

December 1, 2015

Dear MSW Student,

I am very pleased to inform you that the Department of Social Work in the College of Health and Human Services Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students, SDS program of the U.S. Department of Health Resources and Service Administration HRSA is here! **Awards are available for full-time graduate study only for Spring 2016.** Full-time study in the MSW Program is defined as at least nine (9) credit hours per semester. The SDS Application for Fall Semester has now been posted on the MSW Website. Please complete the application answering all questions. Awardees must maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00 on a 4.00 scale and earn a "B" or better in all social work classes in all social work courses in Summer and Fall 2015 Terms. If you have any further questions, **please contact your Academic Advisor.** Awards are for up to \$7,500 per semester. Eligibility is assessed each term of the academic year. The maximum SDS Award is \$15,000 for the academic year, August-May. Summer awards are not available. In addition to the MSW Program criteria, awards are based on the student's financial need in accordance with the Federal Register Low Income Level Guidelines (See appendix-A).

To receive funding from the Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students Program, you must complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the GSU Financial Aid office. The application for the 2015-2016 academic year is available on the FAFSA website at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>.

Scholarships are awarded using the following ranked criteria:

1. Severe economic disadvantage*
2. Economic disadvantage*
3. Member of the first generation in the family to attend college OR a member of an under-represented group, either by federal guidelines or within the Social Work Profession.
4. Member of the first generation in the family in a graduate program in Social Work, OR having attended an Illinois high school listed as underfunded by the Illinois State Board of Education
5. Having attended a high school in another state listed as underfunded

To apply for the scholarship, complete the attached (fillable) **SDS Application for Spring Semester 2016.** **Download the fillable form to your computer; complete the application; and save it as in the example below:**

Outlaw, G-SDS

Your last name, first initial of your first name, hyphen and SDS is the file name to be applied when you email your application as an attachment . Your completed SDS Application must be emailed to the MSW Program at mwsds@govst.edu by midnight on December 15, 2015. Late Applications will not be processed. Please use your GSU email account to submit your application.

Applying under one or more of the above criteria requires that you submit proof of financial need to the Office of Financial Aid at GSU; **IF**

1. You are less than 24 years old or currently listed as a dependent on your parents' U.S. Income Tax return, you are required to submit the most recent (2014) federal tax return of your parents;
2. You are at least 24 years old and **have not** been listed as a dependent on your parents' income tax for three (3) or more years (i.e., effective January 2013 or earlier) you are not required to provide parental information (including U.S. Income Tax Return).

The Social Work Applications (**including required parental federal tax returns if applicable and verification of birth date**), are due to the Social Work Office by **December 15, 2015**. If you have additional questions or you cannot reach your advisor, please contact the Social Work Office at mwsds@govst.edu or telephone 708 235-3997, if you require an appointment.

We are also required to verify your birth date. Please scan and send a copy of an official photo ID (e.g., driver's license, passport) to the Social Work Department to mwsds@govst.edu for review and verification. The birth date indicated on your official photo ID will be noted in your SDS application file. If you received a SDS award in fall, 2015, you do not have to resubmit proof of age.

Please note that all SDS Award Decisions will be made by **January 28th**. To be considered for the award you must meet the criteria outlined above. MSW students will not be dropped for tuition non-payment until all financial aid, including SDS is awarded. Please register for your Spring classes by December 18th.

Best regards,



Dr. Gerri Outlaw
Department of Social Work, Chair College of
Health and Human Services

APPENDIX A

SDS Income Eligibility "Key" Fall 2015

family size (# of exemptions claimed)	Income level/Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)
1	\$23,540
2	31,860
3	40,180
4	48,500
5	56,820
6	65,140
7	73,460
8	81,780
* For families with more than 8 persons, add \$4,160 for each additional person.	