

MSW Program - Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why Should I Pursue A Master of Social Work Degree?

A: There are many career opportunities for social workers, particularly for those with a Master of Social Work degree. MSWs practice in a wide variety of public and private agency settings such as child welfare, youth services, mental health/counseling, schools, criminal justice, and medical settings such as hospitals and long term care facilities, to name a few. Social workers interact with diverse client populations and seek to improve quality of life particularly for those who exist on the margins of society. Career opportunities are abundant as the job market for professional social workers is expanding, both locally and nationally.

A Master of Social Work (MSW) degree can also unlock the door to upward career mobility within the profession. More and more frequently the MSW degree is a requirement of supervisory or management-level positions and the MSW degree often brings higher salaries as well.

Q: How much does this program cost?

A: Check <https://socialwork.usu.edu> for the current fee. No additional tuition or fees for out of state students.

Q: How many credits do I need to take?

A: 60 credit hours for the 2-year for full-time program and 3-year part-time program;
36 credit hours for the MSW Advanced Standing (1-year) program

Q: When is the cohort intake?

A: The 2-year full-time cohort will start in August, with a 2-year intake interval.
The Advanced Standing full-time cohort will start in July, with a 2-year intake interval.
The 3-year part-time cohort will start in August, with a 3-year intake interval.

Q: Is the program offered on a full-time or part-time basis?

A: We offer the 2-year full-time program and the 1-year Advanced Standing full-time program on the Logan campus only, and a 3-year part-time program at the other sites (Tooele, Kaysville, Brigham City, Uintah Basin and Moab/Blanding). Part-time program classes will be offered on Tuesday evenings. Full-time program classes will be offered Mondays and Wednesdays during the day (some classes may be offered in the late afternoons or evenings). The Advanced Standing full-time classes will be offered on Thursdays and Fridays (from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM).

Q: Where will classes be held?

A: Full-time (2-year and Advanced Standing) program courses will be taught on the Logan campus on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. The Advanced Standing full-time classes will be offered on Thursdays and Fridays (from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM). Part-time courses will be offered at the other satellite campuses (Tooele, Ogden, Brigham City, Uintah Basin and Moab/Blanding) on Tuesday evenings starting at 5:15 PM. Some courses (including those offered at the Logan campus) will be offered via Internet Video Conferencing and the World Wide Web (distance education). Students in the part-time program may also participate in some Saturday class sessions.

Q: Is the program accredited?

A: Our undergraduate program has been continuously accredited by CSWE since 1974. Our MSW program has been accredited since 2012.

Q: Do I have to have a certain undergraduate major to be admitted to the program? Are there any prerequisite courses?

A: No particular undergraduate major is required of those applying to the full or part-time program, but it is expected that applicants would have a strong background in the social and/or behavioral sciences (see proposed admissions requirements table above). We will require all applicants to have a 4-year degree from an accredited university or college, to have successfully completed a research methods OR statistics course AND at least one introductory social work or social or behavioral science course as an undergraduate (e.g. Psych 1010, Anthro 1010, Soc 1010, SW 1010). See the proposed admissions requirements table above for more details. Advanced Standing students must have a BSW degree earned within 5 years of application to the MSW program.

Q: Do applicants have to have human services experience?

A: No, but human services experience (paid and volunteer) is highly desirable in applicants.

Q: Do you have an Advanced Standing program?

A: Yes. We are launching an Advanced Standing Program starting summer 2013! Applications for this cohort are due May 15th, 2013. Classes begin on July 9th, 2013. This cohort will graduate in May of 2014. Students who wish to qualify for Advanced Standing status must meet additional admission criteria. Such students must hold a BSW from a CSWE-accredited program earned within the previous 5 years, earned a B or higher in each undergraduate social work course attempted, and have a CGPA of 3.0 or higher for most recent 60 semester or 90 quarter hours and a SW GPA of 3.3 or higher.

Q: How many students will be admitted?

A: We anticipate that about 15-20 students will be admitted to the full-time program, 10-15 will be admitted to the Advanced Standing program, and that approximately 45 students will be admitted to the part-time program.

Q: Will financial assistance be available?

A: The Social Work program will seek funding for a limited number of scholarships which will be awarded through a competitive process. Some agencies are willing to assist their employees with tuition; you are encouraged to investigate this option. Federal student loans are also an option.

Q: Would I be able to do my practicum work at the agency I currently work for?

A: It may be possible for you to complete some of your practicum hours with your current employer. However, you would have to take on additional responsibilities commensurate with master's level education. Many agencies are willing to work with students to help them meet these requirements. You are encouraged to explore this issue with your employer. One of the two practicum placements will occur at an organization other than that which employs you.

Q: Will students be paid for their practicum hours?

A: Some agencies may be able to financially compensate practicum students. These arrangements will be worked out between the student and the agency.

Q: Will you require the GRE or some other entrance exam?

A: All applicants will be required to take the GRE or MAT.

Q: Whom can I contact if I have questions or to add my name to the list of interested individuals?

A: Contact the MSW Program Coordinator, Derrick Tollefson (435-722-1752 or derrick.tollefson@usu.edu) or Karen Flessner (435-797-1286 or karen.flessner@usu.edu)