

# SOCIAL WORK, M.S.W.

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## Admission

The admission policy for the M.S.W. degree program applies to every applicant. All applicants must fulfill the general admission requirements of both The Graduate School and the College of Social Work. Applicants must be recommended to The Graduate School for acceptance by the MSW Program. Acceptance by The Graduate School and the M.S.W. Program is based on the evaluation of an applicant's total academic profile. The M.S.W. Program is committed to diversity in its student body. Admission is limited and competitive. Admission to the College of Social Work is contingent upon admission to The Graduate School. (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/graduate/policies-regulations/graduate-admissions/>)

## Deadlines

- The deadline for Advanced Standing Program admissions is March 1. Classes begin in the summer.
- The deadline for Full-time and Part-time Program admissions is April 1. Classes begin in the fall.

## Minimal requirements for admission include:

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
  - Applicants to the Advanced Standing program option must have earned a bachelor's degree in social work from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)-accredited institution within the last 5 years.
- A cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale).
  - Applicants to the Advanced Standing program option must have also earned a B or better GPA in the last 60 credit hours of an accredited bachelor's degree and a B or better in all required undergraduate social work classes.
- Official transcripts of all college and university credits earned
- Autobiographical statement stating the applicant's desire to enter the degree program and outlining long-term professional goals, motivation and capacity to work with people.
- At least two letters of recommendation should come from individuals who can address characteristics such as maturity, self-discipline, commitment, cooperativeness and professionalism. The M.S.W. program requires letters be written by individuals who can attest to an applicant's potential for graduate study and social work practice (e.g., professor, supervisor or community leader). Letters from those an applicant has a personal relationship with (e.g., relative, friend or neighbor) will not be adequate.
  - Applicants to the Advanced Standing program option are required to submit three letters of recommendation. Of the three letters of recommendation, one must be from the B.S.W. program director or faculty advisor recommending readiness for Advanced Standing and one must be from the undergraduate field supervisor or current social work supervisor if employed.
- A current CV or resume that demonstrates evidence of service and/or work experiences congruent with social work values, skills, and knowledge.

Note: An interview may also be required.

Applicants to the Advanced Standing program option should be aware that meeting the minimal requirements does not guarantee admission to this program option.

## Progression

Students in the MSW Program must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher to be in good academic standing. Any student whose cumulative GPA falls below a 3.0 is no longer in good academic standing and will undergo a review by the MSW Program Coordinator, the student's Academic Advisor and Faculty Advisor. The student will also be placed on academic probation and will have one semester to raise their GPA to a 3.0 or higher. If the cumulative GPA is not 3.0 or higher at the completion of the subsequent term, the student will be suspended from the MSW Program.

Additionally, no earned course grade below C will be accepted as part of a program of study for the MSW degree. If a student earns a grade below C in a required course, they will have one attempt to retake the course for credit. If a student earns a grade below C in an elective course, they may either have one attempt to retake the course for credit or they may take a different elective for credit.

## Transfer of Course Credit

The MSW Program follows the Transfer of Course Credit (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/graduate/policies-regulations/graduate-academic-regulations/>) policy in the Graduate Academic Regulations Bulletin (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/graduate/policies-regulations/graduate-academic-regulations/>). Students may request transfer of graduate course credits from other programs accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

## Credit for Life Experience

In accordance with the mandates of the Council on Social Work Education, no credit is given for life experiences. Students will not receive academic credit for life experience or previous volunteer, service learning activities or assignments, or work experience in social work.

Academic credit will not be granted for life experience or previous work experience, and such experience will not be substituted for any of the courses in the professional foundation areas or the field practicum.