

The Department of Social Work offers two graduate degree programs: a Master of Social Work (MSW) and a dual degree program, which allows students to earn an MSW as well as a Master of Science (MS) in Conflict Analysis and Resolution.

MSW

Through a strengths-based approach, our faculty prepare social workers for advanced professional practice by serving as innovative leaders that bring interpersonal, communication, problem solving, technological, research, and planned change skills to the human service delivery system. Through a concentration in either **social change** or **clinical practice**, graduates are prepared to strengthen their communities, facilitate positive change through advocacy and social and political action, and help meet local, national, and global challenges. Students gain an understanding of issues including child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, substance abuse, disabilities, health, long-term care, and diversity.

The MSW program is accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education. An important component of the program for all students is the supervised field experience, which provides 1,050 hours in sites/agencies appropriate to each student's strengths and learning goals. Depending on the specific charge, a student with a criminal history could find it difficult to obtain a field placement or employment in a human service agency. It is possible that a student with a criminal background would not be able to be placed in a field practicum or complete their degree program. The Criminal Background Policy is available on the Social Work Department website at <http://chhs.gmu.edu/socialwork>.

Students may complete the MSW program under a two-, three-, or four-year plan. No academic credit toward field experience or course work is given based on previous work or life experience. Graduate foundation year social work courses are restricted to students who have been admitted to the program and are not open to non-degree students.

Dual Degree, MSW & MS in Conflict Analysis and Resolution

In a unique collaboration, the Department of Social Work has partnered with Mason's nationally recognized School for Conflict Analysis & Resolution (SCAR) to offer a three-year dual degree program. SCAR's strong emphasis on theory is an excellent supplement to the grounding in theory provided through the social work curriculum, and social work's strong practice orientation supplements the skill-building provided through SCAR.

The department also offers a graduate certificate in **Gerontology**. Please visit <http://chhs.gmu.edu/socialwork/index.cfm> for detailed information about this certificate.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution and have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA to be considered. Admission to each program is competitive, and a variety of criteria are evaluated in the admissions process, including the strength of the undergraduate record and any post-baccalaureate coursework, the GRE/GMAT (if required), career goals, letters of recommendation, professional and/or volunteer experience, evidence of the ability to write and

conduct research at the graduate level, and any additional evidence of potential success in the program.

Applications are considered for the **fall semester only**. Information regarding application guidelines and requirements can be found at the Graduate Admissions website:

<https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/how-apply/graduate>. For additional program details, visit CHHS Admissions at <http://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate/deadlines.cfm>. Meeting the minimum application criteria does not guarantee admission. Late applications will be considered on a space-available basis. The application for graduate study is available at admissions.gmu.edu.

MSW (Customary Option): In addition to meeting the university's graduate admission requirements, students must have a minimum of 30 undergraduate credits in liberal arts, including at least 3 credits in each of the following: English composition, history or government, social sciences, and statistics.

MSW (Advanced Standing Option): Students who meet the customary option criteria above, possess a bachelor's degree in social work from an accredited social work program, and demonstrate superior academic achievement and excellence in social work practice may apply for advanced standing. Advanced standing students begin the MSW Program in the summer and, upon successfully completing the summer course(s), move directly into the concentration year. Advanced standing students must successfully complete 600 hours of supervised field practicum in agencies approved by the Department of Social Work. If a student applies for Advanced Standing and is denied admission, her or his application will automatically then be considered for admission into the two-year program.

MSW/MS (Dual Degree Program): Students interested in the 3-year dual degree program submit one online Application for Graduate Admission, select the MSW as a primary program, and submit all application support materials, including the MSW Application Materials to the Office of Graduate Admission in the College of Health and Human Services. Applicants should communicate their interest in completing the dual degree program in their essays, and recommendations should address the dual program.

Contact Information

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Office of Graduate Admissions

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The above information is based on the 2016–2017 University Catalog and is subject to change without notice or obligation. It is not to be regarded as a contract. Please refer to the catalog for full course descriptions, department information, and university policy governing graduate degree programs at catalog.gmu.edu