

College of Arts and Sciences

Master of Social Work – Advanced Standing

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND PROCEDURES

All application materials must be received by the application deadline to receive full consideration. For application deadlines and entry terms, refer to the [priority deadlines](#). *International applicants and those with international transcripts should consult the [International Requirements Page](#), for deadlines and other requirements, as they may differ.*

- Complete graduate application form and submit the \$55 non-refundable application fee. The fee is automatically waived for Seattle University alumni. Applicants who attend an information session or are experiencing a financial hardship and submit an application by the priority deadline, may request a fee waiver. Please reference the date of the information session or state the reason for the request on the payment page of the application.
- Evidence of the minimum of an earned four-year baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution or U.S. equivalent. The degree must be a social work degree (BSW/BASW) from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) or Council on Social Work Education International (CSWE - International) accredited program. Applicants provide a list of all social work courses previously taken, currently in progress and to be completed on the MSW Advanced Standing Required Courses Form offered through the application.
- Submit an official, degree-posted transcript from the last 90 quarter/60 semester graded credits of your bachelor's degree, including any transfer institution credit earned during this time period as well as any post-baccalaureate coursework. The minimum GPA for eligibility is a 3.0 or its equivalent. Applicants from institutions issuing non-graded transcripts may be required to submit official results from the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). Applicants with a GPA below the minimum attach an explanatory statement with the application to be considered for an exception.
- Provide evidence of successful completion of a college-level Statistics course with a passing grade. Applicants may apply if they have not yet completed a course. However, the course must be completed prior to enrollment into the MSW program.
- Three professional or academic recommendations using the MSW forms supplied through the application. The references should be from people who know your academic capabilities as well as interpersonal strengths. One of the three recommendations must be from a BSW program the applicant attended (preferably a Field Advisor or Field Supervisor). Personal references are not accepted.
- Résumé documenting education, work and volunteer experiences but distinguish between the two. Include your role, dates employed, whether part-time or full-time as well as the organization name. Résumé should list the name of every college or university attended and dates. The résumé must include a description of the BSW Practicum(s) – The setting of the practicum, dates and hours (per week) and your primary roles and responsibilities.
- Admission essay addressing the following questions:
Part 1: Please answer questions A, B, and C separately. (1500 words max total)
 - A. *The mission of the Seattle University (SU) Master of Social Work (MSW) program is to educate students for social justice-focused and community-based advanced*

clinical social work practice. The program seeks to advance equity in access to excellent clinical social work practice for historically marginalized populations by preparing competent and effective practitioners who restore, maintain, and enhance human and community well-being with unwavering attention to social and economic justice. The program is committed to respectful engagement and collaboration with community partners in its scholarship, teaching, and service.

Bearing in mind the mission of the SU MSW program, discuss how your education and/or experience (work, volunteer, personal) prepared you to pursue graduate social work education at this program.

- B. The SU MSW program offers a single concentration in advanced clinical social work practice. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) defines advanced clinical social work as below:

As a specialty within the practice of social work, clinical social work builds on professional values, ethics, principles, practice methods, and the person-in-environment perspective of the profession. It reflects the profession's mission to promote social and economic justice by empowering clients who experience oppression or vulnerability. Clinical social work requires the professional use of self to restore, maintain, and enhance the biological, psychological, social, and spiritual functioning of individuals, families, and groups.

Why is clinical social work a good fit for you? What relevant skills and qualities do you bring to clinical social work?

- C. Discuss your preparation for a rigorous graduate academic program and field practicum. What are your academic strengths? What strategies or skills do you currently have to maintain strong performance in classes and in field practicum (which occur simultaneously)? What do you recognize as areas for development in order to succeed in this program?

Part 2: Social Problem Analysis (1500 words max excluding the reference section)

Identify and analyze a social problem that is significant to the profession of social work. This analysis paper must include appropriate references and use the American Psychological Association (APA) style citation and formatting. Faculty will evaluate the paper for its content and social justice framework, organization, and writing quality.

The following elements must be addressed:

- a) Problem definition and description
- b) Societal issues that contributed to the creation and maintenance of the problem
- c) Possible solutions or interventions to address the problem
- d) Limitations of the proposed interventions or obstacles to proposed solutions
- Case Study: In addition to the Admission Essays (Parts 1 and 2), submission of a Case Study is required for Advanced Standing applicants. (1000 words max)
Drawing upon your BSW practicum or social work experience, please describe a case (individual, family, or group) with which you worked directly. Write a case summary addressing the following elements:
 - 1) Client description, including age, race, ethnicity, gender, and other relevant sociocultural factors (use a pseudonym and appropriate disguise to protect the identity of the client):
 - 2) Presenting problem(s):
 - 3) Contributing factors: what are the factors (biological, psychological, sociological, spiritual) that might have contributed to the presenting problem?

- 4) Intervention: describe your intervention and why you chose that intervention strategy.
- 5) Evaluation: How effective was the intervention? What have you learned from this case? What would you do differently in retrospect?
- Senior Final Field Evaluation: Applicants applying for Advanced Standing must submit a copy of their *Senior Final Field Evaluation as an attachment to the application. This document may be from your own records or directly from your undergraduate school. If the school no longer has a copy of the final field evaluation, the Field Director, Liaison, or BSW advisor may submit a letter that specifies: Name of agency and type of services provided; number of field hours completed; description of learning activities, clients, number of cases, frequency of contact, etc.; and overall performance.

**Current BSW seniors may submit a current Field Evaluation at the time of application. The Final Field Evaluation must be submitted upon graduation.*

- Applicants for whom English is a nonnative language must demonstrate English proficiency regardless of English language studies, residence in the United States or an English-speaking country, or immigration status. Graduate applicants with a baccalaureate or higher degrees from recognized colleges in the U.S., Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, New Zealand or Australia and who have continued to reside in countries where English is the primary language for at least two years prior to applying to Seattle University will have this requirement waived. English proficiency may be met with an official TOEFL score of 92 (IBT), or 580 (PBT); the IELTS exam with a minimum score of 7.0; or a PTE score of 63.
- Applicants must disclose all criminal history as requested on the application form. A certified background check will be required of all admitted candidates prior to enrollment.
- Students should be aware that human services agencies often require an additional criminal history background check on students who apply to their agencies for field placements. A positive report that reveals a criminal history may preclude the student from many potential field placements and will limit the field placements available to the student. The Seattle University MSW program cannot guarantee field placements (a requirement for completion of the MSW degree and social work licensure) for students with a positive criminal background report.

Send documents directly to Graduate Admissions:

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grad-admissions@seattleu.edu
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