



MSW Preview Day Questions

General Information on Admissions & Application

Is it possible to talk to an enrollment advisor before applying? I may not be a cookie cutter applicant and I could use some advice.

Yes! You could meet with either Claire Alfus, Graduate Advising Services Coordinator, or Jenae McCall, Graduate Assistant and current MSW Program student. Call our Welcome Desk at 303-615-0555 during business hours to schedule an appointment.

There is not a “save” button on the application - does it just save automatically?

Yes – the application automatically saves as you enter information.

How do we get to the application checklist?

You won't be able to access the application checklist until after you've submitted your application. Once you've done that, when you log into your account you should be taken to an application status page with the checklist!

Is the decision to be part time or full time something that is set in stone or can it be changed after you're accepted?

It is not set in stone. You do have the option of changing your enrollment option between being accepted and starting fall semester courses. However, after starting fall semester, if you are doing the Regular Program you have to stick with what you select through your foundation coursework, i.e. if you start part-time you need to do your first two years part-time before switching to full-time. If life circumstances mean you need to drop to part-time after starting full-time, you'd work with Claire as your academic advisor to outline your revised academic plan (which may include a semester off).

If you received a human services degree can you do the advanced program or does it have to be the regular program?

No – only students who have an undergraduate degree in social work from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited program awarded in the past six years are eligible to apply for the Advanced Standing Program. All other applicants need to apply to the Regular Program.

Are professional and/or volunteer experiences required for admission? And are research/teaching experiences from undergrad applicable experiences?

We don't require students to have a certain amount or type of professional and/or volunteer experiences but they can make you more competitive. Research and teaching can be added to your Professional History Form. We encourage applicants to list **all** prior professional and volunteer experience, even if it doesn't feel relevant to the field of social work. Our committee evaluates experience based on both duration and a sliding scale of relevancy.



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Department of Social Work

Transcripts & Prerequisite Requirements

I did not enter MSU Denver as an institution on my application and it gave me an error.

For context, applicants who attended or are currently attending MSU Denver are not supposed to list MSU Denver in the Academic History portion of the application. If you're running into errors despite seeming to do everything correctly, please send an email to socialwork@msudenver.edu with a screenshot of the error you are receiving so we can help you troubleshoot!

Does it make a difference between uploading official transcripts versus unofficial transcripts?

No, however, we recommend using unofficial transcripts during the application review process so that you only pay to order transcripts if accepted. Note that any transcript you upload to the application will be considered unofficial even if you originally ordered an official copy. Transcripts are only considered official when they are sent to the Office of Graduate Studies directly from the college or institution.

If you had to do some pre reqs at CCD for MSU Denver do you have to enter CCD as an institution?

You should still list CCD as an institution, however related to the next question, you shouldn't need to re-submit those transcripts as we should have them on file from your undergraduate admission!

If we submitted a transcript for undergraduate classes at MSU, do the transcripts need to be resubmitted for the MSW program?

Nope – any transcript you previously submitted we should still have on file!

I took classes at CCD while in high school but started and finished my bachelor's degree at CU Denver. My CU Denver transcripts show the CCD credits, do I still need to provide the CCD transcript?

Yes! You still need to list CCD and submit CCD transcripts. We required transcripts from ALL institutions attended even if you later transferred that coursework

If we plan to send in official transcripts, do we need to upload transcripts on that Academic history page?

We recommend uploading unofficial transcripts for the application review process so that you only have to pay to order transcripts if you are accepted. If you do order official transcripts, you do not need to upload unofficial copies

Must all prerequisites be completed prior to application/admission?

Nope! Our policy is that prerequisites do not need to be complete prior to applying or being accepted to the MSW Program – they just need to be complete before classes start in August if accepted. Many of our accepted students take missing prerequisites in the spring or summer before classes begin. Prerequisite completion status does not impact your chance of admission to the MSW Program.



What are the pre-reqs?

The MSW Program requires 12-15 credits of undergraduate coursework as a prerequisite for Regular Program students. These prerequisites are:

- Social & Behavioral Science – Diversity (at least three credits of course work in social and behavioral sciences [sociology, psychology, economics, political science, cultural anthropology, etc.] centrally organized around contemporary multicultural or diversity issues.)
- Social & Behavioral Science – American Government (at least three credits of course work in social and behavioral science centrally organized around American Government [not U.S. history]. This will typically be a political science course.)
- Natural & Physical Science (either at least 3 credits of course work in human/general biology **or** at least 6 credits of course work in natural & physical science [chemistry, physics, geology, etc.]
- Statistics (at least 3 credits of course work in basic statistics [not research methods])

Regarding pre-reqs for applying Advanced Standing: if I am a current BSSW student at MSU are the graduation requirements (BSSW) the same as the pre-reqs for Advanced Standing.

The undergraduate prerequisites are only required for Regular Program applicants. For Advanced Standing applicants, the completion of an undergraduate degree in social work from a CSWE accredited program completed within the last 6 years is the only prerequisite!

Letters of Recommendation

Should recommenders be personal or professional?

Recommenders should be professional and should not be family, friends, and/or personal therapists. Professional recommenders include faculty, employment/volunteer supervisors, and professional colleagues.

Do you have to submit all three recommendations at once or can we go back to that?

You do not have to enter all three recommenders into your application at once, you can save and come back to it prior to submission. However, you do have to have three recommenders entered into your application before you will be able to submit the application.

What if we do not have contact with anyone from our undergrad program to use as a reference? Does this affect our chance of admission?

For Regular Program applicants, we do not require that letters be from someone associated with your undergraduate degree program.

For Advanced Standing applicants, we do require that at least one letter come from someone associated with your undergraduate social work degree program. This could be a faculty member, field supervisor, advisor, program director, etc. If you are not able to obtain at least one letter from someone associated with your undergraduate program, it could impact your application review.



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General MSW Program Information

With full time enrollment is this a 2 year program?

Yes, if you're in the Regular Program (as opposed to Advanced Standing), it takes two years to complete as a full time student (15 credits/semester). The Advanced Standing Program takes one year to complete full time (6 credits of summer bridge followed by 15 credits/semester)

For a full time option, are classes offered over the summer?

For Regular Program students, you can take a couple electives the summer between your foundation and concentration years to lighten the load that second year. However, summer courses don't speed up your time to graduation due to the sequencing of our courses.

Does the mental health pathway focus on evidence-based practices and implementation of those practices?

Our program does focus our teaching from an evidence-based practices approach across all subject areas. In the mental health pathway, students are prepared for effective multilevel practice with populations experiencing, or at-risk for, behavioral health/mental health and/or substance abuse concerns. Students learn specialized skills on how to practice directly with clients and client groups. Elective options include Crisis Intervention, Social Work in Health & Integrated Practice, Social Work Supervision, The DSM for Social Work, Therapeutic Use of Groups, and more.

Is there a way to take classes at MSU fully in-person? (pandemic excluded)

Students in our Mixed Traditional (combination of online and on campus options) can attempt to take all of their courses on campus, however we cannot guarantee that students will never be required to take an online course.

Residency & Location of Study Information

Is it possible to study online from a foreign country?

We have not previously had a student residing internationally at time of application and admission, but have provided support to students who have to relocate outside the U.S. during the MSW Program (typically due to military service). You may have to go through additional steps as part of the application review process if you are planning on living outside of the U.S. to make sure our Office of Field Education is able to support you. If this is your situation, please email socialwork@msudenver.edu for additional support.

What are the requirements for being considered a resident of CO for the tuition cost?

To be considered a Colorado resident for tuition purposes, you must have established residency for at least the 12 months leading up to the start of classes. There are questions on the application that help determine residency, but if you feel you are mis-classified or have questions about residency you can contact residency@msudenver.edu. More information about residency can be found at <https://www.msudenver.edu/admissions/residency/>.



Additionally, if you are **not** a Colorado resident but are a resident of one of the following states or territories, you could apply to receive the in-state tuition rate through the Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP):

Alaska, Arizona, California, Guam, Hawai'i, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federal States of Micronesia, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

More information about WRGP can be found at <https://www.msudenver.edu/graduate-studies/cost/the-western-regional-graduate-program/>.

Field Placement Information

How many days of the week will field placements be?

In a foundation placement, students need to do 480 hours across the academic year (240 hours/semester) which comes to around 16 hours/week on average. In the concentration placement, students need to do 600 hours across the academic year (300 hours/semester) which comes to around 20 hours/week on average. The exact breakdown of hours and days at your agency will be determined on an individual basis.

It is important to note that we have designed our schedule to make sure you have at least 3 weekdays per week with no classes to help accommodate scheduling your field placement hours. In the foundation year, courses are primarily offered on Mondays and Wednesdays (with the occasional Friday or Saturday option), leaving Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday open for your field placement. In the concentration year, courses are primarily offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays (with the occasional Friday or Saturday option), leaving Monday, Wednesday, and Friday open for your field placement.

If you have experience already do you still need to do field placement?

We do not give any credit for prior work experience. All students are required to complete field placements.

Is it 5 classes per semester PLUS field work, or does the field work result in some number of credit hours?

It's the latter. Four of your classes are normal courses, and then you'll have a fifth class which is "Field Experience," but meets biweekly for two hours (as opposed to weekly for three hours). The bulk of your credits for the Field Experience class will come from your placement.

If you already have a position in this field, will this work as a field placement?

Possibly – we do allow for employment-based field placements. If accepted to the program, this is something you can discuss in detail with your field placement navigator to determine if your workplace is a good fit for this option.



Are you able to change placements?

You have to stay at the same placement for the full academic year, but if you are in the Regular Program you can (and it's encouraged) to change sites from your foundation placement to your concentration placement

Is that 16 hours a week tied in with that study that said students devote 50 hours a week to the program?

Yes – our full-time students who said they spent 50 hours/week on school included field placement hours in that amount.

Do the field work hours get cut in half if you're going through the program half time?

No, if you are in the part-time option you still do a field placement for a full year, but you alternate years where you are just doing classes and years where you are doing a placement plus classes.

Does the field experience take place of an internship? Or would you recommend getting internship experience before attending in fall of 2022?

Field placement is our term for internship! If you feel like you want additional volunteer experience prior to starting the program for your own personal development you can but it's not required.

When should AS students have their placement?

Same timeline! You start bridge courses in the summer, but your field placement still doesn't start until fall

I am currently a full-time teacher. Can fieldwork be done over the summer?

No – your field placement hours need to be completed alongside your field placement seminar which is a fall/spring only course.

Licensure

What is the passing rate for the LCSW (*Licensed Clinical Social Worker*) exam for MSU Denver graduates?

To obtain an LCSW in Colorado, students have to take the ASWB (Association of Social Work Boards) Clinical Exam. Over the past six years, our MSW Program graduates have passed this exam at a rate of 81% - well above the North American average pass rate of 66%!

Can you talk about the benefit of licensing and any additional requirements to obtain a license?

This page on our website is a helpful resource: <https://www.msudenver.edu/social-work/licensure-and-career-guidance/>. Licensure is helpful to in terms of employment and pursuing higher level work.

Will field placement hours count towards the hours required for licensure?

No, unfortunately hours for licensure have to be accumulated post-graduation.