

Governors State University: Master of Social Work Program

The primary goal of the GSU M.S.W. program is to prepare highly qualified, competent advanced social work professionals to engage in critical practice grounded in a social justice ethic with children, adolescents, adults, families, and schools/communities. 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 any additional state requirements for social work licensure, graduates can apply to become a LSW (licensed social worker) or LCSW (licensed clinical social worker) in their state. Licensure for LCSWs typically requires two years of post-MSW supervised experience and a clinical exam (reference your state guidelines).

Program Options

The Advanced Standing Degree is comprised of 32 credit hours for students with a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited program. The BSW degree must be earned within 7 years of the date of application.

The Full M.S.W. Program is comprised of 60 credit hours for students without a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree from a Council on Social Work Education accredited program. This program also applies to students with a BSW degree earned over 7 years from the date of application.

Specializations

The Social Work Department offers specializations that are grounded in evidence-based and best practices in primary care and tertiary settings. Our programs include obtaining hands-on experience through field education through active observation of clinical client interactions, shadowing, and practice with actual clients. The Social Work Department provides two specializations:

1. **Children and Families** (with the option of a sub-specialty):

- Mental Health sub-specialty
- Licensed Child Welfare Practice sub-specialty (for professionals who want to provide or supervise direct child welfare services for the Department of Children and Family Services or any of its purchase-of-service (POS) providers).

2. **School Social Work**

Delivery Format: In Person

Achieve your Master of Social Work degree in as little as one year in our Advanced Standing MSW Program (32-credit hours). You may complete the Full MSW Program in as little as two

years (60-credit hours). Both programs are available on a part-time and full-time basis (students who enroll part-time will take longer to complete their program of study).

Join us for a Virtual GSU Master of Social Work Information Session

This event is hosted by our MSW Coordinator, where you'll learn about the MSW program, including:

- Admissions and application requirements
- Program options (advanced standing and full program)
- Specialization options (School Social Work, Children and Family (C&F), and C&F with a sub-specialty option in Mental Health or Child Welfare)
- Study options (Full-time and Part-time)
- Field placement/Internship opportunities

Please register for a virtual session below.

The application fee is waived for applicants who attend an information session.

<i>All MSW Applicants (Advanced Standing and Full Program)</i>		
Virtual session are hosted every second week of the month (Fridays or Saturdays).		
Friday, September 8, 2023	6:00 - 7:30PM	https://apply.govst.edu/register/msw090823
Saturday, October 14, 2023	9:00 - 10:30 AM	https://apply.govst.edu/register/msw101423
Friday, November 10, 2023	6:00 - 7:30PM	https://apply.govst.edu/register/msw111023
Saturday, November 11, 2023	9:00 - 10:30AM	https://apply.govst.edu/register/msw111123
Friday, December 8, 2023	6:00 - 7:30PM	https://apply.govst.edu/register/msw120823

The MSW Application is Now Open: www.govst.edu/apply

Students are admitted into the MSW Program once per year in the Fall Semester. To receive the strongest consideration for acceptance and an earlier decision, apply by the priority consideration deadline.

Application Deadlines for all MSW Applicants

Term	Priority Deadline
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Fall 2024 -----	Priority Consideration: December 15th, 2023.
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Fall 2024-----	Standard Deadline: February 15 th , 2024 (or until cohort is filled, seats are limited)
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Due to accreditation guidelines regarding faculty/student ratio, admission to the program is limited each year.

Admission to the M.S.W. Program

Applicants to the Master of Social Work degree program must [submit an application](#) with three letters of recommendation, essay responses to questions posed by the M.S.W. program faculty, and transcripts from all post-secondary institutions from which the applicant completed course work. Transcripts must be submitted to apotranscripts@govst.edu. Students are admitted to the Full M.S.W. Program and the Advanced Standing Degree Program once a year in the Fall term.

Special Admissions Requirements

In addition to meeting the university admission criteria, the following are required of applicants:

1. A bachelor's degree with a minimum cumulative G.P.A. of 2.50 on a 4.0 scale
2. A liberal arts foundation that includes coursework in the following areas:
 - a. behavioral/social sciences (equivalent of nine credit-hours);
 - b. science/mathematical reasoning, which must include human biology and statistics (equivalent of six credit-hours); and
 - c. humanities/fine arts (equivalent of six credit hours).

Prospective students for the Advanced Standing Degree program must satisfy the above requirements in addition to having a 3.0 G.P.A. in baccalaureate social work course work.

Due to accreditation guidelines regarding faculty/student ratio, admission to the program is limited each year. Applicants are ranked for admission on the basis of:

1. undergraduate grade point average;
2. commitment to the mission of the M.S.W. program;
3. personal value system consistent with that of the social work profession;
4. prior employment and/or volunteer experience serving the needs of vulnerable, at-risk, population groups; and
5. need for a part-time program due to the inability to leave employment to pursue professional education.

Information related to the program for the Master of Social Work program are available from the [MSW website](#). Application to the program is made via the Governors State University website: <https://apply.govst.edu/apply/>.

For additional inquiries or to schedule a MSW Admissions Advising session, email us at MSWAdmissions@govst.edu or

Contact:

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MSW Program Coordinator
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