

Social Work

Degrees Available at SIUE

- Master of Social Work (MSW)

Specialized Learning Opportunities

- School Social Work Specialization
- School Social Work Professional Development Sequence

Career Opportunities

The master of social work program prepares students for careers in advanced social work practice. Students graduate with comprehensive social work knowledge and refined practice skills to engage in professional roles as clinicians, administrators, program coordinators and evaluators, and community developers. Graduates are able to lead efforts aimed at enhancing the lives of individuals, families and communities who may be underserved, at-risk or otherwise challenged. Career opportunities are available in a number of social work areas, including but not limited to adoption and foster care, substance abuse, health and mental healthcare, hospice, social policy development, neighborhood and community organizations.

Admission Requirements

- Graduate School application and \$40 fee
- Submission of all post-secondary academic transcripts
- Successful completion of a bachelor's degree prior to enrollment
- Overall grade point average of at least 3.0 (A=4.0). Students with less than a 3.0 undergraduate grade point average may apply and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- International Applicants: Proof of English Proficiency, minimum requirements are TOEFL (79), IELTS (6.5) or equivalent
- Personal history for the department.
- Statement of Purpose: A personal statement that discusses what has led the applicant to pursue a master's degree in social work at this time, the applicant's understanding of a social justice issue, and how they plan to adjust their life to accommodate graduate work. This should be 4-5 pages typewritten and double-spaced and in 12-point font.
- Two letters of recommendation that discuss the applicant's potential for graduate level academic work, leadership and interpersonal skills, commitment to the mission and values of social work, and, if relevant, professional experience and capabilities. One letter must be from a current or past instructor and one must be from a supervisor, preferably in a volunteer or paid social service setting. BSW graduates, who do not have practice experience after receiving their BSW, should have their field practicum supervisor write their recommendation. Applicants applying as transfer students from CSWE-accredited master's programs should request at least one letter of recommendation from a graduate faculty member. Letters from friends or family members that do not address the above issues will not be considered. The letters of recommendation must be submitted on the form contained in the application packet.

Program application materials may be uploaded during the application process, but official transcripts must be sent directly from the school attended, and test scores must be verifiable with the appropriate testing service. Please contact the Graduate Admissions office with questions regarding the application submission process at graduateadmissions@siue.edu.

The baccalaureate degree should reflect a strong background in liberal arts and sciences with at least 30 semester hours (or equivalent) earned in liberal arts and sciences with grades of C or better in each course. Included in this total must be a three-credit-hour human biology course. Students must complete any deficiencies prior to enrollment in the MSW Program. If any deficiencies are not completed prior to enrollment, the student's file will be reconsidered the next academic year. In addition, Advanced standing students entering with a BSW from a CSWE accredited must have completed an undergraduate research methods course and an undergraduate statistics course with a grade of B or better. 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, or their file will be reconsidered the next academic year, or the student may be offered admission in regular standing. 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 grade point average of at least 3.0 (A=4.0).



Department Administration

Jill Schreiber, MSW, PhD

Graduate Program Director of MSW Program

Linda Markowitz, PhD

Interim Department Chair of Social Work

Jayme Swanke, MSW, PhD

Director of BSW Program

Carol Wesley, PhD

Director of Practica

Graduate Faculty

Roberto Aspholm, MSW, PhD

Assistant Professor

Venessa Brown, MSW, PhD

Professor, Associate Chancellor for the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion

Kim Carter, MSW, PhD

Assistant Professor

Bryan Duckham, MSW, LCSW, PhD

Associate Professor

Gerald O'Brien, MSW, PhD

Professor

Jill Schreiber, MSW, PhD

Assistant Professor

Jayme Swanke, MSW, PhD

Associate Professor

Carol Wesley, MSW, ACSW, LCSW, MDiv, PhD

Faculty

MSW Instructors/Faculty

Mary Plocher, MSW, LCSW

Field Liaison

Angelia Ham

Instructor

Kelly Lasiter

Office Support Associate

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. These are regarded as factors in admissions decisions, along with records of undergraduate work. Students will not receive academic credit for life experiences or previous work experiences.

Review the SIUE Admissions Policy for more information.

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 from an institution accredited by the Council of Social Work Education, and the degree was awarded in the seven-year period preceding application for graduate study at SIUE.
2. The applicant's grade point average is 3.0 (A=4.0) or higher in undergraduate study and the applicant has completed all courses in the BSW foundation area with grades of B or better. Applicants with less than a 3.0 undergraduate GPA who completed all course work in the baccalaureate foundation area with grades of B or better will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
3. Advanced standing students entering with a BSW from an accredited undergraduate program must have completed an undergraduate research methods course and an undergraduate statistics course with a grade of B or better.
4. Students must complete any deficiencies prior to their enrollment in the MSW program. If any deficiencies are not completed prior to enrollment, the student's file will be reconsidered the next academic year or the student may be offered admission in regular standing.

Social Work Admissions Committee

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 a full evaluation of the completed application packet. A personal interview may be required. The committee cannot admit students whose packet is incomplete. The applicant will be notified in writing about the decision of the Committee.

Application Deadline

The application deadline for the following fall admission is Jan. 15.

Graduation Requirements

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 satisfactorily completed all requirements for the Master of Social Work. The project is an integration of social work knowledge and skills across curriculum content areas and practica in regards to a social work practice issue or problem.

In SOCW 565, the student will select specific social work/social welfare problems, client populations, or field of practice experiences with an emphasis on integrating and synthesizing library and/or empirical research and field experiences with major curriculum areas. Focus is placed the examination of issues relative to social work values and ethics, social and economic justice, poverty, and diverse populations. The project highlights such central issues as urban and rural service delivery in southwestern Illinois, gender roles, social change, children and families, health, mental health and disability practice, and school social work.

Review the graduation policy for more information.

This information is concurrent with the 2018-2019 Academic Catalog. Courses are subject to change at any time.

Curriculum

The Department of Social Work offers a curriculum leading to the master of social work (MSW) with concentrations available in micro practice (individuals, families and groups) or macro practice (neighborhoods, organizations and communities). The program at SIUE is accredited by the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE).

Upon graduation, MSW students are eligible to take the Licensed Social Worker (LSW) examination, and after 3,000 hours of supervised clinical practice, the Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) examination through the Illinois and Missouri Departments of Professional Regulation.

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 for a total of 60 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, for a total of 30 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. Contact the department for more information. Students do not receive academic credit for life experience or previous work experience.

The school social work concentration courses will result in six 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 for 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. 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 initial year 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. Foundation courses provide classroom and field experience in social work values, ethics, methods of practice, diversity, research, social welfare policy, and social work history. Concentration courses build on the foundation to develop competence necessary for advanced social work practice in micro practice (individuals, families, small groups) or macro practice (neighborhoods, organizations, communities).

The program of study for the MSW degree requires completion of a minimum of 60 semester hours for students admitted without advanced standing. These students must complete 30 credit hours in the foundation curriculum and 30 semester hours in the concentration curriculum.

Students who do not hold a BS in Social Work from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited institution are admitted as "regular standing" and must take foundation courses (30 hours) before taking the advanced courses. Students who have a BS in Social Work from a CSWE-accredited institution are admitted as "advanced standing" and must complete the advanced standing courses (30 hours).

Contact Information

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