

# Master of Social Work

The Master of Social Work (MSW) degree program has an emphasis in advanced generalist practice and is designed for people who are 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 its graduates to be advanced generalist social work practitioners within complex, diverse, and ever-changing metropolitan environments. Emphasis is placed on developing knowledge and skills for ethical, culturally competent, socially just and empowering interventions on all practice levels.

The MSW program is accredited through June 2013 by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Graduates of the MSW program are eligible to sit for Kansas' licensure exam. Students who are interested in social work licensure are encouraged to 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 strong liberal arts background from an accredited college or university prior to enrollment. Applicants should be knowledgeable about diverse cultures; social problems; social conditions; and the social, psychological, and biological determinants of human behavior. Previous course work should include a solid background in the liberal arts, as evidenced on the transcript by courses in the humanities (2), behavioral and social sciences (3), oral communication (1), written communication (2), human biology (1), analytical skills (1), and human diversity (1). Examples of courses in each area are provided in the admissions materials.
3. Have a grade point average of at least 2.750 based upon the last 60 hours of graded coursework.
4. Have completed applications to both the MSW program and to the Graduate School received no later than February 1 for the following fall semester or summer if advanced standing.

Non-academic considerations include experiences in providing social services, references, and personal narratives. Measures of volunteer as well as 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 reviewed for admission, applicants should do the following:

1. Submit to the Graduate School the designated Application for Admission and supporting transcripts, sent directly from each institution attended.
2. Submit to the School of Social Work, by February 1st, a completed MSW application, including a personal statement, three references, and documentation of academic work and professional training.

As described in the application materials, applicants should submit their references along with their completed MSW application to the School of Social Work. Applicants should be aware that their applications can only be reviewed when all materials have been submitted and they have met eligibility requirements. Applicants will be notified of their admission status by the Graduate School.

## Advanced Standing

The School of Social Work offers an advanced standing program. Interested applicants must have an undergraduate degree in social work from a social work program that is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Advanced standing students will complete 36 credit hours – 28 credits comprising the advanced generalist curriculum and 8 hours of supervised practicum. Undergraduate students completing their bachelor's degree during the summer must be enrolled in graduate courses under the Graduate School Senior Rule option. Contact the Graduate School for details on Senior Rule approval.

## Full and Part-time Enrollment Options

Applicants choose to apply for either the full-time or part-time track. Applicants admitted into the full-time regular program enroll in four full-time semesters, consisting of 12-14 hours a semester, not counting summer semester. All students, regular and advanced standing are required to take SCWK 760 (1) in the summer semester before beginning advanced courses.

Applicants admitted for advanced standing enroll in two full-time semesters not counting summer semesters. Applicants admitted into the part-time program must enroll in 6-10 credit hours a semester, with the exception of summer semester. Part-time students in the regular program will complete the degree within four years or for advanced standing students, two years. Social work graduate elective courses are offered in the summer, spring, and fall

semesters of each year. Courses are sequential and are generally offered once a year. Applicants should contact the School of Social Work for further information on the full-time or part-time curriculum plan.

### **Field Practicum Requirements**

In addition to classroom work, students enroll in field practicum. The foundation year practicum consists of 480 clock hours over the course of two semesters. The advanced generalist practicum consists of 700 clock hours over the course of two semesters, for a total of 1,180 clock hours. The MSW program's Director of Field Practicum will make arrangements for field practicum placements.

### **Transfer of Academic Credit**

Transfer of no more than 12 credits from another MSW program will be considered on a case-by-case basis. As a general rule, only courses taken in a Council of Social Work Education accredited Master of Social Work program will be eligible for transfer of credits. The applicant must have received a B or better in the course(s) being considered for transfer. In most instances, transfer of credits will only be granted for first-year foundation courses or electives, if applicable to Wichita State University's advanced generalist social work program. Students may transfer up to 6 elective hours from other graduate programs in related fields if applicable to the advanced generalist specialization and/ or content is comparable to WSU's elective courses outside the Social Work Program. Transfer of the elective credit hours must be approved by the MSW program coordinator.

### **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.

### **Nondegree Students**

Students wishing to enroll in graduate social work courses for continuing education may do so on a space-available basis. Nondegree students who then decide to pursue an MSW degree at Wichita State University must go through the normal admission procedures. A maximum of 12 credit hours taken prior to admission to the MSW program can be applied toward the MSW program. Nondegree-seeking students who do not have a BSW degree from a CSWE accredited program may not enroll in social work practice classes. Only students admitted into the MSW program may enroll in field practicum courses.

### **Degree Requirements**

The curriculum for the regular MSW program consists of 60 credit hours, 46 hours of classroom work, and 14 hours of supervised practicum. The curriculum for the advanced standing program consists of 36 credit hours, 28 hours of classroom work, and 8 hours of supervised practicum. The 60 hours for regular standing students and the 36 hours for advance standing students includes 8 hours of graduate-level electives. Students must maintain a 3.000 grade point average; a grade generating 2.00 grade points is the minimum passing grade.

*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 8 hours of electives. Students interested in the thesis option should discuss their interest with the graduate program coordinator prior to enrolling in coursework at the 800 level or above.

### **Faculty**

**Fred Besthorn**, PhD, associate professor  
**Brien Bolin**, PhD, associate professor and director of the school of social work  
**Sherry Chapman**, instructor  
**Karen Countryman-Roswurm**, instructor  
**Orren Dale**, PhD, associate professor and graduate coordinator  
**Linnea GlenMaye**, PhD, associate professor  
**Natalie Grant**, instructor and BSW program director  
**Lisa Hines**, PhD, assistant professor  
**Timothy Lause**, PhD, assistant professor  
**Kyoung Lee**, PhD, assistant professor  
**Shaunna Millar**, field practicum associate  
**Sabrina Perez Glatt**, director of field practicum

### **For More Information**

Graduate Coordinator  
School of Social Work  
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Wichita, Kansas 67260-0154  
Phone (316) 978-7250  
E-mail: [socialwork@wichita.edu](mailto:socialwork@wichita.edu)  
Web site: [www.wichita.edu/socialwork](http://www.wichita.edu/socialwork)

### **Apply On-Line**

<http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=apply&p=/OnlineApplicationGateway>