

Master of Social Work

Social Work Practice Grounded in a Social Justice Ethos

The primary goal of our program is to prepare highly qualified, competent, advanced social work practitioners grounded in a social justice ethos. Graduates are prepared to provide service to children, adolescents, adults, families, and communities from socially and economically diverse backgrounds. The curriculum is founded on evidence-based and best practices in primary and tertiary care settings. Students gain real-life experience through our partnerships in the community with over 250+ internship opportunities. **The MSW program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education** (<http://www.cswe.org>).

After earning a master's degree in social work and meeting additional state requirements, graduates can immediately apply to become a Licensed Social Worker (LSW) in Illinois. Typically, to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), 3,000 clock hours of post-MSW supervision and a clinical exam are required (reference your state guidelines).

Employment of social workers is projected to grow faster than the average for all occupations from 2021 to 2031.

www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/social-workers.htm

Master of Social Work Degree Options: (Full-time and Part-time)

The Advanced Standing MSW Program is comprised of 32 credit hours for students who have earned a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited program within seven years of the date of application. Achieve your MSW degree in as little as one year (full-time). A two-year part-time option is available. Based on the chosen practice specialization, students complete 16-20 hours of field education per week in both the Fall and Spring semesters.

The Full MSW Program is comprised of 60 credit hours for students without a (BSW) degree from a CSWE accredited program within seven years from the date of application. Achieve your MSW degree in as little as two years (full-time). A three- or four-year part-time option is available. Students complete field education at the foundation and advanced levels, completing 14 hours weekly at the foundation level and 16-20 hours weekly at the advanced level based on practice specialization. Each level requires a Fall and Spring term of field education, totaling four semesters of field education.

MSW Specializations

Students may focus their graduate studies in two areas of specialization:

- **School Social Work** (Professional Educator License/PEL)
- **Children, Adolescents, and Families** (*with the option of a subspecialty*):
 - Mental Health subspecialty
 - Licensed Child Welfare Practice subspecialty (Illinois Child Welfare Employee License/CWEL)

Delivery Format: Classes are held in-person on-campus and primarily offered in the afternoon/evening. Field Education is completed off-campus within a social service setting in the community. Scheduled times vary by selected site, yet with our vast network of placement sites, most students schedule field hours that fit their class/employment schedules.

Getting Started (Students are admitted once a year in the Fall semester)

- For more information or to register for an information session, visit: www.govst.edu/msw
- Start your GSU graduate admissions application by visiting: <https://www.govst.edu/graduate/>
- Submit your official college/university transcripts to apotranscripts@govst.edu

Contact information: 708.534.4490 or mswadmissions@govst.edu



Master of Social Work

Why Students Choose GSU's MSW Program

- Full-time and part-time options are available.
- Small class sizes.
- Fully accredited program.
- Program grounded in a social justice ethos.
- Diverse student and faculty population.
- Affordable and accessible.
- Student life opportunities (study abroad, clubs, advocacy)

Advanced Standing MSW Program

Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.00 (on a 4.0 scale) in all BSW course work. If you have earned less than a 'B' grade in any BSW course, the course will not be accepted. In such cases where you have been admitted to the Advanced Standing Program, the course must be repeated.

Foundation Curriculum

SOCW 8000 [Transition to Adv. Social Work](#) (1)

SOCW 7050 or 8060 Elective** (3)

* *Advanced Level-Specialization Coursework: (28 Credit Hrs.)*

Total: 32 Credit Hours

Full MSW Program

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 on undergraduate coursework and completion of the Liberal Arts prerequisites:

- Behavioral/Social Sciences (9 Credit Hours);
- Science/Mathematical Reasoning (6 Credit Hours);
- Humanities/Fine Arts (6 Credit Hours)

Foundation Curriculum

SOCW 6100 [Social Work in a Diverse Society](#) (3)

SOCW 6200 [Human Behavior in the Social Environment I](#) (3)

SOCW 6300 [Human Behavior in the Social Environment II](#) (3)

SOCW 6400 [Social Welfare Policies & Provisions](#) (3)

SOCW 6500 [Social Work Research](#) (3)

SOCW 7200 [Social Work Practice I](#) (3)

SOCW 7100 [Social Work Practice II](#) (3)

SOCW 8100 [Contexts and Theories in Practice](#) (3)

SOCW 8300 [Practice w/Children & Adolescents](#) (3)

SOCW 8400 [Practice Evaluation](#) (3)

SOCW 7500 [Field Practicum I](#) (2)

SOCW 7501 [Field Practicum I Integrative Seminar](#) (2)

SOCW 7600 [Field Practicum II](#) (2)

SOCW 7601 [Field Practicum II Integrative Seminar](#) (2)

SOCW 7050 or 8060 Elective** (3)

* *Advanced Level-Specialization Coursework: (28 Credit Hrs.)*

Total: 60 Credit Hours

*Advanced Level-Specialization Coursework: 28 Credit Hours

Children, Adolescents, and Families Specialization

SOCW 8100 [Contexts and Theories in Practice](#) (3)

SOCW 8200 [Practice w/Families](#) (3)

SOCW 8300 [Practice w/Children & Adolescents](#) (3)

SOCW 8400 [Practice Evaluation](#) (3)

SOCW 8500 [Policy Practice w/Children & Families](#) (3)

SOCW 8600 [Field Practicum III](#) (3)

SOCW 8601 [Field III Integrative Seminar](#) (2)

SOCW 8700 [Field Practicum IV](#) (3)

SOCW 8701 [Field IV Integrative Seminar](#) (2)

SOCW 7050 or 8060 Elective** (3) *or*

***Students pursuing a Children & Family subspecialty complete the following electives:*

- Mental Health Subspecialty: SOCW 7050 DSM (3) and SOCW 8060 Advanced Mental Health (3)
- Licensed Child Welfare Subspecialty: SOCW 7050 Child Welfare (CWEL) I (3) and CWEL II (3)

School Social Work Specialization

SPED 6101 [Survey of Students with Exceptionalities](#) (3)

SOCW 8100 [Contexts and Theories in Practice](#) (3)

SOCW 8210 [Practice in Schools](#) (3)

SOCW 8300 [Practice w/Children & Adolescents](#) (3)

SOCW 8400 [Practice Evaluation](#) (3)

SOCW 8510 [Policy for School Social Workers](#) (3)

SOCW 8600 [Field Practicum III](#) (3)

SOCW 8601 [Field III Integrative Seminar](#) (2)

SOCW 8700 [Field Practicum IV](#) (3)

SOCW 8701 [Field IV Integrative Seminar](#) (2)

Note: Candidates must pass the ILTS content test.

**Electives are connected to specializations and offerings vary by semester. Electives may include DSM, Ethics, Entrepreneurship, Trauma, Child Welfare, Advanced Mental Health.

Students are provided a plan of study outlining their semester-by-semester coursework based on their specialization and work with an MSW Academic Advisor.