

Master of Social Work



College of Health and Human Services

The Master of Social Work (MSW) Program

Social Work Practice Grounded in a Social Justice Ethos

GovState's Master of Social Work program prepares advanced social work practitioners to provide services to children, adolescents, adults, families, and communities from socially and economically diverse backgrounds. The curriculum is founded on evidence-based/best practices. Students gain real-life experience through our partnerships in the community with over 250+ internship opportunities.

Two Programs

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 also available. Students complete 16-20 hours of field education per week at the specialized level (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 also available. Students complete 14 hours of field education per week at the generalist level and 16-20 hours per week at the specialized level. Each level requires a Fall and Spring term of field education, totaling four semesters of field education.

MSW Specializations

- **School Social Work (to become eligible for Professional Educator License/PEL)**
- **Children and Family**
 - o Standard Child and Family (choose 2 courses from the available electives)
 - o Mental Health Subspecialty (electives in understanding the DSM-5 and related interventions)
 - o Licensed Child Welfare Practice Subspecialty (to become eligible for a child welfare license in IL)

Fully Accredited

The MSW program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

Licensure

Students who graduate with an MSW can seek clinical and leadership roles in a variety of public/private settings (e.g., advocacy organizations, counseling centers, child welfare agencies (IDCFS), hospitals, private practice, residential settings, schools, veteran administration systems, and more). After earning a master's degree and meeting additional state requirements, graduates can immediately apply to become a Licensed Social Worker (LSW) in Illinois. To become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), 3,000 clock hours of post-MSW supervision and a clinical exam are required (reference the state's guidelines).

Delivery Format

Classes are held in person or on campus and primarily offered in the afternoon/evening (e.g., starting at 4:30 pm). Field Education is completed off-campus within a social service setting in the community.

How to Apply

The MSW Program admits students for the Summer and Fall semesters.

- Apply to the Master of Social Work Program at: www.govst.edu/chhs/msw/apply.
- Send official college transcripts to apotranscripts@govst.edu
- Please send all questions to mswadmissions@govst.edu.

For more information or to register for an online MSW Information Session, visit www.govst.edu/msw

NOTE: The Master of Social Work Program does not offer college credit for life experience.

FACT

Overall employment of social workers is projected to grow 7-12 percent from 2020 to 2030 much faster than the average for all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Social Workers, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/social-workers.htm> (visited July 17, 2022).

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MSW Admission Criteria & Curriculum

Advanced Standing MSW Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.00 (on a 4.0 scale) in all BSW coursework. If you have earned less than a 'B-' grade in any BSW course, the course will not be accepted.

Full Program MSW Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 on undergraduate coursework and completion of the Liberal Arts prerequisites listed below:

- Behavioral/Social Sciences (Equivalent of 9 credit hours).
- Science/Mathematics (Equivalent of 6 Credit Hours).
- Humanities/Fine Arts (Equivalent of 6 Credit Hours)

Advanced Standing MSW Required Curriculum

- SOCW 8000 Transition to Adv. Social Work (1)
- SOCW 7050 or 8060 Elective* (3)

Specialization Curriculum (28)

Total: 32 Credit Hours

Full Program MSW Required Curriculum

Generalist Curriculum (32)

- SOCW 6100 Social Work in a Diverse Society (3)
- SOCW 6200 Human Beh. In the Social Env. I (3)
- SOCW 6300 Human Beh. In the Social Env. II (3)
- SOCW 6400 Social Welfare Policies & Provisions (3)
- SOCW 6500 Social Work Research (3)
- SOCW 7100 Social Work Practice I (3)
- SOCW 7200 Social Work Practice II (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 Curriculum (28)

Total: 60 Credit Hours

Specialization Required Curriculum

Advanced Standing and Full Program MSW students must complete 28 credit hours at the specialization level.

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 Practicum III Integrative Seminar (2)
- SOCW 8700 Field Practicum IV (3)
- SOCW 8701 Field Practicum IV Integrative Seminar (2)
- SOCW 7050 or 8060 Elective* (3)

*Students interested in a Child and Family Mental Health Subspecialty take the following electives:

- SOCW 7050: DSM at the generalist level and
- SOCW 8060: Advanced Mental Health at the specialist level.

*Students interested in a Child and Family Licensed Child Welfare Subspecialty take the following electives:

- SOCW 7050: Child Welfare I at the generalist level and
- SOCW 7050: Child Welfare II at the specialist level

Specialization Credit Hours: 28

School Social Work - Specialization

- SOCW 8100 Context & Theories in Practice (3)
- SOCW 8300 Practice w/Children & Adolescents (3)
- SOCW 8210 Social Work Practice in Schools (3)
- SOCW 8400 Practice Evaluation (3)
- SOCW 8510 Policy for School Social Workers (3)
- SOCW 8600 Field Practicum III (3)
- SOCW 8601 Field Practicum III Integrative Seminar (2)
- SOCW 8700 Field Practicum IV (3)
- SOCW 8701 Field Practicum IV Integrative Seminar (2)
- Required Elective: SPED 6101: Survey of Students with Exceptionalities (3)

Note: Candidates must pass the ILTS content test #184 or #238 for school social work

Specialization Credit Hours: 28