

College of Arts & Sciences

Master of Social Work

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.

Admission eligibility requirements for the 2-Year MSW include:

- Completed baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university
- Completion of 3 courses (5 quarter credits or 3 semester credits each) in liberal arts content, specifically one course in each of the areas: Humanities, Social Science, and Natural Science;
- A G.P.A. of 3.0 (B) or better on a 4.0 scale in the last 90 quarter or 60 semester credits (Applicants with a G.P.A. below 3.0 (B) must submit a G.P.A. Explanatory Statement)
- Completion of a Statistics prerequisite course before enrollment.
- Criminal Background Check/Criminal Offender Record Information. (Although this is *not* part of the application process applicants who are offered admission will receive instructions to complete the background check before field placement.)

Application Instructions

- Complete graduate application form and submit the \$55 non-refundable application fee. The fee is automatically waived for Seattle University alumni. Applicants who are experiencing a financial hardship and submit an application by the priority deadline, may request a fee waiver.
- Include 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.
- Include 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. Personal references are not accepted.
- Include a 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.
- Submit an admissions essay addressing the following questions:
Part 1: Please answer questions A, B, and C separately. (1500 words max total)

- A. Bearing in mind the mission of the SU MSW program:

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.

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 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
- Applicants for whom English is a non-native 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.