

MSW Program Basics – Video Transcript

Hello and thank you for taking the time to watch this video about the Master of Social Work Program Basics at MSU Denver. My name is Claire Alfus and I'm the primary academic advisor for MSW Students within the Office of Social Work Student Services, Administration, and Finance here in the Department of Social Work.

The MSW Program at MSU Denver is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or CSWE. CSWE is the sole accrediting body for social work programs in higher ed in the United States which means that our program has to meet up to certain standards of criteria and learning objectives. This is also important because in the state of Colorado you cannot become a licensed social worker without having graduated from a CSWE accredited program.

The curriculum here at MSU Denver is a generalist curriculum, which means that we expose our students to micro, mezzo, and macro components of social work. We also offer optional pathways, which are groupings of electives which gives our students the opportunities to focus their studies in a certain area such as children and families, mental health, or leadership and management. Finally you may hear a couple terms when we talk about our curriculum. That's because it's divided into two parts - foundation and concentration. You'll hear us talk about that more in this video as well as in our informational materials which you'll find on our website. Foundation refers to the first 30 credits of our MSW Program and concentration refers to the final 30 credits in our MSW Program.

Depending on your undergraduate degree you'll be eligible for one of two MSW Program options at MSU Denver. The first is our Regular Program which is a 60 credit hour, fall start only program. You can have a bachelor's degree in any field of study to be eligible for this. The Regular Program also includes two field placements or internships. Our second program is an Advanced Standing Program which is comprised of 36 credit hours and is a summer start only program. Students are eligible for this program if they've obtained a bachelor's degree in social work from a CSWE accredited program within the last 6 years. In the advanced standing, you will do only one field placement and you also only do concentration level coursework. Overall for entire program eligibility, please see the application basics video. As you heard you'll do field placements whether you're in the Regular Program or the Advanced Standing Program. So since our MSW Students do field placements regardless of which program they're in, we have an Office of Field Education housed under the Department of Social Work. Their primary job is to help our undergraduate and graduate students navigate finding a field placement. Right now we have over 500 partnerships across the state of Colorado.

It's important to us as a program to be flexible and accessible with what we can offer our students. To that end we have several ways to make our program more flexible. First, we have two types of enrollment options - full time and part time. Our full time students take 5 classes a semester or 15 credits. When we talk to current students who are enrolled full time, they tell us that they typically spend about 50 hours a week on their schooling. This includes going to class, going to their field placement, and doing papers, reading, research, and projects. If you're a

student in our Regular Program you can complete that in two years full time. If you're in Advanced Standing it will take you one year at full time to complete. Our second option is to go part time. Our part time students take two to three classes a semester or six to nine credits. Current part time students tell us that they typically spend about 30 hours a week towards their academics and field placement. In our Regular Program, you can complete this part time in four years or for Advanced Standing, two years part time. Below the video you'll find links to detailed advising snapshots which show course sequencing and outlines for both our full time and part time options.

In the MSW Program at MSU Denver, we also offer two types of delivery options or how you receive your course content. It's important to note that no matter which delivery option you choose, the course content will be the same. Our first option is being a fully online student, which means that you're guaranteed space in our online sections. And while our online classes aren't self paced, they're fairly asynchronous which means that within any given module or any given week you can schedule when you would like to do your own course work. Some of our online courses may have elements of synchronous activity, which means that you and your classmates would log in at the same day and the same time. However this will be laid out for you in class notes and the class syllabus so that you're aware of this early in the semester. Our second delivery option is mixed traditional, which includes on campus, online, and hybrid classes which are classes that have both on campus and online requirements. Many of our students choose to do a mix of these classes depending on what their schedule allows but something important that we like to note is that we can never guarantee you'll be able to take all of your classes here on campus though that's something many of our students can do.

The MSW Program at MSU Denver prides itself on being affordable and accessible. We are the most affordable MSW Program in the state of Colorado, and you can follow the link below the video to find our tuition chart. Overall, our graduate tuition is 20 percent less than the average MSW tuition in the WICHE region. Additionally over \$350,000 is awarded to our students annually through financial support programs including scholarships and stipends. More details on these scholarships and stipends can be found on our website and our students fund their education in a variety of ways, whether out of pocket, utilizing student loans, or having scholarships and stipends.

Thank you so much for taking the time to watch this video today. If you have any questions about the program or the process please e-mail us at socialwork@msudenver.edu and we will get back to you within 48 business hours. The Office of Social Work Student Services, Administration, and Finance is here to support you on your journey.