



MSW Eligibility Criteria and Special Applicant Groups

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MSW Day Program and MSW Extended Degree Program

Admission is competitive and applicants are evaluated holistically. Applicants to the MSW Day Program or MSW Extended Degree Program must meet the [minimum requirements](#) outlined by the UW Graduate School.

- Social Work Experience: All MSW candidates are recommended to have at least 2000 hours of [relevant social service experience](#) by the time of application; however, this is not a requirement.
- Degree: We do not require any specific major or baccalaureate degree to apply for either program. Applicants must have, at a minimum, a four-year baccalaureate degree. The degree must be posted before the start of the MSW Program. However, the School of Social Work may consider an exceptional applicant without a four-year bachelor's degree. An admission petition to the Graduate School must be submitted by the School of Social Work before an offer is made for any applicants that do not meet the degree minimum and is subject to denial. More information on minimum degree requirements [here](#).
- GPA: Applicants must meet the 3.0 grade point average (on a 4 point scale) for credits earned at a regionally accredited institution awarding the bachelor's, master's, graduate doctoral degree, or professional doctoral degree OR at least a 3.0 for the last 90 quarter credits/60 semester credits. However, the School of Social Work may consider an exceptional applicant with a GPA below a 3.0 – applicants with less than a 3.0 GPA are encouraged to provide additional information related to the context of their GPA in the Application Questions section of the application. An admission petition to the Graduate School must be submitted by the School of Social Work before an offer is made for any applicants that do not meet the GPA minimum and is subject to denial. Please see [this document](#) for suggested strategies to help strengthen your candidacy for admission.
- English Proficiency: Non-native English speakers must demonstrate English language proficiency. More information on English proficiency requirements can be found [here](#).
- Criminal Background Check: Applicants who are offered admission to the School of Social Work will receive instructions to complete the criminal background check and Request for Criminal History Information Form with

the admission notice. Prospective applicants with questions or concerns about this requirement should review our information on [Criminal History Information and Admissions/Continuance](#).

MSW Advanced Standing (Part-time and Full-time)

Admission is competitive and applicants are evaluated holistically. Applicants to the Advanced Standing Programs must meet the [minimum requirements](#) outlined by the UW Graduate School, in addition to a bachelor's degree in social work/social welfare. [If you are a current BASW Senior at UW Seattle with a 3.5 GPA at the end of junior year you are eligible for a streamlined application process - please \[click here\]\(#\) for specific instructions.](#)

- Social Work Degree: All Advanced Standing applicants must have graduated from a U.S. baccalaureate program in social work or social welfare accredited by the [CSWE](#) or a Canadian bachelor's level social work program accredited by CASSW ([CASWE](#)).
 - Students who have a BSW/BASW degree from a social work program outside of the U.S. may have their [degree evaluated by the International Social Work Degree Recognition and Evaluation Service](#), and may apply for Advanced Standing if the degree is determined to be consistent with CSWE requirements.
 - Advanced Standing applicants who graduated more than five years ago should demonstrate continued professional growth through social work experience. (Professional training, leadership, and advancement in the social work field are also considered).
- Social Work Experience: All MSW candidates are recommended to have at least 2000 hours of [relevant social service experience](#) by the time of application; however, this is not a requirement.
- GPA: Applicants must meet the 3.0 grade point average (on a 4 point scale) for credits earned at a regionally accredited institution awarding the bachelor's, master's, graduate doctoral degree, or professional doctoral degree OR at least a 3.0 for the last 90 quarter credits/60 semester credits. However, the School of Social Work may consider an exceptional applicant with a GPA below a 3.0 – applicants with less than a 3.0 GPA are encouraged to provide additional information related to the context of their GPA in the

Application Questions section of the application. An admission petition to the Graduate School must be submitted by the School of Social Work before an offer is made for any applicants that do not meet the GPA minimum and is subject to denial. Please see [this document](#) for suggested strategies to help strengthen your candidacy for admission.

- English Proficiency: Non-native English speakers must demonstrate English language proficiency. More information on English proficiency requirements can be found [here](#).
- Criminal Background Check: Applicants who are offered admission to the School of Social Work will receive instructions to complete the criminal background check and Request for Criminal History Information Form with the admission notice. Prospective applicants with questions or concerns about this requirement should review our information on [Criminal History Information and Admissions/Continuance](#).

UW Seattle BASW Seniors

If you are a current BASW Senior at UW Seattle with a 3.5 GPA at the end of junior year you are eligible for a streamlined application process - please [click here](#) for specific instructions.

Undocumented Applicants

The School of Social Work accepts applications from prospective students regardless of citizenship status – we encourage applicants who identify as undocumented, DACA eligible, or HB 1079 eligible to connect with the various resources on campus that may provide additional information about UW resources, residency, and funding opportunities. Our hope is that you'll find safe and welcoming spaces at the School of Social Work and the UW. The [Graduate Student Equity & Excellence](#) (GSEE) has detailed instructions for students on how best to complete the demographics portion of the graduate school application. Please review these materials prior to beginning your application. We highly encourage students to review the [Northwest Immigrants Rights Project DACA Advisory](#) that outlines recommendations for community members who have applied for DACA or who are interested in applying. Need additional support in

applying? Feel free to reach out to our office, GSEE, or [Leadership Without Borders](#).

International Applicants

Most international applicants are only eligible for a visa if enrolled full-time (Day or Full-time Advanced Standing program). International students requiring an F-1 student visa to attend the University of Washington should not list the Extended Degree Program (EDP) or Part-time Advanced Standing Program among application choices for consideration. Visit the [UW Graduate School's International Student page](#), which includes important details about visas, U.S. immigration laws, and a financial ability requirement. International applicants must provide proof of financial ability, demonstrate English proficiency, and will need a student visa to attend.

Please note that international students are not eligible for the CWTAP traineeship and are only eligible for the WDI traineeship if they have guaranteed work authorization after their education visa has expired.

Non-Native English Speakers

Non-native English speakers can [demonstrate English language proficiency](#) in several ways: a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree from a U.S. institution, a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree from an institution located in a country where English is the official language, official documentation from the degree-granting institution verifying that all instruction is in English, OR, an Official English Language Test Score (sent electronically to the University of Washington via testing center). The UW School of Social Work requires scores to meet/surpass the ["recommended" scores](#). We will accept the TOEFLI or TOEFLB scores of 92 or higher, Duolingo scores of 120 or higher, and IELTS scores of 7.0 or higher. Test scores should be sent at least two weeks before the application deadline to ensure they are processed in time. Due to the rigor and pace of our programs, students with scores below the "recommended" scores will not be admitted and enrolling in an Academic English Proficiency (AEP) class is not permitted. More information on English proficiency requirements can be found [here](#).

MSW Transfer Applicants

Applicants transferring from another CSWE-accredited MSW program are considered for admission into the MSW Day and Extended Degree Programs **on a space-available basis**. Due to the part-time format, our Extended Degree Program and UW-Tacoma's MSW Program may be more feasible options for transfer applicants.

Unfortunately, due to space restrictions and the tight curriculum of our compressed Advanced Standing program, we do not allow Advanced Standing transfer applications.

Beyond the standard MSW application, there is no separate application for transfer students. However, please indicate your status as a transfer applicant when prompted in the application. There will also be space to provide the reasoning behind your decision to transfer.

Transfer students must meet all general eligibility requirements and have completed their full generalist curriculum and practicum (or expect to have completed it before beginning our program). Our admissions team may request updated transcripts after an offer of admission. Failure to successfully complete the generalist curriculum prior to the start of our program can result in a withdrawal of admission.

Transfer students are required to include at least one member of the social work faculty from their current/previous institution among the three required references.

Credits will be evaluated by the MSW Program Office *after* receiving an offer of admission and paying the enrollment deposit. Transfer students are only eligible to transfer up to 39 quarter credit hours from their previous institution. However, this is subject to review by the MSW Program Director to ensure course equivalency. Please note that UW's generalist curriculum often differs from other MSW programs, therefore, transfer students almost always need to take some generalist courses which can extend the typical graduation timeline. We cannot guarantee credits will fully transfer.

Per UW policy, students must complete all degree requirements within six years. If previously completed MSW coursework was done four years ago or more, please contact admissions about your transfer eligibility.

If admitted, transfer students will choose an area of specialization and a practicum site. Some specializations and practicum sites have limited capacity and are therefore only available to transfer students on a space-available basis.

Students wishing to transfer credits from a different type of graduate program from which they did not earn a degree are limited to 6 transfer credits per UW Graduate School policy. Additionally, students who have taken graduate-level research courses may be waived out of the required MSW research courses. Under both circumstances, we'll assess eligibility only after the student has been admitted, paid the enrollment deposit, and provided relevant syllabi.

The UW does not award general credit for work or life experience.

Re-Applicants

We welcome you to reapply. Reapplying is never looked at negatively, and does not impact admission chances. As of May 2023, reusing materials is no longer possible due to a change in application platforms. More information on reapplying can be found [here](#).

Graduate Non-Matriculated (GNM) and Non-Matriculated (NM) Applicants

For full details about the current GNM registration process, visit [this Canvas page](#). Per Graduate School policy, prospective GNM students must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Hold a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university in the U.S. or its equivalent from a foreign institution.
2. Have earned at least a 3.0 grade-point-average (on a 4 point scale) for the last 90 graded quarter credits or 60 graded semester credits.

Before filling out the application and paying the fee, please contact the School of Social Work Student Services at mswadvising@uw.edu to inquire about classes available to GNM and NM students during the quarter you are hoping to enroll. *Initial contact must be made more than two weeks prior to the quarter beginning.* The adviser will go over the next steps with you, at this time. We only want you to pay the fee if we are able to allow you into a course in which you'd like to enroll.

For GNM status, you will also have to complete these additional steps.

1. Visit the Graduate School's online application to complete the application. There is a \$75 non-refundable or transferable fee for GNM applications.
2. As part of the online application, you will upload unofficial transcripts.
3. Additionally, you will also be required to upload a resume.
4. Alert the Student Services Department that your application has been submitted and is ready for review. Please email mswadvising@uw.edu. The application portal does close for a period of time during the spring and summer – in order to submit your application you will need to communicate with Student Services to coordinate your online submission.

What other things should I know in order to take class(es)?

1. [UW Time Schedule](#) for course and schedule information
2. [Tuition information](#)
3. [Academic Calendar](#)
4. If you are a UW or State employee, planning to use tuition exemption, please visit the [Registrar's webpage](#). MSW Extended Degree Program students cannot use tuition exemption, since the EDP program is a fee-based program
5. [UW Graduate School Policies for GNM](#).