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.

The MSW prepares social workers for advanced professional social work practice. Our graduates are innovative leaders bringing superior management, interpersonal, technological, research, and communication skills to the health and human service delivery system. Through a concentration in either social change or clinical practice, graduates will be prepared to empower individuals, strengthen families and communities, stimulate positive change through advocacy and social and political action, and help meet local, national, and global challenges. The MSW program builds upon a foundation of generalist social work knowledge and skills that integrates micro and macro theory and practice and emphasizes empowerment and systems transformation. This foundation equips students to enhance human well-being, advance human rights, and promote social and economic justice through ethical professional practice with culturally diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. The MSW has been granted full accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education.

In addition to all required coursework, students are required to successfully complete a minimum of 1,050 hours of supervised field practicum in agencies approved by the Department of Social Work. Students may complete the MSW Program under a two-year, three-year, 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.

In addition to offering an MSW, the Department of Social Work has partnered with George Mason’s nationally recognized School for Conflict Analysis & Resolution (SCAR) to offer a 3-year dual degree program. Students can earn both an MSW and an MS in Conflict Analysis & Resolution while taking advantage of the diversity of the Washington, DC metropolitan area and the University’s proximity to the nation’s capital. This is the only existing dual degree program of its kind. The degree programs in Social Work and Conflict Analysis & Resolution complement each other. SCAR’s strong emphasis on theory is an excellent supplement to the grounding in theory provided through the Social Work curriculum. 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. Information regarding CHHS application guidelines can be found at chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate.

Applications are considered for the **fall semester only**. For application deadlines and detailed application requirements, please refer to the CHHS Graduate Admissions website 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 with a bachelor’s degree in social work from an accredited social work program who 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.

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**Contact Information**

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The above information is based on the 2013–2014 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.