The MSW program (full-time and part-time) is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Full-time students attending on a full-time basis generally complete the program in two academic years; Part-time students complete it in four. Students from CSWE-accredited undergraduate social work programs may be granted up to one year of advanced standing in the full-time program or up to two years advanced standing in the part-time program for comparable coursework taken prior to enrollment.

MSW PROGRAM GOALS

- To provide students with generalist practice content for entry-level practice that builds upon a liberal arts perspective, reinforces the mission of the school, and fosters the values, ethics, and purposes of the profession of social work.
- To provide students with advanced generalist practice knowledge, skills, and values in an area of focus to be autonomous social work practitioners prepared to confront the realities of a changing social and human services environment, and to be leaders in the development of new approaches for practice.
- To provide students with a generalist social work framework for practice; foster a commitment to social, economic and environmental justice; and prepare students with the requisite knowledge, skills, and values for culturally competent practice.

The school’s curriculum is generalist social work practice in orientation. In their courses across the curriculum, faculty interweave: content about social work values and ethics; content that promotes understanding, affirmation, and respect for people from diverse backgrounds; content on populations-at-risk, including strategies to respond to and strategies to redress risk factors; and content on social, economic and environmental justice grounded in an understanding of distributive justice, human and civil rights, and the global interconnectedness of oppression.

The generalist practice year curriculum emphasizes direct practice across system sizes (micro-to-macro). Students take courses in social welfare policies and services, human behavior and the social environment (including social work with ethnic and racial groups; and psychopathology for generalist practice), research methods, social work practice (including generalist practice with individuals, families, and groups; and generalist practice with organizations and communities), and a field course that includes a social work practice integrative seminar and social work field placement.

The advanced curriculum offers an advanced generalist specialization with areas of focus in: aging; child, youth, and family welfare; health; and mental health. The advanced generalist specialization requires that students complete an advanced practice course (e.g., advanced practice in health; aging and mental health; interventions with children, youth, and families; psychopathology for social work practice in mental health); a social policies and services course (e.g., child welfare services or child, youth and family policies and services; health, aging, and disability policy and services; mental health policies and services); an advanced macro practice course; and advanced generalist social work field course that includes a social work practice integrative seminar and a social work field placement specific to the student’s area of focus.

Individualized subfocus areas are also available and are constructed with assistance from the academic advisors.

SOCIAL WORK COMPETENCIES

At the conclusion the MSW program we expect graduate students to have achieved the following core competencies:

- Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior
- Engage diversity and difference in practice
- Advance human rights and social, economic and environmental justice
- Engage in practice-informed research and research-informed practice
- Engage in policy practice
- Engage with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities
- Assess individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities
- Intervene with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities
- Evaluate practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities

At the end of the generalist practice curriculum sequence, students are expected to evidence the identified generalist behaviors for each competency. At the end of the advanced year, students are expected to have achieved the competencies at the generalist and specialist levels through the demonstration of generalist behaviors and advanced generalist behaviors in the advanced generalist specialization with an area of focus learned in classroom and field experiences—all of which are derived from social work knowledge, values, and skills.

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK AND CLINICAL PRACTICE LICENSURE, CHILD WELFARE TRAINING

Students seeking preparation for licensure as a school social worker in the State of Wisconsin typically complete the child, youth, and family welfare focus area. Students seeking preparation for licensure as a clinical social worker in the State of Wisconsin or State of Minnesota typically complete the mental health focus area. Contact the full-time program social work academic advisors or part-time program advisors (see contact information on the program website (https://socwork.wisc.edu/students/advising)) for a complete list of requirements necessary for these credentials. Information on social work certification and licensure is presented to students periodically during the academic year. It is also detailed in the section for Advanced Generalist Specialization (https://socwork.wisc.edu/programs/msw/fulltime/specialization).

Federal Title IV-E funding is available to full- and part-time MSW students for training in public child welfare. After acceptance into the school, generalist year or advanced practice year students may apply to this special program designed to prepare advanced practitioners for practice in public child welfare. Students complete a specialized curriculum within the child, youth, and family welfare concentration. Students accepted into the training program receive tuition (in- or out-of-state), a book allowance, a mileage allowance, and a monthly stipend each year they are in the program. In return, after graduation, child welfare trainees agree to work in a public child welfare position in the State of Wisconsin for each year they received funding. For complete details, contact the Title IV-E program coordinator (contact information available on the program website (https://socwork.wisc.edu/programs/ive)).

PART-TIME MSW PROGRAM

The part-time MSW program is offered on two sites: the UW–Madison campus (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/social-work/social-work-msw/)
Social work applicants should be advised that state statutes require the Department of Justice to conduct background checks on all potential field students prior to the field experience. Information regarding this process is provided to students after they are accepted into the School of Social Work.

About the School of Social Work

The School of Social Work at UW–Madison is consistently ranked among the best schools of social work in the country. Faculty prepare social work professionals at the bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral levels. Through the preparation of social work practitioners, scholars and educators, faculty and students explore and seek to understand the nature of social problems, their impact on vulnerable populations, and ways to critically analyze and promote the achievement of a just, equitable, healthy, and productive society.

Social work faculty are noted for their scholarly work in developing a conceptual understanding of social work practice and policy, and in producing research in important social problem areas. For example, faculty took a leadership role in the development of the generalist model of practice that is now used by most social work programs. Faculty members have made valuable research contributions in the fields of aging, child welfare, developmental disabilities, and family and inter-generational caregiving, as well as in educational attainment and life-course decision-making, end-of-life care for older adults and palliative care, health disparities, homelessness, poverty, social policy, welfare reform, and child support. Drawing on strong faculty, excellent students, and the resources of a world-renowned university in a community rich with social and human service programs, there is much to offer prospective students: individualized, faculty-taught field education for master’s students, nationally renowned faculty with a strong interdisciplinary focus, and hands-on research training in a highly individualized program of study for doctoral students.

The school offers unique opportunities for students to receive state-of-the-art professional training through its field education program. Student practice opportunities range from experiences in institutional and community-based settings to working with families and other significant care-givers, with individuals and groups, and in policy and service delivery issues.

Mission. The mission of the School of Social Work is to enhance human well-being and promote social and economic justice for people who are disadvantaged to achieve an equitable, healthy, and productive society. The school aims to:

- Create, advance, strengthen, and integrate interdisciplinary knowledge for students and the profession through research, scholarship, and practice.
- Educate students to become highly skilled, culturally competent and ethical practitioners who will provide leadership for the profession of social work within the state of Wisconsin and nationally.
• Promote change at levels ranging from the individual client to national, including empowering communities and populations that are disadvantaged and developing humane service delivery systems.
• Create and disseminate knowledge regarding the prevention and amelioration of social problems.

The School of Social Work is one of five professional schools in the College of Letters and Science. As part of the college, the school maintains relationships with the other social studies and professional schools within the university system through interchange of faculty and students and through joint research and publication endeavors.

ADMISSIONS

GRADUATE SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic degree programs and the Graduate School. Applicants must meet requirements of both the program(s) and the Graduate School. Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Deadline</td>
<td>January 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Deadline</td>
<td>The program does not admit in the spring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Deadline</td>
<td>The program does not admit in the summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)</td>
<td>Not required.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| English Proficiency Test       | Every applicant whose native language is not English or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English must provide an English proficiency test score and meet the Graduate School minimum requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency). |
| Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT) | n/a                                                                 |
| Letters of Recommendation     | 3                                                                   |
| Required                      |                                                                     |

Online applications are available through the School of Social Work website (http://socwork.wisc.edu).

Admission into the master's degree program includes the Graduate School requirement that applicants hold a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) on the equivalent of the last 60 semester hours (approximately two years of work) from an accredited university or college.

Applicants apply online to through the Graduate School’s application site: Graduate School Electronic Application (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply). A complete application includes both the Graduate School application and the School of Social Work’s supplemental application forms.

In addition to their application forms prospective MSW students submit: reasons for graduate study essay, official transcripts from each university or college attended, the names and e-mail addresses of three persons who will submit letters of recommendation on the applicant’s behalf, criminal background check information, and Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) scores (if applicable). The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is optional. A School of Social Work admissions committee acceptance recommendation to the Graduate School is required for unconditional admission. Prerequisites for entrance into the MSW program include:

1. completion of 30 semester credits of social science courses at the point the application is submitted; and
2. completion of an approved statistics course with a grade of C or better, taken within seven years prior to entrance into the program.

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and processes related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Master’s students are eligible for a variety of School of Social Work awards that include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and processes related to funding.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of Instruction Definitions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evening/Weekend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face to Face</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accelerated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evening/Weekend: These programs are offered in an evening and/or weekend format to accommodate working schedules. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses and personal connections, while keeping your day job. For more information about the meeting schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

Online: These programs are offered primarily online. Many available online programs can be completed almost entirely online with all online programs offering at least 50 percent or more of the program work online. Some online programs have an on-campus component that is often designed to accommodate working schedules. Take advantage of the convenience of online learning while participating in a rich, interactive learning environment. For more information about the online nature of a specific program, contact the program.
Hybrid: These programs have innovative curricula that combine on-campus and online formats. Most hybrid programs are completed on-campus with a partial or completely online semester. For more information about the hybrid schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

Accelerated: These on-campus programs are offered in an accelerated format that allows you to complete your program in a condensed time-frame. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses with minimal disruption to your career. For more information about the accelerated nature of a specific program, contact the program.

**CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Credit</td>
<td>30 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence Credit</td>
<td>16 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Coursework</td>
<td>Half of degree coursework must be in graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university’s Course Guide (<a href="http://my.wisc.edu/CourseGuideRedirect/BrowseByTitle">http://my.wisc.edu/CourseGuideRedirect/BrowseByTitle</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall GPA</td>
<td>3.00 GPA required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REQUIRED COURSES**

**Generalist Practice**

First-year MSW students complete generalist/foundation practice courses unless granted an exemption:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC WORK 400</td>
<td>Field Practice and Integrative Seminar I</td>
<td>2-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC WORK 401</td>
<td>Field Practice and Integrative Seminar II</td>
<td>2-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC WORK 441</td>
<td>Generalist Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC WORK 442</td>
<td>Generalist Practice with Communities and Organizations</td>
<td>1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC WORK 605</td>
<td>The Field of Social Work</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC WORK 606</td>
<td>Social Policy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Advanced Generalist Specialization Focus in Aging**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC WORK 821</td>
<td>Social Work Practice in Aging and Mental Health</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC WORK 875</td>
<td>Health, Aging, and Disability Policy and Services</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC WORK 840</td>
<td>Advanced Macro Practice</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Advanced Generalist Specialization Focus in Children, Youth and Families**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC WORK 741</td>
<td>Interventions with Children, Youth, and Families</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC WORK 920</td>
<td>Child, Youth, and Family Policies and Services</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or SOC WORK 921</td>
<td>Child Welfare</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC WORK 840</td>
<td>Advanced Macro Practice</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Advanced Generalist Specialization Focus in Health**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC WORK 873</td>
<td>Social Work Practice in Health Care</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC WORK 875</td>
<td>Health, Aging, and Disability Policy and Services</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC WORK 840</td>
<td>Advanced Macro Practice</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
These tracks are internal to the program and represent different pathways a student can follow to earn this degree. Track names do not appear in the Graduate School admissions application, and they will not appear on the transcript.

### Advanced Generalist Specialization Focus in Mental Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC WORK 835</td>
<td>Advanced Soc Work Practice in Mental Health</td>
<td>1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC WORK 836</td>
<td>Mental Health Policies and Services</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC WORK 840</td>
<td>Advanced Macro Practice</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other courses chosen in consultation with advisor.

These tracks are internal to the program and represent different pathways a student can follow to earn this degree. Track names do not appear in the Graduate School admissions application, and they will not appear on the transcript.

### NAMED OPTIONS (SUB-MAJORS)

A named option is a formally documented sub-major within an academic major program. Named options appear on the transcript with degree conferral.

View as listView as grid

- **SOCIAL WORK: PART TIME MSW EAU CLAIRE, MSW**
- **SOCIAL WORK: PART TIME MSW MADISON, MSW**

### GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

### MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

### GRADUATE PROGRAM HANDBOOK

The Graduate Program Handbook (https://socwork.wisc.edu/files/FTPProgramGuide.pdf) is the repository for all of the program’s policies and requirements.

### PRIOR COURSEWORK

**Graduate Work from Other Institutions**

Graduate credits in equivalent foundation/generalist courses completed with a grade of B or better taken at CSWE-accredited MSW programs may be used to fulfill the Minimum Degree Credit Requirement. In general, coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to the MSW Program may not be used to satisfy degree credit minimums. Graduate credits from other MSW programs/institutions may not be used to fulfill the Minimum Residence Credit Requirement.

### UW–Madison Undergraduate

MSW students who have received BSWs from CSWE accredited programs may count 7 credits of their undergraduate coursework in the BSW program. UW–Madison BSWs may count only those courses numbered 300 or above toward their minimum graduate degree credit requirement. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to the MSW Program may not be used to satisfy credit requirements.

### UW–Madison University Special

On a case-by-case basis Generalist/Foundaion Social Work courses numbered 300 or above taken as a UW–Madison Special student may be used to fulfill degree requirements. No more than 15 credits generalist/foundation credits may be used for this purpose.

### PROBATION

The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who earned grades of BC, C, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course (300 or above), or grade of U in research credits. This review could result in academic probation with a hold on future enrollment or in being suspended from the Graduate School.

### ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

All master's candidates are assigned to the social work academic advisors.

### CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credits

### TIME CONSTRAINTS

Full-Time Program students matriculating through the Full-Time MSW program on a part-time basis must enroll in a minimum of two courses each semester and complete one full-time semester of at least 8 credits. Candidates who withdraw from the Full-Time Program without having completed at least 8 credits must reapply for admission to the program. Students who withdraw from the Part-Time MSW Program without having completed at least 6 credits must reapply for admission to the Part-Time Program.

Master’s degree students who have been absent for five or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

### OTHER

Title IV-E Public Child Welfare Traineeships are available to Full-Time and Part-Time MSW Program students.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES
Take advantage of the Graduate School’s professional development resources (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Engage diversity and difference in practice.
4. Engage in policy practice.
5. Engage with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
6. Assess individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
7. Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior.
8. Intervene with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
9. Evaluate practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

PEOPLE

Faculty: Professors Robert (school director), Berger, Greenberg, Kramer, Magnuson, Meyer, Schroepfer, Shook Slack; Associate Professors Curtis, Moses; Assistant Professors Bishop-Fitzpatrick, Charles, Gerassi, Kong, Ros Pilarz, Walsh, Xiong; Clinical Associate Professors Conn, Smith; Clinical Assistant Professors Dresser, Ngola, Studer, Willits. A complete list of all faculty and staff in the school is available here (https://socwork.wisc.edu/facstaff-all).

ACCREDITATION

Accreditation
Council on Social Work Education (https://www.cswe.org/Accreditation)

Certification/Licensure
Association of Social Work Boards (https://www.aswb.org)