Master of Social Work

The Master of Social Work (MSW) program is structured upon an advanced generalist practice model and is designed for people interested in entering the social work profession at an advanced professional level.

The mission of the MSW program at Wichita State University is to prepare students for autonomous advanced generalist practice. This mission is accomplished through the preparation of advanced social workers capable of practice in complex, diverse, and ever-changing environments. Emphasis is placed on developing evidence-based knowledge and skills for ethical, culturally competent, socially just and empowering interventions on all practices levels.

The MSW program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

Graduates of the MSW program are eligible for licensure. Contact the School of Social work or the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board for further information.

Admission Requirements
Admission to the MSW program requires that the applicant:
1. Have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited four-year institution(s) acceptable to the Graduate School;
2. Have evidence of a liberal arts background from an accredited college or university prior to enrollment. Applicants should be knowledgeable about and committed to the advancement of diversity, humanistic values and ethics, resolving social problems, improving social conditions, and understanding factors shaping human behavior;
3. Have a grade point average of at least 2.750 based on the last 60 hours of graded coursework; and
4. Submit completed applications to both the MSW program and the Graduate School, no later than December 15, at 5 p.m.

Nonacademic Factors for Admission
Nonacademic considerations include experiences in providing social services, references and personal narratives. Measures of volunteer as well paid experience in social services contribute to candidate rankings. References are primarily asked to provide an indication of the applicant’s suitability for entrance into the profession. Indicators of readiness for graduate studies and of suitability for the profession are drawn from descriptions of life experience, motivation, career goals and values as described in the applicant’s personal statement and references.

Admission Procedure
To be considered for admission, applicants must do the following:
1. Complete an MSW application packet which can be accessed online at www.wichita.edu/socialwork;
2. Submit to the Graduate School the designated application for admission and supporting transcripts; and
3. Submit to the School of Social Work, by 5 p.m., December 15, a completed MSW application form, personal statement, three references and unofficial student transcripts.

Electronic submission is preferred. Records will be reviewed when all materials have been submitted and received by the School of Social Work. All supporting documentation and application materials must be on file with the Graduate School and the School of Social Work by the December 15th deadline. The School of Social Work MSW program does not have a year-round admission review process. Admission review will begin shortly after the December 15th submission deadline and applicants will be notified of their admission status by the Graduate School. Admission review will not begin prior to the December 15th application deadline nor after final admission decisions are determined. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Regular and Advanced Standing
The School of Social Work offers a regular program of study for applicants not having a baccalaureate degree in social work. In addition to the regular program, the School of Social Work offers an advanced standing program. In order to qualify for advanced standing, applicants must have an undergraduate degree in social work from a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Regular standing students must complete 63 credit hours; Advanced standing students must complete 37 credit hours.

Full and Part-time Enrollment Options
At the time of admission, applicants must designate their choice to be admitted into either the full-time or part-time track. Given the highly structured nature of the MSW curriculum, applicants admitted to either the full-time or part-time track will be required to remain in that track throughout the course of their studies. Applicants should give careful consideration and make advanced preparation (work schedule, personal and family responsibilities) before choosing either the full or part-time option. Applicants admitted into the full-time regular program enroll in a designated summer course and four full-time semesters, consisting of 12-14 hours a semester, not counting summer semester. Prior to enrolling in 800 level courses, all regular and advanced standing students, are required to take SCWK 760 (1) in the summer semester.

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Applicants admitted into the part-time regular program must enroll in 6-10 credit hours a semester and complete the degree within four years. Applicants admitted for the part-time advanced standing program must complete degree requirements in two years.

The MSW curriculum is highly structured. All courses in either the full-time or part-time Regular or Advanced Standing program must be taken in exact sequence and in the semester in which they are offered as specified in the Master of Social Work Course of Study plan. Most MSW courses also have specified prerequisites and/or corequisites that must be adhered to before enrolling in subsequent coursework or before entering practicum placement. Most Courses are only offered once a year. It is the students' responsibility to follow precisely the course of study plan. Enrolling in courses outside of sequence or failure to enroll in corequisite courses has an impact on practicum placements and will, at the very least, delay a student's progress toward graduation and may be grounds for termination from the program. No course may be taken outside the student's program Plan of Study.

Field Practicum Requirements
Students enrolled in the regular MSW Program (63 hours) will be required to complete a total of 1180 agency-based clock hours in Field Practicum placement during their course of study. For their Foundation year practicum, 240 hours per semester, or 480 total hours of field experience are required. Students enrolled in the Advanced Generalist Practicum will complete 350 agency-based clock hours per semester, or 700 total hours. Admission to the social work practice and Practicum classes is absolutely restricted to social work students who have been formally admitted to Foundation or Advanced Generalist Practicum.

Transfer of Academic Credit
Upon admission to the MSW Program, requests for transfer of academic credits from another CSWE accredited MSW program will be considered on a case by case basis. Only courses taken in a CSWE accredited MSW program will be eligible for transfer of credits at the time of admission to the MSW program. No more than 12 total hours of graduate social work course credit will be accepted for the transfer for either Regular or Advanced Standing applicants. Only foundation level courses such as Micro or Macro Human Behavior in the Social Environment, Social Welfare Policy Analysis, Fundamentals of Social Work Research and no more than 6 graduate social work electives, if applicable to WSU's advanced generalist program, will be considered to transfer credit. No transfer credit will be granted for hours completed as part of a practicum or internship placement. To be considered for transfer, coursework must have been completed with a grade of "B" or better (3.00 grade points) and cannot be older than 6 years at the time of MSW degree completion. Pass/Fail coursework cannot be accepted for transfer.

Life Experience
In accordance with Council on Social Work Education accreditation standards, academic credit will not be given for life experience or work experience in course work or field practicum. There will be no credit towards the Social Work Degree for prior life or work experiences.

Degree Requirements
The curriculum for the regular MSW program consists of 63 credit hours, 46 hours of classroom work, and 14 hours of supervised practicum. The curriculum for the advanced standing program consists of 37 credit hours, 28 hours of classroom work, and 8 hours of supervised practicum. The 63 hours for regular standing students and the 37 hours for advance standing students include 8 hours of graduate-level electives. Elective courses may not be enrolled in until after all foundation or 700 level courses are successfully completed. Students must maintain a cumulative 3.00 grade point average to remain in good standing in the MSW program. Students receiving a grade of C- or below in any MSW course must repeat the course.

Thesis Option: Students are not required to complete a thesis, but do have the option of completing a thesis as a part of their MSW degree. The thesis option requires a total of 3 hours of thesis coursework (SCWK 800). Students must be enrolled in at least 1 hour of thesis during the semester of graduation. Thesis hours can count toward the required 9 hours of electives. Students interested in the thesis option should discuss their interest with the MSW Program Director prior to enrolling in thesis hours.

Faculty
Fred H. Besthorn, PhD, Professor and MSW Program Director
Brien Bolin, PhD, Professor and Director of the School of Social Work
BreAnn Collins, LMSW, Field Practicum Associate
Karen Countryman-Roswurm, PhD, Assistant Professor
Deah Davis, LMSW LCAC, Instructor
Natalie Grant, EdD, Assistant Professor
Eveline Ndii Kalomo, PhD, Assistant Professor
Kyoung Lee, PhD, Associate Professor
Stacey Mann, LMSW, Clinical Educator
Shaunna Millar, LMSW, Clinical Educator and BSW Program Director
Debbie Willies, LSCSW, Director of Field Practicum

For More Information
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