

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Program Delivery

The MSW Program accepts students as full-time or part-time students to begin in fall or spring semesters. Students entering with a degree other than the BSW must complete 60 credit hours in two, three, or four years to complete the program. Qualified applicants with the BSW may be eligible for the Advanced Standing program, which requires 33 hours to complete the MSW in one year full-time or two years part-time. Qualifications include graduation with the BSW from a CSWE-accredited program, a GPA of at least 3.0, and writing samples, field evaluation and references that meet the standards of the MSW Admissions Committee. (More information appears below.) This degree is not offered in a totally online format; however, depending on the content, both classroom and online options appear throughout the academic year.

<http://www.uu.edu/academics/graduate/msw/>

Accreditation

The M.S.W. program is a candidate for accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

Graduate Program Admission Requirements

Admission to the program will be based on competitive selection from the pool of applicants who meet the following admission requirements:

1. Completion of a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university.
2. Official transcript(s) from all undergraduate and graduate coursework attempted
3. Three letters of professional/academic reference specifying the applicant's capabilities for graduate study.
4. Completed application, including writing sample and personal statement, with application fee of \$25.00
5. Cumulative GPA of at least 2.65 for the baccalaureate degree.
6. A completed immunization form.
7. An interview with the Social Work Admissions Committee may be requested.
8. The following personal qualities: Self-awareness, empathy, objectivity, appreciation of diversity, professional commitment, critical thinking ability, effective oral and written communication skills, and the ability to advocate for and empathize for and with others.
9. A signed statement indicating that he/she has read and will follow the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers.

Program Options:

Full-time Program (Two years):

Students will complete 30 credit hours per year, 15 credit hours each fall and spring semester. In addition each student will complete 350 clock hours of field practicum in the first year and 550 clock hours of field practicum in the second year.

Part-time Program (Three years):

The part-time program requires year-round attendance. Fall, spring, and summer terms of 14 weeks each meet for three years. Each student will complete 21 credit hours both in the first and second years and 18 credit hours in the third year.

Part-time Program (Four years):

This option has classes in the fall and spring terms only. The student completes 6 credit hours each term in the first and third years and 9 credit hours each term in the second and fourth years. The second and fourth years include the field practicum experiences.

Advanced Standing Program:

A student with a B.S.W. degree from a CSWE-accredited undergraduate program may apply for admission to the Advanced Standing Program. Requirements for admission to Advanced Standing include:

1. A minimum GPA of 3.0 in the undergraduate program.
2. References from faculty/field supervisors in the undergraduate program that suggest readiness for advanced graduate work.
3. At least a grade of "B" in the Advanced Standing Bridge Course (SW 599) offered in the summer term prior to taking required classes.
4. All other regular requirements for admission to the M.S.W. program.

Progression in the program:

1. After being approved for admission to the MSW program, the student will enroll in the courses according to the prescribed sequence.
2. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale must be maintained, with no grade less than a B in any practice or field seminar course. Students are required to repeat

a course in which they earn lower than a C. Elective courses with a grade lower than a B need not be repeated, but no credit will be given toward graduation. Students earning less than a B in field practicum will be referred to the Committee on Student Academic and Professional Evaluation (CSAPE), a faculty committee, for action, which may include termination from the program. Students whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 will be referred to CSAPE who will act in accordance with the policies that are identified in the MSW Student Handbook. One option is to place a student on academic probation status. Students who are on academic probation for two consecutive terms will be suspended from the program. At least one term (not including summer unless specifically stipulated otherwise in the suspension decision) must elapse before reapplying.

- Continuation in the MSW program is contingent upon compliance with ethical and professional standards of conduct stipulated by the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers. Reasons for dismissal can include inadequate interpersonal skills and an inability to conform to the Core Performance Standards of the School of Social Work.
- Successful completion of the required coursework, 900 clock hours in an approved social service agency, and attendance in field seminar class concurrent with each social work field practicum are required for graduation, along with a GPA of 3.0 or better. All field practica must be passed with a grade of B or better.
- Graduation requirements follow the guidelines of Union University.

Provisional Admission

Applicants who do not meet the regular admission requirements for the MSW program may be admitted provisionally at the discretion of the MSW Admissions Committee. Provisional admission will require contractual agreement between the applicant and the Admissions Committee to specify the conditions that must be met to matriculate into the MSW program without the designation of provisional status.

Transfer of Credit

Graduate credit for courses earned at a regionally accredited university and in a CSWE-accredited MSW program may be transferred to Union University if the courses are essentially the same as those required in the MSW program. Evidence of similarity may be requested by presenting course descriptions or a syllabus from the institution where the course was taken. Such transfer credit will not be allowed for courses used to satisfy another degree at another institution. The maximum number of semester hours that may be transferred to Union University and applied to the MSW degree is nine hours, unless extenuating circumstances are presented such as to require special faculty approval otherwise.

No course with a grade less than B may be transferred. Courses taken more than five years before beginning the MSW program will be considered on an individual basis.

Financial Information

The registration of a student signifies an agreement by the student to fulfill the related financial obligations.

Tuition: \$415/semester hour for the 2010-2011 MSW program.

Non-degree seeking post-baccalaureate students:

.....	\$415/semester hour
Application Fee (non-refundable, one time only):	\$25
Course Drop Fee:	\$10
Graduation Fee:	\$25
Insurance fee (per year) if student does not have private insurance:	\$25
Field Instruction Fee:\$ 70 per Field Seminar enrollment
Cap and Gown Purchase:	approx. \$40-50
Criminal Background check:	\$70

There are two methods for the payment of expenses.

- Full payment for a term (winter, fall, spring, summer, or other non-regular term) is due prior to or on the day of registration for classes.
- Payment may be made in two equal payments, with one-half due at the time of registration and the balance due halfway through the term. A 1.5% service charge will be added to the unpaid balance following the initial payment.

For students who have a definite commitment of financial aid from the Student Financial Planning Office the total cost for the term and the financial aid allocation is the amount payable by the student to the university.

Any combination of the following payment is available.

- Check, cash, or credit card (MasterCard, Discover, American Express)- a 2 ½ % service charge will be applied when payment is by credit card.
- Federal Stafford loan
- Employer reimbursement
- FACTS (an electronic monthly draft from a savings or checking account)

Financial Assistance

Federal Stafford Loans

Students enrolled in the Master of Social Work program for a minimum of six hours per semester, fall or spring, may apply for the Federal Stafford Loan. The Stafford loan application process will require that you:

- Complete and forward the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to the federal government with Union University's code of 003528.
- Complete a Union Financial Aid Application and forward to the Union University Student Financial Planning Office.

- For more information, contact the Student Financial Planning Office at 731-661-5015 or go to www.uu.edu/financialaid.

If a Federal Stafford Loan is not approved and available at the time of registration, the student must assume the cost by paying in full by check, cash, credit card, or FACTS.

Veterans

Union University is approved to offer educational benefits to veterans, reservists, and dependents who qualify for veterans benefits. Any person who qualifies for the above should check with the Student Financial Planning Office as soon as possible upon registration.

Employer Tuition Reimbursement

- Students are responsible for providing information to the university regarding their employer's policies for tuition reimbursement.
- If an employer reimburses a student directly, the student must pay the university in full at the time of registration.
- If an employer provides partial reimbursement directly to the university, the student must pay his/her portion of tuition at the time of registration.
- The university will provide required information to an employer when requested by the student.

Estimated Costs during the M.S.W. Program- Full-time Program

Semester 1—Fall

Tuition	\$6255 (\$415 per credit hour)
Textbooks	\$600 approximately
Field Practicum fee:	\$70
Insurance Fee:	\$25
Background Check:	\$70

Semester 2—Spring

Tuition	\$6255
Textbooks	\$600
Field Practicum fee:	\$50

Semester 3—Fall

Tuition	\$6255 (estimated \$415 per credit hour)
Textbooks	\$600
Field Practicum fee:	\$70
Insurance fee:	\$25

Semester 4—Spring

Tuition	\$6255
Textbooks	\$600
Field Practicum fee:	\$70

These are approximate costs only and are subject to change.

Acceptance Deposits

A non-refundable tuition deposit of \$100 is required to reserve a place in the MSW program after an applicant is accepted.

Graduation Requirements

- Completion of all course work.
- A minimum grade point average of 3.0 for the required course of study.
- An application for graduation to be submitted to the Graduate Social Work Office. Application deadlines are March 1 for May graduation, October 1 for December graduation, and May 1 for August graduation.
- Full payment of the student's account in the Business Office
- Discharge of all other obligations (fines, fees, etc.) to the University.

Student Organizations

M.S.W. Student Organization

A professional organization is open to all M.S.W. students to assist in developing professional social work identity by regular meetings, educational events, and opportunities for students to lead in service to various social service agencies and the community.

Phi Alpha Honor Society

National Honor Society for Social Work Students, Eta Phi Chapter, fosters high standards of education for social work students and invites into membership those who have attained excellence in scholarship and achievement. Students with a GPA of at least a 3.8 are considered for membership. Other criteria for membership include experience in field practicum and leadership in the social work program. Students become eligible for membership after completion of 15 hours in the curriculum.

Program Calendar 2010-2011

Classes meet on Monday and Thursday evenings for full-time students. Part-time students have classes only on Monday nights. Classes may include both in-class and on-line instruction. Electives may be held any night of the week or on Saturday or be totally online.

See <http://www.uu.edu/academics/graduate/> for additional information.

Course Descriptions: Social Work (SW)

500. Human Behavior and the Social Environment I: Theoretical Foundations (3)

A foundational course providing a framework for creating, organizing, and understanding theory, research, and practice issues of human behavior and the social environment.

501. Human Behavior and the Social Environment II: Assessment through the Lifespan (3)

Prerequisite: SW 500.

This course uses a person-in-environment theoretical framework to provide the knowledge, values, and skills necessary for understanding human behavior as a function of biological, psychological, social, spiritual, and cultural systems across the lifespan.

510. Social Welfare and Social Justice (3)

An introductory background to the history, policy, programs, practice, and values of the social work profession.

520. Practice I: Communities and Organizations (3)

An examination of practice theory and methods with communities and organizations, including community organization and development, organizational theory and behavior, and advocacy.

521. Foundations for Research (3)

The conceptual foundations and methods of evidence-based research. Qualitative and quantitative research will be explored, as well as beginning practice research.

530. Practice II: Individuals and Families (3)

An examination of practice theories and methods for work with individuals and families. The course will emphasize client engagement, assessment, cultural competence, and problem-solving.

535. Policy Analysis and Advocacy (3)

Social policy focusing on major social welfare issues to equip students to analyze and evaluate policy and to develop knowledge and skills for advocacy.

540. Social Work with Groups (3)

An introduction to group theory, group development and methods of practice, various types of groups, and ethical issues that arise in work with groups.

590 and 591. Field Seminar I and II (3 each)

Students participate in Field Seminar when placed in a field practicum. Field Seminars I and II are designed to assist the student with processing the graduate level foundation year field experiences and in applying classroom learning to practice.

599. Advanced Standing Bridge Course (3)

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

605. Psychopathology: Assessment, Diagnostics, and Treatment (3)

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

623. Theory and Ethics for Advanced Practice (3)

The capstone course for the Masters in Social Work degree addressing the integration of professional knowledge, values, and skills under a rubric of theoretical and ethical practice.

631. Practice and Program Evaluation (3)

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.

650. Advanced Practice with Individuals and Families (3)

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.

660. Advanced Practice in Community Development and Administration (3)

This advanced course in administrative and community practice focuses on leadership skills for use in advanced generalist practice. Planned change processes, program development and administration, teamwork, consensus organizing, grant writing and program management expertise are contexts for social work leadership.

690, 691. Field Seminar III and IV (3 each)

Students participate in the 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.

Social Work Electives—Master Class Series

The School of Social Work offers a selection of elective classes each year. Nine hours of elective credit are required for the M.S.W. These elective classes give students an opportunity to specialize in particular fields of social work practice or to explore in depth social problems. The Master Class Series will also be available as continuing education credit for practitioners in the community. They will be 1, 2, or 3 credit hour courses dependent upon student need and academic requirements. The course syllabus will provide the details regarding variable credit course requirements.

610. Social Work Practice with HIV-Positive Affected Groups (1-3)

Acquaints the student with the emotional, physical, economic, and sociopolitical aspects of the HIV Spectrum disease and its impact on African-American women. Issues of race, class, gender, and age will be a vital part of the course. This course may be repeated for additional credit on different topics.

611. Supervision in Social Work Practice (1-3)

This elective course encompasses the work of accountability and continued training of professional social workers within and across a variety of social work practice contexts. This course may be repeated for additional credit in differing areas of practice.

612. Crisis Intervention (1-3)

Designed to equip students to rapidly assess and intervene in crisis situations and maximize safety and stability for those involved, this course will explore models of crisis development and empirically-based crisis interventions. This course may be repeated for additional credit on different topics.

Other Variable Credit and Variable Content Courses**579, 679. External Domestic Study Programs (1-4)**

All courses and application to the program must be defined prior to travel.

580, 680. Study Abroad Programs (1-4)

All courses and application to the program must be defined prior to travel.

585, 586, 587. Special Studies in Social Work (1-6)

Group studies which do not appear in the School course offerings. Content will be determined by need.

655. Independent Study in Social Work (1-3)

Individual research and study under the guidance of a social work professor.