

POST-MSW School Social Work Professional Educators License (PEL) - Frequently Asked Questions

Why do I need a PEL to be a school social worker?

The Illinois State Board of Education requires school social workers to have a PEL. The State of Missouri does not.

Do I need an MSW to apply for this program?

You may apply for the PEL program before completing your MSW. However, you need to have your MSW completed before you can enter your internship in the Fall.

What is the Post- MSW School Social Work Curriculum?

The Professional Development Sequence (PDS) entails the following three classes:

- SOCW 533 (3 credit hours): The School Social Work Seminar - to be offered in the Summer.
 - SPE 400 (3 credit hours): The Exceptional Child (or its equivalent) - must be taken within five years of enrollment in SOCW 533. This course is offered online Spring, Fall and Summer (you can register as an unclassified student to take it).
 - SOCW 572 (6 credit hours): Post MSW School Internship - to be offered in Fall. This practicum is a 600-hour internship (full-time) at a primary or secondary school and includes a seminar course. It is important to note that some schools may offer a small stipend for interns, but not all schools will offer a stipend.
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What GPA do I need?

Individuals need a GPA of 3.0 or higher in their MSW.

What admission materials do I need to submit?

1. Application for admission to the SIUE Graduate School
2. Application for admission to SIUE Post-Masters PEL Program
3. Two letters of recommendation
4. A personal statement

The guidelines for the letters of recommendation and the personal statement can all be found in the following sections of the FAQ below: **Who should write my letters of recommendation?** And **What should be in my personal statement?**

The application can be found [here](#).

Please include all application materials in one email (with the exception of the two letters of recommendation) to: School.SW@siue.edu.

When is the admission deadline?

Applicants who submit all materials by October 15th will receive early decisions.

February 15th is the deadline.

Do I need to take the GRE?

No.

Do I need to take the TAP test?

No.

Who should write my letters of recommendation?

You need two letters of recommendation. One letter should be from **someone who supervised you in a social service setting**. If possible, one letter should be from a **current or past instructor/faculty member**.

What should be in my personal statement?

Your personal statement should address the following (no more than 2 pages double spaced):

- Share what experiences have contributed to your interest in seeking your Professional Educators License (PEL) in School Social Work.
- Describe any professional experience you have in a school setting.
- The PEL requires a 600-hour field internship. This will involve a full-time commitment for the fall semester in the school setting (5 days a week, typically from 8-4). How will you meet those expectations?

I am currently an SIUE MSW student- Can I take school social work courses during my MSW?

MSW students can take SPE 400 as an elective any time during their MSW program. They can take SOCW 533 their last semester as MSW students. They cannot take SOCW 572 until after they have completed their MSW.

When do courses meet?

SOCW 533 occurs in the summer and SOCW 572 occurs in the fall. Both courses meet in the evenings. SPE 400 meets at various times and is also offered fully online some semesters.

When can I expect to hear from you whether I have been accepted or not?

Letters of acceptance and denial go out in spring.

What is an internship?

In schools, practicums are called internships. Like a practicum, a social work internship allows students the opportunity to practice theory and skills acquired during classroom study. In school social work internships, students work in a school, under the supervision of an PEL certified social worker with a least 2 years of experience.

How does the internship work?

If admitted, you will be provided with a list of schools who have expressed interest in having school social work interns although it is possible to have placements from schools that are not on the list.

Students are required to complete 600 hours in the fall semester in order to complete the requirements for the school social work program.

Can I work full-time in addition to pursuing my MSW full-time?

It would be possible to be employed while taking courses in the summer, but it would not be possible to be employed full-time during the fall internship.

What is the Content exam?

Students must successfully complete a content exam before getting their PEL (SOCW 533 should prepare you for this test). This content exam is the ISBE **Illinois Test 184- School Social Worker**. It costs \$122. This test has a similar style to the social work licensure test.

Note: The School of Education at SIUE has a “tuition waiver” for testing costs that students can apply for.

https://www.il.nesinc.com/TestView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/IL184_TestPage.html