

**Degrees Available at SIUE**

- Master of Social Work (MSW)

**Specialized Learning Opportunities**

- School Social Work Post-Master's Certificate

**Program Format**

Most courses are offered in evening formats.

**Master of Social Work at SIUE**

The Department of Social Work at SIUE offers unique learning experiences. Students not only learn in a traditional classroom setting, but also by involvement in community-engaged scholarship and learning activities. Our students work with agencies and organizations, assisting with service provision for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, poverty and mental health challenges.

**What can I do with a degree in social work?**

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 under-served, 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 postsecondary academic transcripts
- Successful completion of a bachelor's degree prior to enrollment
- Overall GPA of at least 3.0 (A=4.0). Students with less than a 3.0 undergraduate GPA 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
- 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 four-to-five pages, 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](mailto: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. 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 program 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 GPA of at least 3.0 (A=4.0).

**Department Administration**

**Jill Schreiber, MSW, LCSW, PhD**  
*Chair of Social Work*

**Jayne Swanke, MSW, CADC, PhD**  
*Director of MSW Program*

**Gerald O'Brien, MSW, PhD**  
*Director of BSW Program*

**Kim Carter, MSW, PhD**  
*Director of Practica*

**Faculty and Instructors**

**Venessa Brown, MSW, PhD**  
*Professor, SIUE Associate Athletics Director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Chief Diversity Officer, Intercollegiate Athletics*  
1994, Clark Atlanta University

**Kim Carter, MSW, PhD**  
*Associate Professor*  
2010, Washington University

**Jennifer Erwin, MSW, JD, PhD**  
*Assistant Professor*  
2018, University of Tennessee

**Aidan Ferguson, LCSW, MS**  
*Assistant Professor*  
2021, Florida State University

**R. Lane Forsman, LMSW, PhD**  
*Assistant Professor*  
2020, Florida State University

**Ariel Jones, MSW, LCSW, PhD**  
*Assistant Professor*  
2017, St. Louis University

**Gerald O'Brien, PhD**  
*Professor*  
1997, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

**Lauren Raczkowski, MSW, LSW**  
*Instructor*  
2002, Eastern Mennonite University

**Jill Schreiber, MSW, LCSW, PhD**  
*Associate Professor*  
2013, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

**Jayne Swanke, MSW, CADC, PhD**  
*Associate Professor*  
2009, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

**Support Staff**

**Kelly Lasiter**  
*Office Support Specialist*

## Admission Requirements Cont.

A combination of commitment to the program's mission and sensitivity to diversity is evaluated during the admission process through the applicant's personal statement and letters of reference. These are regarded as factors in admission decisions, along with records of undergraduate work. Students will not receive academic credit for life experiences or previous work experiences.

### 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 GPA 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 coursework 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 Program 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 priority application deadline for the following fall admission is January 15. Applications may be accepted beyond the priority deadline until the cohort is full.

### 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 practice 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 on 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.

### Required Credit Hours/Tuition and Fees

- Regular Standing: 60
- Advanced Standing: 30
- Visit [siue.edu/graduate-tuition](http://siue.edu/graduate-tuition) for detailed tuition information

### Curriculum

The Department of Social Work offers a curriculum leading to the master of social work (MSW) with a focus on advanced generalist practice. The program at SIUE is accredited by the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE).

The program of study in the MSW program is divided into two consecutive groups of courses: Generalist and Specialized Curricula. Generalist courses provide intro-level knowledge on social work history, theoretical framing, values, ethics, basic skills, and practice orientations. The specialized courses focus on more advanced theoretical application, practice skills, policy analysis, and evaluation.

For students who have regular-standing status, the MSW Program includes both Generalist and Specialized Curricula. This requires 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. There is a regular-standing part-time option, which takes four years.

Students who have completed a BSW degree from a CSWE accredited program within the past seven years qualify for advanced standing status. Advanced standing students are only required to complete the Specialized Curriculum. This requires a one-year, full-time course of study in which students enroll in three consecutive semesters, including one summer term, for a total of 30 credit hours. Part-time advanced standing students can finish in two years.

Social work students do not receive academic credit for life experience or previous work experience.

Courses may be offered in traditional on campus face-to-face and hybrid online format. Courses offered in hybrid online include a combination of on-campus and off-campus online class content.

Upon graduation, MSW students are eligible to take licensure exams for a social work practice license. Requirements vary by state. The Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) requirements typically include 3,000 hours of supervised clinical practice after completion of the MSW degree.

### Foundation Courses-30 hours

- SOCW 501 - Generalist Practice: Individuals and Families (3)
- SOCW 502 - Generalist Practice with Organizations, and Communities (3)
- SOCW 503 - Counseling Skills Development (3)
- SOCW 504 - Social Welfare Policy (3)
- SOCW 505 - Generalist Practice with Groups (3)
- SOCW 506 - Research Methods and Data Analysis (3)
- SOCW 507 - Human Behavior in the Social Environment (3)
- SOCW 508 - Diversity, Values, Ethics, and Social Justice Principles & Practice (3)
- SOCW 526 - Field Instruction I (3)  
and  
SOCW 527 - Field Instruction II (3)  
or  
SOCW 531 - Block Field Instruction I (6)

### Concentration Courses (30 hours)

- SOCW 550 - Advanced Micro Practice (3)
- SOCW 551 - Advanced Policy (3)
- SOCW 552 - Advanced Macro Practice (3)
- SOCW 546 - Applied Social Science Research (3)
- SOCW 528 - Advanced Field Instruction III (3)  
and  
SOCW 529 - Advanced Field Instruction IV (3)  
or  
SOCW 532 - Block Field Instruction II (6)
- SOCW 565 - Capstone (3)

Additionally, students are also required to take three elective courses (9 hours). One elective can be from outside of the Department of Social Work with permission from the MSW Committee.

### Contact Information

Department of Social Work  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville  
Phone: 618-650-5758  
Email: [MSWProgram@siue.edu](mailto:MSWProgram@siue.edu)