Department of Social Work

Mission Statement
Educating transformative culturally competent social workers.

The Department of Social Work offers the Master of Social Work degree.

Master of Social Work
The Master of Social Work (MSW) degree prepares students for advanced social work practice. Graduates work in professional positions serving diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Students graduating from the program will demonstrate a commitment to cultural competence, multidimensional contextual practice, social responsibility, and transformative social work. The UTSA MSW program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Applicants with misdemeanor or felony charges or convictions may have difficulty being accepted by an agency to complete their field practicum, obtaining a social work license, and/or gaining employment as a social worker in some settings. See the Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners Web site at http://www.dhs.state.tx.us/socialwork/ for additional information.

The Master of Social Work degree program consists of two program tracks: a 60-semester-credit-hour program for students with undergraduate degrees that are not in social work, and a 36-semester-credit-hour program for students with undergraduate degrees in social work or at least 18 hours of graduate credit in social work.

36-Hour Program: Applicants for this program must have a bachelor's degree in social work (BSW) awarded from a CSWE-accredited program or have successfully completed a minimum of 18 graduate semester credit hours in a CSWE-accredited MSW program. The UTSA MSW program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Applicants with misdemeanor or felony charges or convictions may have difficulty being accepted by an agency to complete their field practicum, obtaining a social work license, and/or gaining employment as a social worker in some settings. See the Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners Web site at http://www.dhs.state.tx.us/socialwork/ for additional information.

For admission to the 36-hour program, additional requirements include:

1. a completed UTSA Graduate School application;
2. official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended;
3. an application packet found on the Graduate School’s website with instructions and required forms that includes the following:
   • a narrative statement addressing interest in and the fit with the UTSA MSW program not to exceed 1,250 words (approximately five pages). Make sure questions to be addressed are part of the packet;
   • three completed department recommendation forms from professionals familiar with applicant preparation for graduate social work education;
   • department forms documenting prior professional and volunteer experiences and academic preparation in the liberal arts;
4. for international students, results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL; not more than five years old and a score of not less than 550 on the paper version, 79 on the internet version), or results of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS; not more than five years old and a score of not less than 6.5).

36-Hour Program Admission Requirements. In addition to University-wide requirements and program admission requirements, applicants must have completed a BSW degree from a CSWE-accredited program within ten years from the date of application or have successfully completed a minimum of 18 graduate semester credit hours in a CSWE-accredited Master of Social Work program. BSW graduates with appropriate rationale, such as post-BSW practice experience, may apply and request an exception to the ten-year requirement in their application.

For admission to the 36-hour program, additional requirements include:

1. a grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in the last 60 semester credit hours of coursework for the BSW, as well as any graduate-level MSW coursework previously completed;
2. a reference letter from either the BSW field director/coordinator or BSW program director if a BSW applicant, or from the MSW program director/chair if an applicant has completed MSW courses, attesting to good standing status in the CSWE-accredited social work program where the student has completed coursework;
3. BSW applicants must provide a copy of the BSW field evaluation form which indicates number of clock hours completed, final grade, description of practicum setting (including community and clientele served), and accomplishments as a practicum student;
4. MSW applicants who have completed any portion of their foundation field practicum must provide a copy of the MSW field evaluation form which indicates number of clock hours completed, final grade, description of practicum setting (including community and clientele served), and accomplishments as a practicum student;
5. be in good standing at the last institution attended; and
6. be recommended for admission by the UTSA Department of Social Work Graduate Program Committee.

Program Admission Requirements
Applicants must satisfy University-wide graduate admission requirements.

Admission requirements for all students include:

1. a completed UTSA Graduate School application;
2. official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended;
3. an application packet found on the Graduate School’s website with instructions and required forms that includes the following:
   • a narrative statement addressing interest in and the fit with the UTSA MSW program not to exceed 1,250 words (approximately five pages). Make sure questions to be addressed are part of the packet;
   • three completed department recommendation forms from professionals familiar with applicant preparation for graduate social work education;
   • department forms documenting prior professional and volunteer experiences and academic preparation in the liberal arts;
4. for international students, results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL; not more than five years old and a score of not less than 550 on the paper version, 79 on the internet version), or results of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS; not more than five years old and a score of not less than 6.5).

60-Hour Social Work Program
The 60-hour social work program is designed for applicants who have undergraduate degrees in something other than social work. Non-BSW students must complete 24 semester credit hours of foundation courses and 36 hours of additional coursework in the MSW program.
The minimum number of semester credit hours required for the 60-hour program track is 60 semester credit hours; course deficiencies may require additional coursework.

**60-Hour Program Admission Requirements.** In addition to University-wide requirements and program admission requirements, applicants must have completed an undergraduate degree in something other than social work.

For admission to the 60-hour program, additional requirements include:

1. a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in the last 60 semester credit hours of undergraduate and graduate-level coursework graduate-level coursework previously completed;
2. be in good standing at the last institution attended; and
3. be recommended for admission by the UTSA Department of Social Work Graduate Program Committee.

**Classification and Academic Standing Requirements**

Students admitted as conditional or probationary students must satisfy specified conditions their first semester in the program for their admission status to be changed to that of an unconditional student. Admission as a special graduate or non-degree-seeking student does not guarantee subsequent admission as a degree-seeking student; such students must reapply for degree-seeking status.

Please refer to department Web site for further information: http://copp.utsa.edu/department/category/social-work/.

**Degree Requirements**

**36-Hour Program**

The minimum number of semester credit hours required for the degree, exclusive of coursework or other study required to remove deficiencies, 60 for the non-BSW student. Academic course credit cannot be granted for life or previous work experience.

A. 24 semester credit hours of foundation courses. Non-BSW students must complete the following courses:

- SWK 5013 Human Behavior and Social Environment: Dynamics of Individuals and Families
- SWK 5103 Social Problems and Social Welfare Policy Analysis
- SWK 5513 Generalist Social Work Practice
- SWK 5203 Social Work Research
- SWK 5303 Foundations of Social Work I
- SWK 5313 Foundations of Social Work II
- SWK 5403 Foundation Field Practicum I and Integrative Seminar
- SWK 5413 Foundation Field Practicum II and Integrative Seminar

B. 6 semester credit hours in Advanced Culturally Competent Practice. All students must complete the following courses:

- SWK 5233 Global Context of Social Work
- SWK 5513 Culturally Competent Practice with Diverse Populations

C. 18 semester credit hours in Advanced Culturally Competent Practice. All students must complete the following courses:

- SWK 5423 Advanced Field Practicum III and Integrative Seminar
- SWK 5433 Advanced Field Practicum IV and Integrative Seminar
- SWK 5443 Advanced Social Work Methods: Individuals
- SWK 5463 Advanced Social Work Methods: Groups
- SWK 5493 Advanced Social Work Methods: Community Practice
- SWK 5523 Advanced Social Work Methods: Children and Families

D. 6 semester credit hours in Advanced Research and Policy. All students must complete the following courses:

- SWK 5243 Advanced Social Work Research: Practice and Program Evaluation

E. 3 semester credit hours of electives. All students must complete one of the following:

- 3 semester credit hours of free elective graduate coursework chosen in consultation with the student’s faculty advisor
- SWK 6953 Independent Study
- SWK 6973 Special Topics in Culturally Competent Practice

**60-Hour Social Work Program**

The minimum number of semester credit hours required for the degree, exclusive of coursework or other study required to remove deficiencies, 60 for the non-BSW student. Academic course credit cannot be granted for life or previous work experience.

A. 24 semester credit hours of foundation courses. Non-BSW students must complete the following courses:

- SWK 5013 Human Behavior and Social Environment: Dynamics of Individuals and Families
- SWK 5103 Social Problems and Social Welfare Policy Analysis
- SWK 5513 Generalist Social Work Practice
- SWK 5203 Social Work Research
- SWK 5303 Foundations of Social Work I
- SWK 5313 Foundations of Social Work II
- SWK 5403 Foundation Field Practicum I and Integrative Seminar
- SWK 5413 Foundation Field Practicum II and Integrative Seminar

B. 6 semester credit hours in Advanced Culturally Competent Practice. All students must complete the following courses:

- SWK 5233 Global Context of Social Work
- SWK 5513 Culturally Competent Practice with Diverse Populations

C. 18 semester credit hours in Advanced Culturally Competent Practice. All students must complete the following courses:

- SWK 5423 Advanced Field Practicum III and Integrative Seminar
- SWK 5433 Advanced Field Practicum IV and Integrative Seminar
- SWK 5443 Advanced Social Work Methods: Individuals
- SWK 5463 Advanced Social Work Methods: Groups
- SWK 5493 Advanced Social Work Methods: Community Practice
- SWK 5523 Advanced Social Work Methods: Children and Families

D. 6 semester credit hours in Advanced Research and Policy. All students must complete the following courses:

- SWK 5243 Advanced Social Work Research: Practice and Program Evaluation
E. 3 semester credit hours from the following electives. All students must complete one of the following courses:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SWK 5483</td>
<td>Multidimensional Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or SWK 563</td>
<td>Transformational Leadership in Social Work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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F. 3 semester credit hours of electives. All students must complete one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 semester credit hours of free elective graduate coursework</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>chosen in consultation with the student's faculty advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWK 6953</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWK 6973</td>
<td>Special Topics in Culturally Competent Practice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credit Hours 60

**Comprehensive Examination**

Students who successfully complete SWK 5433 Advanced Field Practicum IV and Integrative Seminar with a grade of “B” or better satisfy the comprehensive examination requirement for master’s degree graduates. (Students must earn a minimum grade of “B” in SWK 5433 as a degree requirement.)

**Field Practicum**

Students in the 60-semester-credit-hour program are expected to complete 900 clock hours of field experience under the supervision of an MSW social worker while in the program. Students complete a minimum of 450 clock hours over two semesters as part of their foundation coursework and an additional 450 clock hours over one or two semesters as part of their advanced coursework. Advanced standing students complete 450 clock hours of field practicum as part of their advanced coursework. The program’s field office arranges the placement and oversees the placement process. Although a limited number of placements are available for students who work full-time, students are expected to be as flexible as possible to ensure successful placement.