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Effective for students beginning AS MSW degree January 2019

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### **Admission Requirements For MSW Candidates**

The MSW program has admission criteria and procedures that reflect its own goals and objectives, as well as USU School of Graduate Studies (SGS) admission requirements.

#### **USU SGS Requirements**

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

#### **MSW Program Requirements**

- 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.

#### **Additional Criteria for Advanced Standing**

- A BSW degree from a CSWE-accredited program earned within the previous 10 years. (Exceptions on a case-by-case basis)
- B or higher grades in each undergraduate SW course completed.
- A cumulative Social Work GPA of 3.3 or higher.

### **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).

This 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.

USU's Social Work program recognizes the historic importance of social welfare in re-balancing the country's economic and social structure. The MSW curriculum rests on three underpinnings: the *strengths perspective*, the *empowerment approach* and a *social justice philosophy*. These themes are tied to our program's mission, goals and objectives; and 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**

Social workers have opportunities to practice with diverse populations in a wide variety of public and private agency settings including child welfare, youth services, mental health, criminal justice, hospitals, etc. The job market for social workers is expanding, both locally and nationally.

## MSW Part-time Program Sequence

### Spring Semester Year 1

- SW 6590** Advanced Standing Seminar I: SW Generalist Practice; SW Theories & Methods (3 credits)
- SW 6595** Advanced Standing Seminar II: SW Generalist Practice; SW Research & Policy (3 credits)

### Summer Semester Year 1

- SW 6650** Research Methods II (3 credits)
- SW 6700** Advanced Generalist Practice I (3 credits)

### Fall Semester Year 1

- SW 6750** Advanced Generalist Practice II (3 credits)
- SW 6900** Supervised Advanced Practicum III (6 credits)

### Spring Semester Year 1.5

- SW 6600** Policy and Administration (3 credits)
- SW 6950** Supervised Practicum IV (6 credits)

### Summer Semester Year 1.5

- SW 6800** Social Work Law & Ethics (3 credits)
- SW 6850** Social Work & Psychopharmacology (3 credits)

### Optional Summer Year 1.5

- SW 6975** Block Advanced Supervised Practicum (12 credits)  
*For those not in practicum during the academic year.*

## Field Practicum Admission Requirements

Only MSW students who have met the specified criteria for field education are admitted to the advanced field practicum, including successful completion of a foundation practicum while a BSW, and a GPA of 3.0 or better (B average) for the entire foundation curriculum.

**Required Practicum Hours – Advanced Standing MSW**  
500 in agency hours + 24 integrative seminar hours = 524 hours

## 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: <https://socialwork.usu.edu/files/usu-student-standards-of-conduct/USU-Student-Standards-of-Conduct.pdf>

## 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>

## 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 Social Work Student Association (SSWA), as well as the USU MSW Student Association (USU MSWSA).

## Social Work Faculty Contact Information

Dr. Terry Peak, Social Work Program Director [terry.peak@usu.edu](mailto:terry.peak@usu.edu)  
Dr. Susan Egbert, RC MSW Program Coordinator [susan.egbert@usu.edu](mailto:susan.egbert@usu.edu)  
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Social Work Office [socialwork@usu.edu](mailto:socialwork@usu.edu)  
MSW Webpage <http://socialwork.usu.edu>

## Social Work Outcomes

Utah State University Social Work program outcomes are available for review at:  
<http://socialwork.usu.edu/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.

## Changing from Full-time to Part-time Status or Changing Coursework 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.