK 721	Advanced Practice: Multi-Level Family Systems	3
Credits		12
Spring		
Specialized Curriculum		
SOC WORK 718	Field IV	5
SOC WORK 719	Capstone Seminar	1
SOC WORK 731	Research for MSW Practice	3
Elective		3
Credits		12
Total Credits		56

Faculty

Joan M Groessl; Professor; Ph.D., Marian University*

Tohoro F Akakpo; Associate Professor; Ph.D., Michigan State University*

Stephanie Rhee; Associate Professor; Ph.D., University of Kentucky*

Jolanda M Sallmann; Associate Professor; Ph.D., University of Wisconsin - Madison*

Angela Baerwolf; Assistant Professor; Ph.D., University of St. Thomas*

Jennifer Schanen-Materi; Associate Teaching Professor; M.S.W., University of Wisconsin - Green Bay*

Emily Jahnke; Assistant Teaching Professor; M.S.W., University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee*

Heather Lawrence; Assistant Teaching Professor; M.S.W., University of Wisconsin - Green Bay*

Justine Terzinski; Assistant Teaching Professor; M.S.W., University of North Dakota*