

Master of Social Work (MSW) Frequently Asked Questions

What are the eligibility requirements to apply to the program?

Eligible applicants will have the following:

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited university (those applying for advanced standing status need to have a bachelor's of social work degree from an institution accredited by the Council on Social Work Education)
- A cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale*
- Submission of all required application materials
- Readiness to take the next step in achieving your goals

*Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis

Can I schedule a visit before I apply?

Yes! We encourage prospective students to visit Washburn University and the Department of Social Work.

Please contact the Social Work Office at 785-670-1616 to schedule an individual appointment.

Is the MSW program available online?

More than half of the courses have online options. However, some clinical courses and electives are only offered on campus.

Do I need an undergraduate degree in social work?

No. You do not need an undergraduate degree in social work to be considered for admission to the MSW Program.

To be admitted to the MSW Program, applicants must have a baccalaureate degree from a college or university accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, or a comparable accrediting body. Consistent with the importance ascribed to the liberal arts perspective by Washburn University and CSWE, the applicant must present evidence of adequate preparation to engage in graduate study, including the satisfactory completion of undergraduate coursework in the natural sciences,

social sciences, humanities, English composition, mathematics, biology, and cultural diversity.

What is the difference between regular and advanced standing?

The Regular Standing Program is for the student who has an undergraduate degree in a discipline other than social work.

The Advanced Standing Program is designed for students whose baccalaureate degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and was conferred within the past 10 years.

How long does it take to complete the MSW program?

Regular standing students attending full time can complete the program in 2 years. Students have up to 4 years to complete the program.

Advanced standing students attending full-time can complete the program in 11 months. Part time advanced standing students typically finish the program in 2 years.

What does the course schedule look like?

Foundational courses for regular-standing students are typically offered on Mondays and/or online.

Clinical courses (second year for regular-standing students) are typically offered on Wednesdays.

Sometimes electives and extra sections of required courses will be available on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

In-person courses typically have a section offered in the evening.

If I am interested in the part-time program, how should I apply?

The online application has a section to indicate if you prefer part-time or full-time.

Do I have to take the GRE?

No, the GRE is not required.

What is the grade point average (GPA) requirement?

Undergraduate cumulative GPA of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

What are the required application materials?

Transcripts – unofficial transcript from undergraduate degree conferring university or college, if accepted to the MSW program, official transcripts must be submitted within 6 months.

Current resume or curriculum vitae (CV) – this document should reflect the applicant's current and previous relevant employment, current and previous internship/practicum placements, academic history, and volunteer/service history as well as special skills and accomplishments.

References – Applicants will provide the name and contact information (email) of three (3) professional references. Please do not include personal references such as friends, family members, counselors, life coaches, or pastoral/spiritual confidants.

Personal Statement – Address the following prompts (5 page maximum):

- What has motivated you to complete the MSW degree and how do you know now is the right time?
- Describe your assets and challenges, how will these assist or hinder your course of study, and how will they assist or hinder your long-term social work career goal?
- After reading the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics, discuss its relevance and your ability and willingness to comply to the ethical standards.

Note: The personal statement serves as your introduction to the Social Work Department at Washburn University and as a writing sample. The personal statement should be free from grammatical and typographical errors.

How do I submit my transcripts?

You will be asked to upload an unofficial copy of your transcript in the application process. An official copy of the transcript from the institution which conferred your undergraduate degree must be sent to Washburn University for admission to the University.

If you haven't graduated yet, you must submit an official transcript with all grades posted through the semester prior to the application deadline.

How do my references provide their letters of recommendation?

In the online application, include the name and email of each reference. Submission of your application will generate an automatic email to your references with a link and instructions for them to follow.

Successful completion will automatically return the reference form to Washburn University. References should be encouraged to attach a letter of recommendation with their reference form.

Is there an application fee?

No, there is no fee to apply to the MSW program.

When is the deadline to submit my application materials?

Students desiring a spring or summer* semester start – application due date is October 15th

Students desiring a fall semester start – Priority deadline is January 15th; final application due date is March 1st.

*A summer semester start is only available for advanced standing students

When will I find out if I have been accepted?

Applications are only reviewed between September 1 and May 1

Applications received by the 1st of any given month will be reviewed with determinations sent to the applicant's email by the 25th of that same month.

Who do I contact if I have questions about my application?

The Administrative Specialist for the Social Work Department can be reached at 785-670-1616 or social-work@washburn.edu

How can I learn more about social work and social work licensure?

You can find more information about what social workers do on the website of the National Association of Social Workers <https://www.socialworkers.org/>

You can find more information about licensure in the State of Kansas on the website for the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB) <https://ksbsrb.ks.gov>

Do you offer scholarships?

For more information, view the [School of Applied Studies Scholarship Application](#).