

Master of Social Work

Overview

UTEP's MSW program prepares students for advanced social work practice and leadership. The program offers a concentration in Social Work in the Border Region, and students are trained to address the many social and health needs of families and communities in the Paso del Norte region and beyond. Upon completion of the curriculum, students are eligible to sit for the national licensed master social worker (LMSW) exam.

Admissions Requirements

The MSW Program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Students considered for admission to the Master of Social Work program must meet the following criteria:

- An earned bachelor's degree from a college or university accredited by a recognized regional or international accrediting body
- A minimum cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 (see last bullet point for potential alternate pathway to admission for applicants with a cumulative undergraduate grade point average between 2.50-2.99).
- An undergraduate course in statistics (within the past 5 years from point of admission with a grade of C or better)
- An undergraduate course in general biology, anatomy or physiology (grade of C or better)
- If the applicant has a cumulative undergraduate grade point average between 2.50-2.99 and has demonstrated success in the field of social services, they may be eligible for conditional program admission. This would require the completion of three graduate-level department-approved social work courses, earning at least a B in each course prior to regular admission. Applicants must consult with the MSW Program Coordinator and obtain departmental approval before pursuing this option.

Applicants whose degrees are from non-English speaking institutions are required to demonstrate English proficiency. Please consult the Graduate School (<https://www.utep.edu/graduate/future-students/applicant-timelines.html>) website for required scores.

For advanced Standing (see description below), the following additional criteria must be met to be considered for admission to the Advanced Standing degree plan:

- A BSW from a college or university that is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) obtained within 5 years for admission to the Advanced Standing Program
- In addition to an overall GPA of 3.0, students must have a 3.5 GPA in social work courses
- Satisfactory assessment of the core social work competencies as measured by the *Competency Assessment Form* for Advanced Standing

The following explanation is provided to describe how additional requirements are used to make an admission determination:

- A grade of C or better in undergraduate biology or anatomy and physiology is necessary to demonstrate exposure to and understanding of human biology fundamentals used in a biopsychosocial assessment (i.e., primary assessment tool used in social work practice).
- A grade of C or better in Statistics is necessary to demonstrate an understanding of numerical data analysis necessary to conduct evidence-based research, as well as to evaluate evidence-based research in the literature to guide social work practice.
- The Advanced Standing degree plan is only available to students who hold a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree. The two years of the BSW Program are considered by the Council on Social Work Education to be equivalent to the first year (*Foundation* coursework) of the MSW Program. Therefore, students admitted to Advanced Standing enter in the second year (*Concentration* coursework) of the MSW Program and are only required to take the 30 credits associated with the Concentration coursework rather than the 60 credits required for the Full-time and Part-time degree plans.
 - The requirement of a BSW degree from an accredited college is a regulation set forth by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
 - The requirement of a BSW within 5 years of admission is necessary because of the rate at which new knowledge is generated within the profession
 - A GPA of 3.5 in his/her BSW major is necessary to demonstrate that student excelled in the *Foundation* content associated with the first year of the MSW program. By entering the MSW program in the *Concentration* year (i.e., the second year of the program), students will be expected to perform at the same level as MSW students who have completed the first year of the curriculum
 - CSWE requires all MSW Programs to evaluate student success according to nine competencies. These assessments are conducted for both the *Foundation* and *Concentration* content. The *Competency Assessment Form for Advance Standing* must be completed by the applicant's clinical social work supervisor (if the applicant is working within a social service agency as a practitioner) or his/her MSW field education supervisor while in the BSW program to assess the student's competencies. This form is similar to the one used in the evaluation of competencies within the field education settings while enrolled in the MSW program.

Degree Plan

Required Credits: 60

Code	Title	Hours
Master of Social Work Major (All courses require a grade of C or better)		
Required Courses:		
SOWK 5300	The Social Work Profession	3
SOWK 5313	Research Project	3
SOWK 5315	Clinical Assessment	3
SOWK 5316	Culturally Grounded Social Wk	3
SOWK 5331	SOWK Theory & Pract w/Indiv	3
SOWK 5332	SOWK Theory & Pract w/Families	3
SOWK 5333	SOWK Theory & Pract w/Groups	3
SOWK 5357	Social Policy I	3
SOWK 5360	Social Policy II	3
SOWK 5370	Social Work Research	3
SOWK 5380	Social Work in the Bdr Regn	3
SOWK 5382	Multicultral Macro Practice II	3
SOWK 5383	SOWK Th & Pract-Hum Srv Org	3
Practicums:		
SOWK 5335	Foundation Practicum I	3
SOWK 5336	Foundation Practicum II	3
SOWK 5345	Advanced Practicum I	3
SOWK 5346	Advanced Practicum II	3
Electives:		
Select nine hours of the following:		9
SOWK 5178	Independent Study	
SOWK 5375	Social Work & the Aging	
SOWK 5378	Independent Study	
SOWK 5385	Administration & Supervision	
SOWK 5393	Special Issues in Social Work	
Total Hours		60