

**Department of Sociology,
Social Work and Anthropology
College of Humanities, Arts,
and Social Sciences**

Published March 2014

Effective for students beginning degree fall semester 2017

Admission Requirements For MSW Candidates

The MSW program has admissions criteria and procedures that reflect its goals and objectives, the criteria also incorporate the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) requirements for admission to a master's program. The School of Graduate Studies requirements for admission to a master's program are as follows:

- A bachelor's degree that will be completed before matriculation in the degree program,
- A 3.0 or higher grade point average for most recent 60 semester or 90 quarter credits,
- A score or scores at or above the 40th percentile on the appropriate admissions test (the MSW uses the Miller's Analogy Test or Graduate Record Exam), and

The MSW program also requires:

- Three satisfactory letters of recommendation.
- A personal statement
- At least one introductory social or behavioral science course AND a research methods OR statistics course
- A minimum of 21 semester hours of social or behavioral sciences is expected; students deficient in this area will need to be highly qualified in other areas to be considered for admission.
- A 4-year baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university is required for admission to the MSW program.

Social Work Program

The mission of the MSW program is to serve the public by preparing its graduates as professionals in advanced generalist practice and to equip them with the skills necessary for leadership roles within the Social Work profession.

The mission of Utah State University's MSW program is consistent with the intent of CSWE Educational Policy standards regarding the purpose and structure of social work education and with the University's mission and vision (provided directly below). The mission is grounded in the Social Work Program's guiding philosophy which is based on two broad traditions: generalist and advanced generalist social work practice and the land grant university heritage. The program is committed to enhancing the quality of life in Utah, the nation, and the world, through service learning, leadership development, research and extension, and is reflective of the fundamental need to adjust social institutions to the democratic and egalitarian ideals of both the University and the Social Work profession.

The Social Work program at USU recognizes the historic importance of social welfare in re-balancing the country's economic and social structure. The MSW curriculum rests on tripartite underpinnings, the *strengths perspective*, the *empowerment approach* and a *social justice philosophy*,

which are tied to our program's mission, goals and objectives. Accordingly, these themes are integrated into and emphasized throughout the curriculum.

The program is committed to the resolution of contemporary human social problems, such as poverty, racism, discrimination, and economic injustice. The program seeks to instill in its graduates a deep commitment to the profession's traditional concerns with social justice and social welfare.

- The **MSW program** emphasizes the advanced generalist practice knowledge and skills essential to the tasks of promoting social welfare, especially among vulnerable populations, in institutions such as education, health, employment, housing, and criminal justice. The program is dedicated to the development of professional social workers who understand the need to advocate for vulnerable populations, and to work toward the establishment of societies free from poverty, violence, oppression, and discrimination.
- Students admitted to the MSW program are expected to have a solid liberal arts undergraduate foundation enabling them to think critically, to express themselves clearly both orally and in writing, to understand and apply scientific principles, to appreciate our pluralistic society and the implications of human diversity, and to appreciate the person-environment interface that is critical to our curriculum. Additionally, we expect that their liberal arts background will have provided students with essential knowledge about values and ethics, diverse cultures, social problems, and the institutional structures of society.

Career Opportunities

There are many career opportunities for social workers who can practice in a wide variety of public and private agency settings, child welfare, youth services, mental health, criminal justice, hospitals, to name just a few. Social workers also work with diverse client populations. The job market for social workers is expanding, both locally and nationally.

Licensure

In the State of Utah, graduates with a master's degree in Social Work are eligible to be licensed as certified social workers (CSW) upon graduation and are also eligible to begin working toward clinical licensure (LCSW). Students may obtain further information on licensure from:

Department of Commerce
Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing
160 East 300 South
PO Box 146741
Salt Lake City UT 84114-6741
Tel. (801) 530-6628 Toll-Free in Utah (866) 275-3675
Fax (801) 530-6511
<http://www.dopl.utah.gov>

Code of Conduct

During academic and field training, students are required to abide by the *Code of Ethics* and standards of conduct specified by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and the Utah State Board of Social Work Examiners. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the Social Work program. A more complete discussion of Social Work program policies can be found at: <http://socialwork.usu.edu/SSC.aspx>

MSW Part-time Program Sequence

Fall Semester Year 1	Credits
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 6000 Principles and Philosophy of Social Work	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 6050 HBSE I: Individuals and Families in their Environment	3

Spring Semester Year 1	Credits
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 6300 Social Policy Analysis	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 6250 HBSE II: Groups, Organizations and Communities	3

Summer Semester Year 1	Credits
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 6200 Research Methods I	3

Fall Semester Year 2	Credits
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 6100 Generalist Practice I	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 6400 Supervised Practicum I	4

Spring Semester Year 2	Credits
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 6150 Generalist Practice II	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 6450 Supervised Practicum II	5

Summer Semester Year 2	Credits
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 6650 Research Methods II	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 6700 Advanced Generalist Practice I	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 6475 Block Foundation Supervised Practicum (optional)(9)	

Fall Semester Year 3	Credits
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 6750 Advanced Generalist Practice II	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 6900 Supervised Practicum III	6

Spring Semester Year 3	Credits
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 6600 Policy and Administration	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 6950 Supervised Practicum IV	6

Summer Semester Year 3	Credits
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 6800 Law & Ethics for Social Work	3
<input type="checkbox"/> SW 6975 Block Advanced Supervised Practicum (optional)(12)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Elective*	3

** MSW students with recent BSW undergraduate degrees may be able to substitute these foundation electives for certain foundation courses.

Electives

- SW 6425 Foundation Optional Practicum (1-3 credits)
- SW 6500 Advanced Child Welfare Practice**
- SW 6525 Practice with Mature & Aging Adults**
- SW 6550 Advanced Practice with Victims and Perpetrators of Family Violence**
- SW 6575 Social Work Practice with Substance-Abusing Clients
- SW 6775 Forensic Social Work Practice
- SW 6850 Advanced Practice with Individuals and Families
- SW 6875 Clinical Social Work Practice with Women
- SW 6925 Advanced Optional Practicum (1-3 credits)
- SW 6990 Independent Study
- SW 6993 Research Project
- SW 6995 Special Topics on Social Work Practice**

Required Practicum Hours

The MSW program includes over 900 hours of field education. During the foundation component of the program students complete 426 hours of fieldwork plus 24 hours of professional seminar. The number of required field hours increases to 524 during the advanced portion of the program including 24 hours of professional seminar. In all, students complete 974 hours of field education.

Practicum Admission Requirements

Only those MSW students who have met the specified criteria for field education are admitted to the foundation and advanced field practicum. All applicants who are admitted to the MSW program are admitted to the foundation field practicum. To continue to on in the advanced field practicum, students must successfully complete, with a B average or better, the entire foundation curriculum.

Social Work Student Organizations

The Social Work Program recognizes the importance of students having opportunities to learn and socialize outside of the classroom. Students are encouraged to become involved with the NASW student organization, as well as the USU MSW Student Association. Information is available in Old Main 239 or at the NASW website at <http://www.socialworkers.org> or the Utah NASW website at <http://www.utnasw.org>

SW Faculty Contact Information

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Social Work Office socialwork@usu.edu
MSW Webpage <http://socialwork.usu.edu>

Changing from Full-time to Part-time Status and/or Sites

Students are **NOT** permitted to change their status from full-time to part-time or part-time to full-time except in rare circumstances. Should a student desire to change his/her status, a written request that explains the reason(s) for doing so must be submitted to the MSW Program Coordinator at least 3 months prior to the beginning of the semester in which the change would take effect. Within three weeks of receiving the request, the MSW Coordinator will, after consulting with the Program Director and the student's advisor, decide whether to grant it.

Students are expected to take all coursework at the program site to which they were admitted and are not permitted to change program sites (e.g., Brigham City to Tooele, etc.) except in rare circumstances. Should a student desire to change program sites, a written request that explains the reasons(s) for doing so must be submitted to the MSW Program Coordinator at least 3 months prior to the beginning of the semester in which the change would take effect. Within three weeks of receiving the request, the MSW Coordinator will, after consulting with the Program Director and the student's advisor, decide whether to grant it.

Social Work Outcomes

Social Work program outcomes are available for review at: <https://socialwork.usu.edu/html/about/assessment>

Materials for Persons with Disabilities

This requirement sheet is available in digital format, recordings, or large print upon request to the USU Disability Resource Center.