

## 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](http://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. 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. 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*):
  - Flex/no subspecialty: Select from the available electives
  - Mental Health subspecialty: Select from the available mental health electives
  - Licensed Child Welfare Practice subspecialty: Select from CWEL electives (IL Child Welfare Employee License)

**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 for the Summer or Fall semester)**

- For more information or to register for an information session, visit: [www.govst.edu/msw](http://www.govst.edu/msw)
- Start the application by visiting: <https://www.govst.edu/graduate/>
- Submit your official college/university transcripts to [apotranscripts@govst.edu](mailto:apotranscripts@govst.edu)

Contact information: 708.534.4490 or [mswadmissions@govst.edu](mailto: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 (students w/BSW)

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.

#### Generalist Curriculum

SOCW 8000 [Transition to Adv. Social Work](#) (1)  
SOCW 7050 or 8060 Elective\*\* (3)

*\* Specialization Coursework: (28 Credit Hrs.)*

**Total: 32 Credit Hours**

### Full MSW Program (students w/no BSW)

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)

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

*\* Specialization Coursework: (28 Credit Hrs.)*

**Total: 60 Credit Hours**

### \*Specialization Coursework: 28 Credit Hours

#### *Children and Family 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)

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

*\*\*Students pursuing a C&F 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 Child Welfare, DSM, Entrepreneurship, Ethics, Trauma, Advanced Mental Health, Mindfulness.*

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

