



MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

Program Description

Admission Application Guidelines and Materials

Application Deadline: February 15 of Application Year

**Department of Social Work
Box 1450
Edwardsville, IL 62026
618-650-5758**

“Where academic excellence and community commitment meet”

Revised October, 2009

Dear Prospective Master of Social Work Student:

Thank you for your interest in our Master of Social Work Program at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Social work is a dynamic and challenging profession with wide ranging career options and opportunities for helping people in underserved and vulnerable populations.

The enclosed material describing our MSW Program provides you with the information needed for your application to the program.

For more information concerning the Department of Social Work application and/or requirements please contact the department at 618/650-5758. For additional information regarding the Graduate School please contact Graduate Admissions at 618/650-3770. Financial Aid information may be obtained by contacting 618/650-3880.

Please note that application for admission to the MSW Program requires that you file both an application to the Graduate School and an application to the Department of Social Work. Although the general application deadline for the Graduate School is later than the deadline for the MSW application, to be considered for admission to the MSW Program, both the COMPLETED Graduate School and MSW Program applications and supporting materials **must be on file no later than February 15th**. We strongly urge that you submit all your application materials early so that your file will be complete by February 15th.

Please do not hesitate to call or write if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Larry W. Kreuger, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Social Work

Carl E. Bentelspacher, Ph.D.
Director, MSW Program

LWK/CEB: sh

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE

Graduate School Admissions and Assistance

1. Admissions (618) 650-3770:

Graduate Admissions

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Rendleman Building - Room 1207

Box 1600

Edwardsville, IL 62026

www.siu.edu/GRADUATE

2. Financial Aid (618) 650-3880

Office of Financial Aid

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Rendleman Building - Room 2308

Box 1060

Edwardsville, IL 62026

3. Evening/ Weekend Student Services

(618) 650-3775

Evening and Weekend Student Services

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Rendleman Building - Room 1205

Box 1080

Edwardsville, IL 62026

4. Housing (618) 650-3931

University Housing

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Rendleman Building - Room 0248

Box 1056

Edwardsville, IL 62026

5. Health Service (618) 650-2842

Southern Illinois University

Rendleman Building – Room 0214

Box 1055

Edwardsville, IL 62029

MSW Program Information (618) 650-5758

MSW Program

Department of Social Work

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Peck Hall 1306

Box 1450

Edwardsville, IL 62026

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THE MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

The Department of Social Work offers a curriculum leading to the Master of Social Work degree with concentrations in Children and Family Services and in Health, Mental Health, and Disabilities. The program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. The MSW program also offers a School Social Work Specialization for certification in the State of Illinois.

The Master of Social Work program prepares students for entering graduate social work practice. Graduates of the MSW Program are eligible upon graduation to take the Licensed Social Worker (LSW) examination; and, after at least two years of supervised clinical practice, the Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) examination through the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation. Information concerning these examinations can be found at www.ildpr.com. The program emphasizes the educational preparation of students for advanced social work practice as community-based professionals to work with and on behalf of under-served and at-risk populations. The program's primary intended consumers are persons already working in social services without the master's degree and persons with undergraduate preparation in social work. The program seeks to admit a well-qualified and diverse group of students whose stated professional interests and goals are congruent with the program's mission of service to oppressed and under-served populations. Opportunities for effective student interaction within a diverse population are vital to preparing students for their future responsibilities with people at-risk in a highly complex environment. The variety of perspectives that emerge in the classroom from differences in racial, ethnic, cultural, and gender identity and from different life experiences enhance the ability of students to be sensitive and responsive to diversity, thus enhancing the learning of all students. The MSW program offers a full and part-time evening program. Students with heavy family and work responsibilities need to be aware that the demands of full-time graduate study can be a challenge; the part-time program option is designed for these students.

MISSION AND GOALS

Mission

The mission of the MSW Program at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is to promote social and economic justice and enhance social well-being through the provision of quality graduate education, excellence in scholarship, and collaboration in community service.

Goals

Goal 1: Prepare ethical professional social work leaders to engage in culturally competent practice.

Goal 2: Contribute to the social work knowledge base about social issues and their resolution especially those affecting vulnerable populations.

Goal 3: Support social and economic development in the metropolitan region through public service with community agencies.

ADMISSIONS

SIUE Graduate School

In addition to the Department of Social Work admissions requirements, applicants to the MSW program must meet all University requirements and must submit an application, application fee, and transcripts to Graduate Admissions. All required immunizations for admitted students must be completed before enrollment. Graduate School information and application forms may be found at www.siu.edu/graduate, or you call 618-650-3770 for more information.

Equal Opportunity

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is committed to equal educational and employment opportunity and affirmative action (Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Graduate Catalog). Consistent with this university policy, the Department of Social Work educational programs, services, and opportunities are open to prospective students without regard to race, ethnicity, color, sex, creed or religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, disability, veterans' status, or political affiliation. Racial, ethnic, gender, and other under-represented minority group members are encouraged to apply for admissions to the MSW program.

Admission Requirements

Prospective students must submit an application to the SIUE Graduate School for degree seeking status **and** application materials (described below) to the Social Work MSW Curriculum Policy and Planning Committee.

To be considered for regular admission to the graduate program in Social Work, applicants must have earned a

baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university. In order to be considered for admission, international applicants are expected to have completed a baccalaureate degree, or a degree that is comparable to the U.S. baccalaureate, from an internationally recognized institution of higher learning.

First consideration will be given to applicants with a cumulative undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Applicants with less than a 3.0 undergraduate cumulative grade point average will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The baccalaureate degree should reflect a strong background in liberal arts and sciences in which at least 30 semester hours (or equivalent) have been earned in liberal arts and sciences with grades of C or better. Included in this total must be a 3 hour credit human biology course (see Appendix A, Social Work and the Liberal Arts Perspective).

Students must complete any deficiencies prior to their enrollment in the MSW program. Undergraduates who are nearing completion of a baccalaureate degree may submit an application for admission as a degree-seeking student when they have earned at least 88 semester hours of credit toward the undergraduate degree with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 (A=4.0). A combination of commitment to the program's mission and sensitivity to diversity is evaluated during the admissions process through the applicant's personal statement and letters of reference. Students do not receive academic credit for life experiences or previous work experiences.

The following materials must be submitted to the Social Work MSW Curriculum Policy and Planning Committee before an application is considered complete:

1. Application to Graduate Admissions including all necessary transcripts.
2. Application for Graduate Study in Social Work for Graduate Study.
3. Personal statement of 750 to 1000 words that discusses: 1) career plans and goals; 2) prior experience in a helping role; 3) social justice commitment and values; 4) personal strengths and limitations, and; 5) personal challenges. (see Appendix B, MSW Application Forms)
4. Three letters of recommendation that discuss the applicant's potential for graduate-level academic work, leadership, interpersonal skills, commitment to the mission and values of social work, and, if

relevant, human services experience and capabilities. If previous experience includes work in a social services environment, either paid, volunteer, or practicum, at least one letter from the applicant's direct supervisor must speak to that experience. Applicants who have recently received their baccalaureate degree must submit one letter of recommendation from an undergraduate faculty member. Applicants applying as transfer students from CSWE accredited MSW programs must submit one letter of recommendation from a graduate faculty member. Letters from friends or family members are generally not recommended, and will not be considered if they do not address the above issues. **The letters of recommendation must be submitted on the form contained in this Program Description (see Appendix B, MSW Application Forms).**

5. Personal interviews are conducted on a selected basis. The interview will focus on questions related to the applicant's qualifications and ability to successfully complete the MSW Program. Interviews are conducted by members of the MSW Curriculum Policy and Planning Committee.

Admission in Advanced Standing

Applicants may be considered for admission in advanced standing provided the following criteria are met:

1. The applicant holds a baccalaureate degree in social work (BSW) from an institution accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, and the degree was awarded in the 7-year period preceding application for graduate study at SIUE.
2. First consideration will be given to applicants with a cumulative undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and who have completed all courses in the BSW foundation area with grades of B or better. Applicants with less than a 3.0 undergraduate GPA and who completed all course work in the BSW foundation area with grades of B or better in required BSW courses will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
3. Advanced standing applicants entering with a BSW from an accredited undergraduate program must have completed a research methods course and a statistics course with a grade of B or better.
4. Applicants must complete any deficiencies prior to their enrollment in the MSW program. If any deficiencies are not completed prior to enrollment, the applicant may be offered admission in regular standing.

Transfer Credits

MSW course credits earned from other graduate CSWE accredited programs may be transferable to SIUE. Credit is transferable if a grade of B or better has been earned in a social work course(s) that clearly corresponds to course(s) in the MSW program curriculum. For Regular Standing (two year) students, up to one-third (20 semester credit hours) may be transferable for the 61 credit hour two year degree. Regular standing students who wish to transfer more than 20 credit hours may petition the MSW Program Director.

For Advanced Standing (one year) students, one third or 10 credit hours of the 32 semester credit hour MSW concentration curriculum, may be transferable. However, SIUE has a minimum 30 semester credit hour residency requirement. This means that Advanced Standing students must complete 30 credit hours of courses at SIUE. Therefore, transferred credit hours must be replaced by enrollment in other courses to achieve the 30 hour residency requirement. The other courses should reflect courses which support the student's chosen concentration and career objectives.

Transfer credits are limited to those that were earned within six years of the transfer request date and for which grades of B or better were earned. Graduate course credit achieved for another graduate degree cannot be generally used or applied for course requirements in the MSW degree curriculum. See the [SIUE Graduate Catalog, 2007-2008](#) for a summary of the Graduate School policy on transfer credits and residency requirements.

Decisions regarding credit transfer are made independently of admissions decisions. Transfer students are required to complete all admission materials and be formally accepted into the program.

Application Deadline

The Graduate School application, the MSW application, and other application materials as stated under Admission Requirements must be received no later than February 15th of the year in which the applicant wishes to enter the MSW program. **Students admitted to the MSW program begin their course of study in the fall semester of the academic year. There are no spring or summer admissions.** Please note that if you are applying for the Competitive Graduate Award (CGA), which is offered through the Graduate School, both your

application for the CGA and your application to the MSW Program must be complete by January 15th.

SOCIAL WORK ADMISSIONS

The MSW Curriculum Policy and Planning Committee will review the complete packet of application materials including the applications for graduate study, personal statement, letters of recommendation and transcripts. Admission to graduate study in social work will be based on evaluation of the completed application packet. The committee will not review applicants whose packet is incomplete. Personal interviews will be conducted on a selected basis by the MSW Curriculum Policy and Planning Committee. The interview will focus on questions related to the applicant's qualifications and ability to successfully complete the MSW Program. The applicant will be notified in writing about the decision of the Committee.

APPLICATION DEFERMENT

Admission approval to the MSW Program is term specific. If an applicant is admitted to the MSW Program and cannot matriculate in the academic year for which he/she is approved, the applicant may write a deferment letter to the MSW Curriculum Policy and Planning Committee requesting that their application/application materials be reconsidered the next academic year. If approved by the Committee, the applicant's file will be retained for one year and be reconsidered for admission approval. Application deferment does not guarantee admission approval for the subsequent year. Applicants may be requested to resubmit any new or revised applicant materials.

FINANCIAL AID

Several opportunities for financial aid are available for students admitted to the MSW program. Students interested in financial aid should review and initiate applications both early in the admissions process and immediately after notification that they are admitted to the program. Prospective students should review the section on "Financial Support for Graduate Students" in the SIUE Graduate Catalog at www.siu.edu/GRADUATE.

The following are summaries of university and departmental financial aid opportunities:

Department of Social Work Opportunities

Graduate Assistantships: The Department distributes a limited number of graduate assistantships to MSW

students. Assistantships are generally 25% time academic-year appointments that require work with an assigned faculty 10 hours per week. Currently, students awarded 25% appointments receive a monthly stipend and a tuition waiver. On occasion, students may be awarded 50% appointments requiring 20 hours of work per week. Academic merit and financial need are the primary criteria used in making these awards. Assistantship assignments include teaching, research, micro practice lab assistants, and/or administrative roles. Students admitted to the MSW program are provided assistantship applications with their letter of acceptance to the program.

Regulus & Gilmore Award: The Department distributes one \$500 award each year to an entering MSW student (regular or advanced standing). The award is in support of a student's potential for academic scholarship and professional excellence. Selection criteria and application materials are made available to students with their letter of acceptance to the MSW Program. The deadline is September 15 of the academic year in which the student is admitted.

University Opportunities

SIUE Competitive Graduate Awards: Applicants with exceptional undergraduate records are encouraged to apply for these scholarships. They are awarded to entering students only, and provide stipends and tuition waivers without work obligations. Applicants should contact the Graduate School at 618/650-3010 for application and deadline information (see description under Financial Support for Graduate Students in the SIUE Graduate Catalog) or visit www.siu.edu/GRADUATE for application information. Completed applications for admission to the Graduate School and the MSW Program should be on file at the time of application for these awards.

James Walker Graduate Scholarship: The James Walker Graduate Scholarship is a one-year \$10,000 award payable as \$5,000 in the fall semester and \$5,000 in the spring semester. Award information, eligibility and application information can be found at www.siu.edu/GRADUATE or by calling the Graduate School at 618-650-3010.

Graduate Assistantships: Graduate assistantships in other programs and units of the University are also available, many in human service areas. Students who have been admitted to the program are encouraged to visit the Graduate School for postings of these

opportunities during the spring and early summer prior to the fall term. Early applications are encouraged.

The Financial Support for Graduate Students section in the SIUE Graduate Catalogue describes several other scholarship, award, and assistantship opportunities which students may apply for as well as information about student educational loans. From time to time, other special awards may become available through the Graduate School. Applicants are encouraged to apply for financial support as early as possible, to contact the Graduate School for information on awards it may have available, and to pursue several different aid options.

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

Students who have a diagnosed disability may find assistance at the SIUE Office of Disability Services (DSS) in Rendleman Hall room 1218. Disability Support Services provides resources, advocacy, collaborative services, and educational outreach within the University community. You may call 618-650-3726 for more information.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE MSW PROGRAM

The MSW Program at SIUE is a “high demand, high support” program. High expectations are placed upon students to both perform at a professional level and achieve academically. It is the responsibility of students to closely read class and program requirements, request clarification related to any course statements or grading requirements, keep up to date on required readings and assignments, and to continually track their own progress within the individual courses and overall program.

Faculty are expected to support student progress by ensuring that clear descriptions of course expectations and grading criteria are provided, by monitoring student progress, both in individual classes and the overall program, and by working with students who experience problems to create a plan for addressing issues.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

For students in regular standing status the MSW Program is a two-year full time course of study in which students enroll in six consecutive semesters, including summer terms. Students enroll in three courses for five semesters and four courses for one semester for a total of 61 credit hours. For students in advanced standing status the MSW Program is a one-year full time course of study in which students enroll in three consecutive semesters, including the summer term. Students enroll

in three courses for two semesters and four courses for one semester for a total of 32 credit hours. There is a part-time option which can be completed in two years for advanced standing students and in four years for regular standing students. Students do not receive academic credit for life experience or previous work experience.

The school social work specialization courses require four additional credit hours beyond those needed to satisfy the requirements of the MSW degree. For students in advanced standing, school social work courses and internships will add three additional semesters to the completion of the MSW degree.

Students in regular standing status who have deficiencies in their undergraduate liberal arts education must remove those deficiencies by satisfactory completion of appropriate courses prior to their initial year of enrollment in MSW Program (see Appendix A). Students admitted in advanced standing for whom deficiencies in BSW or other courses are identified must remove those deficiencies by satisfactory completion of the appropriate courses prior to their first semester of enrollment in the MSW Program.

The program of study in the MSW Program is divided into two integrated groups of courses: Foundation curricula and Concentration curricula. Students admitted in regular standing complete both the Foundation and Concentration curricula. Foundation courses provide classroom and field experience in social work values, ethics, methods of practice, diversity, research, social welfare policy, and social work history. All Foundation curricula must be completed before enrolling in the Concentration curricula. Students admitted in advanced standing are required to complete only the Concentration courses. Concentration courses build on the Foundation to develop competence for advanced social work practice in children and family services; or health, mental health, and disabilities services.

The program of study for the MSW degree requires completion of a minimum of 61 semester hours for students admitted without advanced standing. These students must complete 29 credit hours in the Foundation curriculum and 32 semester hours in the Concentration curriculum.

A minimum of 32 semester hours of credit in the Concentration curriculum is required for students in advanced standing.

CONCENTRATIONS

Children and Family Services Concentration (CFS)

This concentration provides advanced clinical training for social work practice with children, adolescents and their families in a broad array of community-based services, including child welfare services (protective services, foster care, adoption), marriage and family counseling, juvenile delinquency services, residential treatment centers, homeless shelters for families, and others. In addition to course work, students receive two semesters of community-based social work practice experience, under the close supervision of a MSW practitioner.

Health, Mental Health, and Disabilities Concentration (HMHD)

This concentration provides advanced clinical training for social work practice in health care settings, mental health services, disability services, and gerontological services. Course work emphasizes the empowerment of individuals and their right to maximize their physical, mental, emotional and social well-being. Students receive two semesters of community-based, social work practice experience under the close supervision of a MSW practitioner.

School Social Work Specialization

This specialization provides coursework in addition to the courses required for the MSW Program and clinical training for social work practice in Illinois elementary and secondary schools. In addition to coursework, students are required to complete a one academic year school social work internship. Successful graduates of this specialization are eligible to sit for the licensure examination for school social work in Illinois. Graduates who pass the Illinois certification test find employment primarily in the Illinois public school system. Students in either concentration may apply for the specialization, but must complete a separate admission procedure, for this specialization.

MSW PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Foundation Objectives

Students will demonstrate ability to:

1. Apply critical thinking skills within the context of professional social work practice.

2. Understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards and principles, and practice accordingly.
 3. Practice without discrimination and with respect, knowledge, and skills related to clients' age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation.
 4. Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and apply strategies of advocacy and social change that advance social and economic justice.
 5. Understand and interpret the history of the social work profession and its contemporary structures and issues.
 6. Apply the knowledge and skills of a generalist social work perspective to practice with systems of all sizes.
 7. Use theoretical frameworks supported by empirical evidence to understand individual development and behavior across the life span and the interactions among individuals and between individuals and families, groups, organizations, and communities.
 8. Analyze, formulate, and influence social policies.
 9. Evaluate research studies, apply research findings to practice and evaluate their own practice interventions.
 10. Use communication skills differently across client populations, colleagues, and communities.
 11. Use supervision and consultation appropriate to social work practice.
 12. Function within the structure of organizations and service delivery systems and seek necessary organizational change.
 13. Demonstrate a commitment to professional development through continuous self-assessment and actions which build on personal/professional strengths and address challenges.
5. Identify and analyze historical developments in the area of concentration and their impact on contemporary policy and practice.
 6. Build on the generalist perspective; integrate specialized models in the area of concentration.
 7. Critically analyze and discriminate among theories across the life span and system levels in the context of relevant problems in the area of concentration.
 8. Analyze, formulate and influence social policies relevant to the area of concentration.
 9. Critically evaluate research in the area of concentration, demonstrate application to practice, and complete group, program, or single subject research in the concentration practicum setting.
 10. Evaluate and use verbal and written communication skills across client populations, colleagues and communities relevant to the area of concentration.
 11. Use supervision and consultation, which reflects an increasing degree of autonomy, self-understanding and openness to enhance social work practice in the area of concentration.
 12. Analyze organizational dynamics and advocate for change at the level possible within agency structure in the area of concentration.
 13. Promote and sustain their professional development through continuous self-assessment and actions, which build on their strengths and address challenges

CSWE Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards can be found at www.cswe.org.

Concentration Objectives

Students will demonstrate ability to:

1. Critically evaluate their practice within the area of concentration at all system levels.
2. Identify and respond to value conflicts and ethical dilemmas in the area of concentration.
3. Be culturally competent and be able to articulate commonalities and differences among diverse groups within the area of concentration.
4. Identify oppressive and discriminating policy, practice and power relations; use change strategies to reduce/eliminate harmful effects on client well-being and self-determination in the area of concentration.

MSW Program Curriculum

A. Foundation Curriculum

The following foundation courses are required of all students in REGULAR STANDING.

<u>Course Number & Title</u>	<u>Credit Hours</u>
SOCW 501 Generalist Practice: Individuals and Families	3
SOCW 502 Generalist Practice: Neighborhoods, Organizations, Communities	3
SOCW 504 Policy and Service Delivery in Social Welfare	3
SOCW 507 Human Behavior in the Social Environment I	3
SOCW 514 Descriptive Statistics for Social Work Practice	3
SOCW 515 Research Methods for Social Work Practice	3
SOCW 517 Diversity	3
SOCW 526 Field Instruction I	4
SOCW 527 Field Instruction II	4
Total Hrs. in the Foundation Curriculum	29

B. Concentration Curriculum

The Department of Social Work requires the following advanced courses in one of either of the two concentrations for (1) students without a baccalaureate degree in social work who have successfully completed the foundation curriculum; and (2) for students entering with a baccalaureate social work degree and for whom the Department has approved advanced standing:

1. Common Courses (required of students in both concentrations)

<u>Course Number & Title</u>	<u>Credit Hours</u>
SOCW 511 Area Development	3
SOCW 524 Human Behavior in the Social Environment	3
SOCW 528 Advanced Field Instruction III	4
SOCW 529 Advanced Field Instruction IV	4
SOCW 545 Administration	3
SOCW 565 Integrative Seminar and Project	3

2. Children and Families Concentration Courses (required of students in the Children & Families concentration)

SOCW 520 Advanced Practice with Children and Families	3
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SOCW 530 Advanced Policy with Children and Families	3
SOCW 556 Child Welfare Services	3
One Elective Course	3

Total Hours in the CFS Concentration 32

3. Health, Mental Health, and Disabilities Concentration Courses (required of students in the HMHD concentration)

SOCW 580 Advanced Policy in Health, Mental Health, & Disabilities	3
SOCW 583 Advanced Pract Health	3
SOCW 584 Advanced Pract Mental Health	3
One Elective Course	3

Total Hours in the HMHD Concentration 32

Total MSW Program Hours 61

4. School Social Work Specialization Courses

SOCW 533 Social Work Practice in Schools	2
SPE 400 The Exceptional Child	3
SOCW 567 Seminar in School Social Work	2
SOCW 568 Advanced Field III School Social Work	4
SOCW 569 Advanced Field IV School Social Work	4

Note: SOCW 568 and 569 replace SOCW 528 and 529. SPE 400 serves as elective in the MSW Program if taken as a graduate student. SOCW 533 and 567 are in addition to the courses required for the MSW degree. Students enrolled in the school social work courses complete a total of four additional credit hours than the total needed to complete the MSW degree.

C. Electives

SOCW 537 Psychopathology	3
SOCW 555 Women, Work, and Family	3
SOCW 557 Substance Abuse	3
SOCW 562 Legal Issues in Social Work	3
SOCW 570 Policy/Practice with Oppressed Populations	3
SOCW 590 Social Work Practice with African-American Families	3
SOCW 591 AIDS: Issues for Social Work	3
SOCW 596 Readings in Social Work	3
SPE 400 The Exceptional Child	3

D. Other Elective Options

PSYC 487 Psychology of Aging	3
GRN 588 Programs, Services, and Resources in Aging	3
SOC 542 Seminar in Gender and Gender Inequality	3
SOC 574 Seminar in Deviance	3
PAPA 577 Needs Assessment and Strategic Marketing	3
PAPA 578 Fund Raising	3
PAPA 579 Grantsmanship	3

Other electives may also be approved by the MSW Director.

E. Final Examination

SOCW 565 Integrative Project

Enrollment in SOCW 565 is a requirement to satisfy the concluding element of the degree program. A grade of B or better must be earned in this course for the student to have integration of social work knowledge and skills across curriculum content areas, practicum, and research.

Emphasis is on critical thinking, diversity issues, and social/economic justice in all fields of practice. Students will present an integration and synthesis of course and field knowledge and experience, in addition to self-assessment and reflection.

Class Scheduling – Full Time

The sequence of scheduled courses is outlined in the table below. Actual and planned schedules are posted on the Department of Social Work student bulletin boards including schedules for the current and the next academic year.

Children and Family Services Concentration	Health, Mental Health, & Disabilities Concentration
<p>First Year Regular Standing Students' Course Schedule</p> <p>Fall (1) Socw501-Gen Prac:Ind/Grp Socw507-HBSE I Socw514-Descriptive Statistics</p> <p>Spring (2) Socw502-Gen Prac:Org&Com Socw515-Res. Methods Socw526-Field I</p> <p>Summer (3) Socw504-SocPol&Services Socw517-Diversity Socw527-Field II</p>	<p>First Year Regular Standing Students' Course Schedule</p> <p>Fall (1) Socw501-Gen Prac:Ind/Grp Socw507-HBSE I Socw514-Descriptive Statistics</p> <p>Spring (2) Socw502-Gen Prac:Org&Com Socw515-Res. Methods Socw526-Field I</p> <p>Summer (3) Socw504-SocPol&Services Socw517-Diversity Socw527-Field II</p>
<p>Second Year and Advanced Standing Students' Course Schedule</p> <p>Fall (1) Socw524-HBSE II Socw520-Adv. Pract.Child/FamServc Socw530-Adv Policy with Children & Families Elective Course (Fall or Spring)*</p> <p>Spring (2) Socw511-Area Development Socw528-Field III Socw556-Child Welfare Services Elective Course (Fall or Spring)*</p> <p>Summer (3) Socw529-Adv. Field Instruction IV Socw545-Administration Socw565-Integrative Project</p>	<p>Second Year and Advanced Standing Students' Course Schedule</p> <p>Fall (1) Socw524-HBSE II Socw580-Adv. Policy HMHD Socw583-Adv. Practice in Health Elective Course (Fall or Spring)*</p> <p>Spring (2) Socw511-Area Development Socw528-Field III Socw584-Adv. Practice Mental Health Elective Course (Fall or Spring)*</p> <p>Summer (3) Socw529-Adv. Field Instruction IV Socw545-Administration Socw565-Integrative Project</p>

*Elective course may be taken in either the fall or spring semester.

Course descriptions for Master of Social Work courses can be found in the SIUE Graduate Catalog.

Class Scheduling – Part Time

	1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year		4 th year	
	Foundation		Child & Family Services (CFS)	Health-Mental Health-Disabilities (HMHD)	CFS	HMHD
Fall	501: General Prac:Ind/Grp 507: HBSE I	514: Descrip. Statistics Elective (can be here)	524: HBSE II 520: CFS Practice	524: HBSE II 583: Prac. in Health	530: Adv. CFS Policy Elective (can be here) 533: School SW Practice 568: School SW Field	580: HMHD Policy Elective (can be here) 533: School SW Practice 568: School SW Field
Spring	502: General Prac: Org & Comm 515: Research Methods	526: Fdn. Field I Elective (can be here)	511: Area Development 556: Child Welfare Prac.	511: Area Development 584: Mental Health Practice	528: Adv. Field IV Elective (can be here) 567: School SW Practice 569: School SW Field	528: Adv. Field IV Elective (can be here) 567: School SW Practice 569: School SW Field
Summer	504: Policy 517: Diversity	527: Fdn. Field II	545: Administration	545: Administration	529: Adv. Field IV 565: Capstone Project	529: Adv. Field IV 565: Capstone Project

Master of Social Work Program
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Frequently Asked Questions

1. What if I don't have a 3.0 GPA?
A: Regular standing applicants can apply if their undergraduate cumulative GPA is less than 3.0 and will be considered on a case by case basis. First consideration will be given to applicants with an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Advanced standing applicants with less than a 3.0 cumulative GPA may apply if they have completed all course work in the BSW foundation area with grades of B or better, including a research methods course and a statistics course, and will be considered on a case by case basis. First consideration will be given to applicants with a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
2. When are the classes held?
A: Lecture classes are held in the evening from 6:00-8:50 p.m., Monday through Thursday.
3. What are the field instruction courses and when are they held?
A: Students complete their field instruction courses, or practicums, at a variety of agencies, hospitals, and other entities offering social work services under the supervision of an MSW. Students in Regular Standing status enroll in four semesters of field instruction, completing a minimum of 950 supervised hours. Students in Advanced Standing Status enroll in two semesters of field instruction, completing a minimum of 500 supervised hours.
4. I work full time. How can I complete the practicum hours?
A: Very few field instruction sites offer evening or weekend practicum hours. Therefore, you must be prepared to make alternative arrangements with your employer while you are completing your practicum hours. If you are employed at a social service establishment you may be able to complete your practicum hours where you work provided certain criteria, policies, and procedures are followed.
5. I perform social work-type duties where I work. Can I receive credit for this?
A: The MSW Program does not give course credit for life or work experience.
6. I already have a graduate degree or am taking graduate courses in a different discipline. Do I still have to complete the application process?
A: You must complete all of the application materials. Your application will be reviewed by the MSW Curriculum Policy and Planning Committee with all other applications.
10. I graduated from SIUE. Will I have to pay for a transcript for my application?
A: No. If you graduated from SIUE your records are on file, including any courses that you transferred to SIUE from another university or community college. However, if you took additional courses elsewhere that you did not transfer to SIUE you

will need to have an official transcript sent for that coursework.

Kreuger, at 618-650-5820 or lkreuge@siue.edu.

11. I'm interested in completing the course work leading to social work certification. Are there any special issues I need to know?

A: Students enrolled in the school social work specialization courses complete an additional 4 credit hours of study beyond the requirements for an MSW degree, which includes two 300 hours internships in an Illinois public school. The internships replace two of the required field instruction courses. Thus, students in Regular Standing complete two practicums and two school internships. Students in Advanced Standing status complete two school internships. Please note that Advanced Standing students will add three additional semesters to the completion of their degree. Students must also complete a special education course, SPE 400: The Exceptional Child, and pass the Illinois Basic Skills Test before beginning the social work specialization. Application materials are available to students after they begin their MSW curriculum. After completing their MSW requirements, the school social work preparatory courses and the internships, students are eligible to take the Illinois Content Area Exam for School Social Work Personnel Services Certification.

12. I still have questions. Who can I contact?

A: If you still have questions after reading the MSW Program Description we will be happy to answer them. The Social Work Department can be reached by contacting the MSW Director, Dr. Carl Bentelspacher, at 618-650-5645 or cbentel@siue.edu, the academics secretary 618-650-5758, or the Department Chair, Dr. Larry

APPENDIX A

SOCIAL WORK AND THE LIBERAL ARTS PROGRAM

Liberal Arts Perspective

The liberal arts perspective develops in students a broad base of knowledge, methods of inquiry, and models of critical thinking across the humanities and the physical and behavioral sciences. It sensitizes students to the diversity of human cultures, their worth and dignity, and the biological, social, economic, and political factors that influence both unique and common paths of development among individuals and cultures. The liberal arts perspective thus nurtures an appreciation for critical thinking and analysis, an appreciation for life long learning, and respect for the human dignity of all persons and cultures and their entitlement to self determination. These premises and outcomes of liberal arts education are fundamental to the ethics of professional social work education and practice.

Applicants admitted to the master degree social work program are required to have completed 30 semester hours (or equivalent) in liberal arts and sciences with grades of C or better. Included in this total must be a 3 credit hour course in biology with a human element.

NOTE: BIOL 111 at SIUE satisfies this requirement. The course description for this course reads "Contributions of biology to understanding ourselves and our world. Development, nature and human implications of cell theory, heredity, the modern synthetic theory of evolution, population dynamics, ecology and environmental problems". (SIUE Undergraduate Catalog 2008-2009: p. 220) Course equivalency information can be obtained from the Social Work Department office at 618-650-5758.

The Department of Social Work verifies that applicants admitted to the MSW program have satisfied liberal arts requirements by reviewing the baccalaureate degree transcript. Applicants

who have deficiencies in these content areas are required to fulfill them through enrollment in appropriate undergraduate liberal arts courses. Deficiencies must be completed prior to enrollment in the MSW program.

In addition, advanced standing applicants entering with a BSW from an accredited program must have completed a research methods course and a statistics course with grades of B or better in both courses. Advanced standing students who have not completed courses in research methods and statistics with grades of B or better must complete these requirements prior to enrollment in the MSW program. If any deficiencies are not completed prior to enrollment, the applicant may be offered admission in regular standing.

APPENDIX B

MSW APPLICATION FORMS

Personal Statement

INSTRUCTIONS

Since the Graduate Social Work program at Southern Illinois University is preparing advanced practitioners in the profession, it recognizes its obligation to clients, colleagues, society, and the profession in selecting appropriate students for graduate study. The following personal statement is used by the MSW Curriculum Policy and Planning Committee to evaluate potential and readiness for graduate study in Social Work, as well as writing skills. This statement provides the applicant an opportunity to communicate with the committee. All information provided in this statement is kept confidential. The statement should be organized in four sections, and should total approximately 750-1000 words. It should be typewritten and double spaced. Type your name on the upper right-hand corner of each page. Staple in the upper left-hand corner. The sections for the personal statement are as follows:

1. **Career Plans and Goals**

Explain why you want to pursue graduate studies in social work, and specifically, what are your career goals? How will our graduate program help you to meet your goals? Describe any life experience that influenced your decision to pursue a career in social work.

2. **Prior Experience in a Helping Role**

What experiences have you had in a helping role? Describe paid experiences, volunteer experiences, and personal experiences with family, friends and others. How would you evaluate your ability to work collaboratively with others, and your ability to help others? Have you had any helping experiences with diverse populations, e.g. racial, ethnic, ability, or sexual orientation? How have your experiences helping others affected you personally?

3. **Social Justice Commitment and Values**

What social issues do you see as the most important in society today? In your opinion, has our society done enough to eliminate oppression and discrimination in our country? Explain. How can the social work profession work toward creating a more “just” society in which all Americans can lead a healthy and productive life?

4. **Personal Strengths and Limitations**

What do you consider to be your personal and professional strengths? What are areas of needed growth and change? How can graduate study assist you in this process of growth and change?

5. **Personal Challenges**

Are there any personal challenges in your current life situation that could affect your ability to succeed in our program? If so, how will you manage these challenges?

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

*Application for
Graduate Study in Social Work*

PERSONAL DATA

Please print or type

Name _____
Last First Middle Maiden

Home Address _____
Street Address
_____ City State Zip Code

Social Security Number _____ Home Phone No. _____

E-mail Address _____ Work Phone No. _____

I am interested in the following Concentration:

- Health/Mental Health/Disabilities
- Children and Family Services

I am applying for the: full-time program part-time program

ALSO, if interested in school social work courses please check here:

ACADEMIC DATA

Please list chronologically (begin with most recent) all undergraduate and graduate institutions you have attended. Please include all study taken at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Transcript		Dates	Major/	Degree	Date
Name of Institution	City/State	Attended	Program	Earned and Year	Requested

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Do you wish to transfer any graduate work you have completed at a CSWE accredited institution into this program? Yes No If Yes, your graduate transcripts will be evaluated to determine transferability into this program. Please list graduate work that you wish to have considered for transcript credit.

Name of Institution	Course Title	Course Credit & Number	Credit Earned	Term/Year
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Please list all of your employment experiences since you received your baccalaureate degree. If you received your baccalaureate degree more than ten years ago, list just the past ten years of employment history.

Job Title	Full Time	Part Time	Employer	City/State	From	To
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

RECOGNITION, HONORS, OR AWARDS

List any special recognition, honors, or awards you have received - academic, community, employment, military, or other:

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Please list any volunteer experience you have.



MISSION OF THE GRADUATE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

The mission of the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Department of Social Work’s MSW Program is to promote social and economic justice and enhance social well-being through the provision of quality graduate education, excellence in scholarship, and partnership in community service.

ALL APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS SECTION:

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is dedicated to the traditional academic pursuits of instruction, scholarship, and public service. The University provides graduate educational programs consistent with regional needs and institutional strengths. Consistent with its particular commitment to southwestern Illinois and its pursuits of academic excellence, the University strives to enhance regional access to the educational opportunities it offers.

The Graduate School believes research and scholarly and creative achievements are essential to excellence in education and public service and contribute to the vigor of the university. Balancing pure and applied, theoretical, and practical pursuits, the Graduate School is committed to encouraging and facilitating research and scholarly and creative activities and to disseminating their results.

Consistent with the NASW Code of Ethics, the MSW Program at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville seeks students who are committed to developing their potential to deliver high quality, respectful, and culturally competent human services. As a graduate professional program, we seek students who have both academic ability and the capacity to be honest, fair, and accountable in communications with peers, faculty, and staff throughout their degree process.

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville admits academically qualified students without regard to race, ethnicity, color, sex, creed or religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, disability, veterans’ status, political affiliation.

I hereby make application for admission to the University.

I have requested all official transcripts and letters of recommendation to be sent to the University. The information supplied in this application is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. If admitted, I agree to abide by the standards and expectations of the University while on campus or involved in University-related activities.

Signature _____ Date _____

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

Transcript Request

INSTRUCTIONS

Complete this form and mail it to the Colleges or Universities you have attended along with the appropriate fee. Please make additional copies of this form if you have attended more than one institution. Southern Illinois University Edwardsville requires that an official transcript be sent to the Department of Social Work from every undergraduate and graduate institution you have attended.

Please Print or Type

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT

Date: _____

TO: Registrar _____
(Name of College or University)

I authorize and request that an official transcript be sent to: **SIUE**
Office of Graduate Admissions
Box 1600
Edwardsville, IL 62026

Name: _____
Last First Middle Maiden

Address: _____

Social Security Number: _____ Birth date: ____/____/____

Dates of Enrollment: From _____ To _____ Degree Conferred: _____

A check for \$_____ is enclosed

Signature: _____

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE

**Master of Social Work Program
Letter of Recommendation Form**

To the Applicant:

Please make a copy of this 3-page form for each of your three recommenders after completing the top portion. All letters of recommendation must be submitted using this form. Please provide each recommender with a stamped envelope so the recommendation can be returned directly to us. Letters of recommendation may not be submitted online.

Applicant:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Note: Provisions of the **Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974** give you the right to retain or waive access to this letter of recommendation. The Department of Social Work's consideration of your application is not influenced by your decision.

Indicate your choice: I retain my right of access to read letters of recommendation

I waive my right of access to read letters of recommendation

Applicant's signature _____ Date _____

Letters of Recommendation will not be accepted without your signature.

To the Recommender:

The person named above is applying for admission to the M.S.W. Program in the Department of Social Work at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. As part of the admissions process, the applicant is requesting a letter of recommendation from you. Please share in a separate letter to us your candid appraisal of the applicant's strengths and limitations, specifically addressing the questions listed on this form. Also, please complete the scale on page two, comparing the applicant with others you have known during your professional career. Please note that an applicant who has not waived his/her right of access (as indicated above) has the right to see

your recommendation letter. We thank you for the time and effort you take to complete this form.

Please address in your letter:

- How long you have known the applicant and under what circumstances.
- What you consider the applicant’s main strengths and abilities?
- Which of the applicant’s characteristics, abilities, or knowledge base are in need of development?
- To what extent does the applicant demonstrate creativity and critical thinking skills? Please describe specific situations that demonstrate this.
- To what extent has the applicant demonstrated an ability to collaborate with and/or lead others? Please give an example, if possible.
- To what extent has the applicant demonstrated an ability to be sensitive to diverse populations, i.e., diversity on the basis of racial identity, ethnicity, physical, intellectual and emotional differences, religion and spirituality, gender, sexual orientation?
- To what extent does the applicant demonstrate the ability or the potential to be an effective advocate for clients and/or oppressed populations?
- In your opinion, is this applicant prepared to engage in supervised professional practice in a social work field setting? Why or why not?
- Are there other factors that should be considered when reviewing this applicant’s request for admission?

Using the grid below, please compare the applicant with others you have known during your professional career.

	Top 5%	Top Third	Middle Third	Lowest Third	Inadequate opportunity to observe
Intellectual Ability					
Analytical Ability					
Maturity					
Self-confidence					
Interpersonal Skills					
Leadership Skills					
Written Communication Skills					
Verbal Communication Skills					
Teamwork					
Assertiveness					
Responsibility					

Please indicate your summary evaluation by circling the appropriate rating:

4	3	2	1
Highly Recommend	Recommend	Recommend With Reservations	Do Not Recommend

Please attach this form to your letter, sign below, and mail your recommendation to us at the address shown on the form. Please note that the application deadline is February 15th. Letters received after this date will not be reviewed. Recommendations hand delivered by the applicant will not be accepted. This information will be kept confidential and will only be used to evaluate this applicant's admission to our MSW Program.

Recommender:

Name (print): _____

Position: _____ Organization: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

May we call you for additional information/perspective on this applicant? Yes___ No___

Please return this form and letter of recommendation to:

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
 Department of Social Work, MSW Admissions
 Box 1450
 Edwardsville, IL 62026-1450

Phone: 618-650-5758