



# UNION UNIVERSITY

## SCHOOL of SOCIAL WORK

### ADVANCED STANDING MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM - 2020 Informational Packet –

#### General Information

- CSWE Accredited
- Advanced generalist focus
- 33 Credit Hours
- 600 Field Practicum Hours
- Cohorts begin each fall & elective courses can be taken in the summer prior
- Attend classes 1 afternoon/evening per week
- Program includes in-seat, online, & hybrid courses
- Affordably priced at an estimated \$595 per credit hour (rate may increase for 2020)

#### Admission Requirements

- BSW degree from a CSWE accredited program
- Minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Acceptance into the Advanced Standing Program is provisional, contingent upon successful completion of the Advanced Standing Bridge Course
- Priority admissions deadline: **March 31<sup>st</sup>** | Final deadline: **June 1<sup>st</sup>**

#### Application Requirements

- Complete the online application process at [www.uu.edu/msw](http://www.uu.edu/msw)
- \$25.00 application fee
- Official transcript from **each** college or university previously attended  
*Send to:* Union University, MSW Admissions box 1868  
1050 Union University Dr  
Jackson, TN 38305
- Recommendations
  - One previous professor/instructor
  - One current or previous supervisor
  - One other current or previous professor/instructor or supervisor
  - \*If you have graduated with a BSW in the past 12 months, one of these recommendations must include your field placement supervisor.
- Admission Essay (follow instructions outlined in application)
- Interviews are held at the discretion of the admissions committee
- The GRE is **not** required for admission to Union University's MSW program

**For questions or to begin the application process, please visit us online or contact:**

Germantown: Angela Campbell | 901-312-1945 | [acampbell@uu.edu](mailto:acampbell@uu.edu)

Jackson: Kim McNeil | 731-661-5554 | [kmcneil@uu.edu](mailto:kmcneil@uu.edu)



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## SCHOOL of SOCIAL WORK

### MSW Advanced Standing Program

33 Credit Hours | 1-Year Curriculum

#### Year 1 – Fall Semester

Course	Name	Credit
SW 599	Bridge Course*	3
SW 605	Psychopathology	3
SW 631	Practice and Program Evaluation	3
SW 650	Advanced Practice with Individuals and Families	3
SW 690	Field III Field Placement**	3

#### Year 1 – Spring Semester

Course	Name	Credit
SW 623	Theory & Ethics for Advanced Practice	3
SW 660	Advanced Practice in Community Development	3
SW 691	Field IV Field Placement**	3

*9 credit hours of electives are required and may be taken starting the spring or summer semester prior to fall admission.*

\*Admission into the Advanced Standing Program is provisional contingent upon the successful completion of the Advanced Standing Bridge course, which meets prior to starting the fall semester. A grade of “B” or better is required in the Advanced Standing Bridge course in order to continue in the Advanced Standing Program.

\*\*Students are required to spend 600 hours in their field placement throughout the course of the academic year. Students begin the field placement in late August and must continue with the placement through the end of April. The average number of hours per week ranges from 16-20 hours.



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### MSW Advanced Standing Program

33 Credit Hours | 2-Year Curriculum

#### Year 1 – Fall Semester

Course	Name	Credit
SW 599	Bridge Course*	3
SW 605	Psychopathology	3
SW 650	Advanced Practice with Individuals and Families	3

#### Year 1 – Spring Semester

Course	Name	Credit
SW 660	Advanced Practice in Community Development	3
	Elective	3

#### Year 2 – Fall Semester

Course	Name	Credit
SW 631	Practice and Program Evaluation	3
SW 690	Field III Field Placement	3

#### Year 2 – Spring Semester

Course	Name	Credit
SW 623	Theory & Ethics for Advanced Practice	3
SW 691	Field IV Field Placement	3

*9 credit hours of electives are required and may be taken starting the spring or summer semester prior to fall admission. Field practicum hours are completed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year.*

\*Admission into the Advanced Standing Program is provisional contingent upon the successful completion of the Advanced Standing Bridge course, which meets prior to starting the fall semester. A grade of “B” or better is required in the Advanced Standing Bridge course in order to continue in the Advanced Standing Program.

\*\*Students are required to spend 600 hours in their field placement throughout the course of the academic year. Students begin the field placement in late August and must continue with the placement through the end of April. The average number of hours per week ranges from 16-20 hours.



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### Frequently Asked Questions

***What if I am not yet finished with my undergraduate degree?***

- Students are encouraged to apply prior to graduation in order to avoid missing admissions deadlines. Submit a current transcript with your application during your senior year, and then resubmit a final transcript after graduation. The final transcript is required prior to registration.

***How can I ensure that my application materials are in on time?***

- Start the application process early and aim for the priority deadline. Do not underestimate that it can take time for transcripts and recommendations to arrive. Ensure official transcripts are either sent electronically or by mail. If by mail, use the address listed on the front of this packet.

***What happens once I submit my application materials?***

- It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all items are submitted by the application deadline. The applicant will be notified when their application file is complete. Once all required items are received, your materials will be reviewed by members of the School of Social Work Admissions Committee, who will then decide if an interview is desired. Students may be accepted or denied with or without an interview.

***When will I find out if I have been accepted?***

- If you are invited to complete an interview, the Admissions Committee members will make a decision shortly thereafter. You will receive notification by email, typically within a week of the interview. School holidays may delay this response.

***Am I eligible for Advanced Standing?***

- Only students holding a BSW from a CSWE accredited program are eligible for Advanced Standing. Additionally, an overall/cumulative GPA of at least a 3.0 is required. Students who do not meet Advanced Standing criteria may be eligible for the Traditional MSW program.

***Are scholarships available to assist with graduate school?***

- Currently, we do not offer scholarships for MSW students. However, we do offer an affordable tuition rate and a limited number of Graduate Assistant positions at the Jackson campus. These positions are competitive and provide students with money towards tuition in exchange for working in the School of Social Work office. Federal student loans are available to most students and typically fully cover the cost of the program.

***Is graduate housing offered on campus?***

- Convenient on-campus housing is offered for single and married graduate students at our Jackson campus. Children are also welcome in our family housing units. More information can be found at [www.uureslife.com/graduate](http://www.uureslife.com/graduate) or by calling 731.661.5432. At this time, we do not offer housing at the Germantown campus.



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### Concentration Year Course Descriptions

#### **SW 599: Advanced Standing Bridge Course**

A concentrated, rigorous seminar-styled course designed to prepare the Advanced Standing student for the concentration year of the MSW curriculum. It links the student's undergraduate BSW education and practice experience in preparation for graduate level work.

#### **SW 605: Psychopathology; Assessment, Diagnostics, and Treatment**

This course develops preparation for clinical social work practice by establishing the knowledge and skills for assessment, diagnostics, and treatment in mental health and mental disorders.

#### **SW 623: Theory and Ethics for Advanced Practice**

As the capstone course for the MSW degree, SW 623 addresses the integration of professional knowledge, values, and skills under a rubric of theoretical and ethical practice.

#### **SW 631: Practice and Program Evaluation**

Advanced graduate level research course designed to offer the student an opportunity to demonstrate advanced theoretical and practical approaches to program planning, development, grant writing, evaluation, and monitoring.

#### **SW 650: Advanced Practice with Individuals and Families**

An advanced course in social work practice with individuals and families focusing on evidence-based and culturally competent practice. Various theories and methods for work with individuals and families will be explored in depth with an aim toward equipping the advanced practitioner for skilled practice.

#### **SW 660: Advanced Practice in Community Development and Administration**

This advanced course in administration and community practice builds on the foundation practices to advance skills in planned change processes, program development and administration, assessment and evaluation, grant writing and management, and navigating ethical dilemmas that arise in practice.

#### **SW 690 and 691: Field Seminar III and IV**

Students participate in advanced field seminars during the graduate level concentration year field practicum. Field seminar III and IV are designed to assist the student with processing the advanced year field experiences and in applying classroom learning to practice.

## Examples of MSW Elective Courses

*Union's MSW program involves three elective courses. The following list reflects the quality and variety of elective courses that have been offered, but is not a guarantee that a given option will always be available.*

**Addictions Counseling:** This course introduces students to addictions counseling and provides an intensive understanding of the etiology, progress and counseling strategies for addictive disorders.

**Applied Technology in Social Work Practice:** This course equips students to utilize emerging technologies in their daily professional practice. A particular emphasis will be placed on how social workers can stay informed on the rapid development of technologies and related ethical concerns.

**Children and Families at Risk:** This course develops knowledge and skills for culturally competent child welfare practice with children and families at risk.

**Clinical Social Work in Health Care Settings:** This course addresses the multifaceted world of health care social work. Using a systems perspective, students will be introduced to the various practice settings across the continuum of health care delivery.

**Crisis Intervention with Individuals and Families:** This course explores skills, knowledge, and professional ethics/values specific to crisis intervention with individuals and families across diverse social work settings and populations.

**Gender and Sexuality:** This course is an analysis of gender and sexuality in American society and cross-culturally. Gender roles and human sexuality will be examined throughout the life span, with an emphasis on physiological, psychological, familial, and other societal factors that influence gender and sexuality.

**Grant Writing and Grant Management:** This course covers the basics of proposals: purpose statements, background and justification, personnel, timelines, methods, budget, evaluation process and how to effectively manage grants once they are funded.

**Human Trafficking:** This course examines the local and international human trafficking crime of the modern day slavery of men, women, and children. Characteristics and special needs of victims, their life experiences, and their trafficking trajectories will be highlighted.

**International Social Work:** This course is combined with our Study Abroad program and reviews intervention models and strategies to respond to the diverse needs of communities and societies.

**Play Therapy-Theory and Practice:** This course provides an overview of the evidence-based practice standards of play therapy for children and adolescents. Hands-on demonstrations are utilized.

**Social Work Services in Schools:** This course focuses on the knowledge and skills necessary for successful and competent social work practice in schools. Students are eligible for licensure as a school social worker (LSSW) upon graduation after taking this course.

**Spirituality and Religion in Social Work Practice:** This course places an emphasis on the inclusion of spirituality and religion as necessary components of assessment, planning, treatment, and evaluation in culturally competent social work practice.

**Theories of Counseling:** This course helps students examine counseling theories as they begin the process of developing a personal theoretical approach to counseling that best fits specific client populations.

**Traumatic Grief and Loss:** This course will underscore trauma-informed social work practice that transcends the particular type of trauma exposure with individuals, families, and groups of persons, but has special focus on those who have experienced the loss of a loved one from sudden, violent death.