Graduate Degree Programs

The School of Social Work offers programs leading to the Master of Social Work (MSW) and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees. The MSW program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The MSW program offers courses on the Urbana campus and off-campus through its MSW Outreach program.

Admission

For the MSW program, applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university in the United States or from a recognized institution of higher learning abroad;
2. a grade point average of 3.0 (A = 4.0) or greater for the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work;
3. 20 hours of completed coursework in a liberal arts core consisting of social and behavioral sciences, the humanities, and biological sciences
4. evidence of personal attributes that are suitable for the profession of social work;
5. a score of 103 or above on the TOEFL test;
6. provision of a written supplementary statement.

For the Advanced Standing MSW program applicants must meet all the requirements above, and in addition have earned a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree from a CSWE accredited program in the past 7 years.

For the Ph.D. program, applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. a master degree in social work or in related disciplines;
2. a GRE score within the last 5 years;
3. demonstrating a potential for research and other scholarly work;
4. aptitude for leadership in the field of social work.

iMSW Program

Designed for the working professional who cannot attend a graduate program on the University of Illinois campus, the iMSW Program allows students to remain in their home community while pursuing a graduate degree. The School offers a three-year part-time program of study through its iMSW Outreach. This program is offered across the state and for students in adjoining states. Classes are offered in on-line and hybrid/blended learning formats. Face to face class sessions are offered on weekends. In their third year students complete complete two concentration courses on campus. After completing their coursework students do an internship/field placement back in their home communities. Students complete the same course requirements as students in the on-campus MSW program (see above). iMSW students who qualify for the Advanced Standing program may complete a shorter two-year course of study (see above).

Post-MSW Certification Program

The School offers the Illinois Professional Educator License (PEL) with Endorsement in School Social Work. Individuals with an MSW from an accredited School of Social Work are eligible to apply for the endorsement program. Individuals enrolled in the PEL program take two School Social Work courses and complete a one semester internship in a public school. Students whose MSW did not have sufficient clinical coursework may be required to complete additional coursework to meet ISBE criteria. Upon completion of the program students are eligible for the School Social Worker on an Illinois Professional Educator License from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

Master of Social Work in Social Work

The master's degree provides specialized study for advanced social work practice. Students take foundation and advanced courses in social work practice methods with individuals, families and organization, in policy and services, in research, and in human behavior and the social environment. A two-semester field placement/internship (minimum 900 hours) in a social service agency is required. A total of 64-72 hours of graduate coursework is required for the M.S.W. degree. The determination of the number of hours needed within the range is determined on a case-by-case basis after considering each student's prior coursework and experience. The curriculum may be completed in 16 to 24 months of full-time study.

Students choose from one of the two concentrations listed below. Students in the LSC concentration prepare for advanced macro practice which focuses on work with communities and organizations rather than work with individuals and families. In the LSC concentration students are prepared to work in either leadership/administration or advocacy/policy. Students in the Advanced Clinical concentration prepare for clinical practice with individuals, families and groups, and in one of the focus area's.

1. Master of Social Work, Leadership & Social Change (LSC)

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 09/2017
• The LSC concentration is focused exclusively on macro practice and is not for students interested in direct service.


Advanced Standing MSW
Students with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work (BSW) within the past seven years from a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and a GPA of 3.0 (A = 4.0) or greater for the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work are eligible for the advanced standing program. This is a three semester/44 hour program that may be completed in 12 months by most students. Students with a concentration in school social work participate in a one semester internship during their second Fall semester for a 3 semester/44 hour program completed in 16 months.

1. Advanced Standing Master of Social Work, Leadership & Social Change (LSC) Concentration (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/social-work/advanced-standing-msw-advocacy-leadership-social-change)

Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work
The Ph.D. program is typically a 64 graduate hour program for students who enter with an MSW or other master's degree. The program is interdisciplinary and has a strong research emphasis. The Ph.D. program is organized around five curricular components: (1) seminars in social welfare policy, social work practice theories, and teaching; (2) research methodology and statistics; (3) an interdisciplinary area of study; (4) a qualifying exam; and (5) the dissertation. While the curriculum focuses on issues of relevance to social work and social welfare policy, students select courses not just in the School of Social Work but also from the full range of graduate courses offered, for example: educational psychology, human and community development, sociology, labor and industrial relations, psychology and anthropology. Candidates prepare for teaching, research, policy analysis, and leadership in social services.

SOCW 579 Social Work Practice Theories 4
SOCW 585 National Social Welfare Policy 4
SOCW 593 Applied Qualitative Research 4
SOCW 595 Quantitative Research Designs 4
SOCW 575 Social Work Teaching Seminar 4
SOCW 594 Individual Research (2 semesters of enrollment required) 8
Focus Area (2-3 courses outside of Social Work) 12
3 courses in statistics and research methodology, 2-3 from outside of Social Work 12
SOCW 599 Dissertation Research 12
Total Hours 64

Other Requirements
Other requirements may overlap.
For this multi-disciplinary graduate minor, students must select courses from at least two departments or units.

1 For additional details and requirements refer to the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook).

Master of Social Work and Ph.D. in Social Work
Admission to the Joint MSW – Ph.D. program is restricted to students who have a master’s degree in a related field and who intend to complete a Ph.D. in the School of Social Work. Both degrees (MSW, Ph.D.) will be awarded upon completion of the program.

• Joint M.S.W. and Ph.D (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/social-work/advocacy-leadership-social-change)

Master of Public Health and Ph.D. in Social Work

• M.P.H./Ph.D. (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/social-work/mph-phd)