

Stephen F. Austin State University



School of Social Work

Master of Social Work Program

Accredited by:

The Council on Social Work Education

MSW Application Packet

School of Social Work

P. O. Box 6104, SFA Station
420 East Starr Avenue
Nacogdoches, TX 75962-6104

(936) 468-4020-Office

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Dr. Freddie L. Avant, School Director
Dr. Emmerentie Oliphant, MSW Program Director

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Stephen F. Austin State University



School of Social Work

MSW PROGRAM

APPLICATION PROCESS

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide all required documentation to the School of Social Work and Graduate School offices. The MSW application materials should be submitted to the School of Social Work.

The application to the Graduate School must be submitted online using the Apply Texas Application for Admission along with a \$50 application fee and official transcripts. The Apply Texas Application may be obtained at: <https://www.applytexas.org>

The application process will proceed as follows:

1. When the Graduate School office has received all required application materials, that office will forward a Notice of Admission to the School of Social Work for review by the MSW Admissions Committee.
2. When all MSW application materials, Graduate School Application Packet, and the Departmental Recommendation for Admission have been received by the School of Social Work, the student's file will be forwarded to the MSW Admissions Committee for review.
3. The MSW Admission Committee will review the student file and make a recommendation for admission by completing the Departmental Recommendation for Admission form and the Director will complete the Notice of Admission and this form will be returned to the Graduate School's office immediately.
4. The Graduate School will complete a Graduate School Admission Notice based on the recommendation from the MSW Admission Committee.
5. If the student is to be admitted, the Graduate School will mail a copy of the Graduate School Admission Notice to the student or a letter on admission status.
6. The Graduate School is responsible for admitting the student into the Student Information System. This may take several days for completion.
7. Once the Graduate School has admitted the student into the Student Information System, the student may attend a new student orientation, be advised and register for courses.

For more information, contact the School of Social Work.

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School of Social Work

MSW PROGRAM

ADMISSION CRITERIA

Admission

In order to be considered for admission to the MSW program, applications must submit: 1) an SFA graduate school application, 2) official transcripts, 3) three letters of recommendation using the attached form, 4) supplemental application for the MSW program, and 5) a written statement of interest in social work. Application forms for the Graduate School may be obtained online at: <https://www.applytexas.org>. The link for the MSW application is at [http://www.sfasu.edu/socialwork/documents/MSW_Application_Packet\(1\).pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/socialwork/documents/MSW_Application_Packet(1).pdf)

Non-Advanced Standing

To be considered for clear non-advanced standing admission, applications should present an overall GPA of at least 2.5 and a GPA of 3.0 for the last 60 hours. Applicants who demonstrate outstanding qualifications on other admission criteria may be admitted on a probationary basis with an overall GPA of 2.5 and 2.8 GPA for the last 60 hours.

Advanced Standing

A limited number of students may be admitted to the advanced standing program. To be considered for advanced standing, applicants must have earned a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Applicants admitted on a probationary status are not eligible for advanced standing.

To receive advanced standing, an applicant must have made a minimum GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 credits of undergraduate course work and a 2.5 GPA overall.

Decisions on course equivalency credit will be made by the MSW Program Director. Advanced placement credit may be awarded for SWK 501, SWK 502, SWK 507 and SWK 512. Advanced standing credit is not automatic and students may be required to submit course equivalency information or successfully complete a competency examination before receiving credit for a course. All students who receive advanced standing must complete a minimum of 35 credit hours in order to receive the MSW. Part-time advanced standing student must complete the program in two years.

Stephen F. Austin State University



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MSW PROGRAM

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide all required documentation to the School of Social Work and Graduate School offices.

_____ Texas Common Application for Admission found on the SFASU website (<http://www.sfasu.edu>) click on *Future Students*, click on *Apply Now*, which will take you to the Texas Common Application for Admission located at: <https://www.applytexas.org>

_____ \$50 application fee payable online through Texas Common Application or payable to Stephen F. Austin State University Business Office (The application must be received by the Graduate School prior to making the payment to the university)

_____ Official transcripts from all post-secondary education sent to the Graduate School

_____ MSW Supplemental Application

_____ Statement of Interest in Social Work (At least one paragraph answering three questions in APA format, double spaced with your name on the paper)

_____ Summary of employment history or Resume

_____ Three (3) Letters of Recommendation forms completed as stated below*

- a. A supervisor from a work or volunteer setting, preferably a professional setting.
- b. A professor or dean from an educational setting.
- c. A professional (not personal) reference.

_____ Student Information Contact Form

*BSW student's seeking advanced standing should include a letter from their Program Director or Field Coordinator.

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Stephen F. Austin State University



School of Social Work

MSW PROGRAM

SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION

Please Print

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____
City State Zip

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Application for Admission: Fall _____ Spring _____ Summer _____ Year _____

Applying for: Full-time admission _____ Part-time admission _____

Advanced Standing _____ (Must have BSW degree)

Non-Advanced Standing _____ Title IV-E Stipend _____

Class location preference (if available):

Nacogdoches _____ The Woodlands _____

Are you fluent in any language other than English? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, what language? _____

Are you a Child Protective Services employee? Yes _____ No _____

Have you successfully completed undergraduate course work in the following?

Social Statistics: Yes _____ No _____

Multiculturalism (Race or Minority Relations) Yes _____ No _____

Have you successfully completed a minimum of 18 credit hours in Liberal Arts foundation course work? (i.e., English, Political Science, History, Economics, Sociology, Psychology, etc.)

Yes _____ No _____

Have you been arrested, charged or convicted of a criminal offense. Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please explain _____

If you have ever been convicted of a felony it may affect your ability to obtain a Social Work License in the State of Texas. Contact the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners for more information at 1-800-232-3162.

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STATEMENT OF INTEREST

As part of your application, please enclose a statement (written in an essay form, about two pages, double spaced) about your interest in social work addressing:

1. How did you become interested in pursuing a professional career in social work?
2. What qualities or abilities do you possess that would make you an asset to the social work profession?
3. How would the Advanced Generalist MSW program at SFA help to meet your goals for your professional career in social work?

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	Poor	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Outstanding
Knowledge of social work:	1	2	3	4	5
Writing ability	1	2	3	4	5
Verbal ability	1	2	3	4	5
Creativity	1	2	3	4	5
Problem Solving	1	2	3	4	5
Motivation	1	2	3	4	5
Maturity	1	2	3	4	5
Teamwork	1	2	3	4	5
Concern for others	1	2	3	4	5
Sensitivity to Other cultures	1	2	3	4	5

What are the applicant's primary strengths?

What are the applicant's weaknesses?

What would the applicant contribute to the profession?

Would you recommend this applicant for admission to this MSW program?

Yes _____

With Serious reservations _____

No _____

Signature of respondent: _____

Name (printed): _____

Title: _____ Institution: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Stephen F. Austin State University



School of Social Work

MSW PROGRAM

STUDENT INFORMATION

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Middle Name/Initial: _____

Name you wish to be called: _____

Student ID Number: _____

Current Address: _____

City/Town: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Home Telephone Number: _____

Work Telephone Number: _____

Cell Telephone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Emergency Contact Person(s): _____

Contact Person(s) Telephone Number: _____

Additional Information: _____



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www.sfasu.edu



FAQ's

1. What can I do with an MSW degree after I graduate?

The social work profession has its own body of knowledge, code of ethics, practice standards, credentials, state licensing, and a nationwide system of accredited education programs that equip professional social workers to combine the desire to help others with the knowledge, skill, and ethics needed to provide that help. MSW social workers typically work in leadership or advanced positions as managers, supervisors, and administrators in a wide variety of settings. Examples include private and public agencies, hospitals, schools, private practice, international organizations, and courts to name a few. Social Workers are committed to the process of planned change and may work directly with individuals or groups; help communities or groups provide or improve social and health services, and participate in relevant legislative processes that affect quality of life for all citizens.

2. Why should I pursue a master's degree in social work from SFASU?

The School of Social Work at Stephen F. Austin has a commitment to excellence in the preparation of students as professional social workers. The undergraduate social work program has been accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) since 1979. The graduate program was accredited by CSWE in 2001.

3. What are my options for study toward a Master's Degree in Social Work (MSW)?

- Full time Advanced Standing – 1 year plan
- Part time Advanced Standing – 2 year plan
- Full time Non-advanced Standing – 2 year plan
- Part time Non-advanced Standing – 3 year plan

4. What practice areas are offered?

The concentration area that is focused on in the program will prepare students to become advanced generalist practitioners within a rural context. Upon completion of the program, students will have gained the advanced knowledge, skills, and values to work with individuals, families, groups, communities, and organizations in a variety of settings in rural areas and with people who have rural lifestyles. Although the program's concentration primarily focuses on the rural context of practice, the knowledge, values, and skills that students learn are readily transferable to other settings.

5. What are the admission requirements for the MSW program?

In order to be considered for admission to the MSW program, applicants must submit:

- SFA graduate school application
- Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
- 3 letters of recommendation
- A supplemental application for the MSW program
- A written statement of interest in social work.
- Resume or history of employment
- Student information sheet

To be considered for clear admission, applicants should have an overall GPA of at least 2.5 and a GPA of 3.0 for the last 60 hours. Applicants who demonstrate outstanding qualifications on other admission criteria may be admitted on a probationary basis with an overall GPA of 2.5 and 2.8 GPA for the last 60 hours.

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A limited number of students may be admitted to the advanced standing program. To be considered for this program, applicants must have earned a bachelor's degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Applicants admitted on probationary status are not eligible for advanced standing. To receive advanced standing status, applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 credits of undergraduate study and GPA of 2.5 overall.

6. Can I transfer credits from other graduate programs?

All courses that students wish to take outside of the MSW program (either at SFASU or another college or university) must be approved by the students' advisor and the MSW Program Director. The advisor may ask students to provide relevant information about the course work for transfer credit. Such information might include the university catalog description of the course and/or course syllabus. The student may also wish to consult the Program Director as to the appropriateness of the course toward the MSW degree. Only courses from MSW programs accredited by the Council on Social Work Education will be accepted for transfer credit. Elective courses taken in areas other than social work are not accepted for transfer credit.

7. Do you offer the MSW program at locations other than the Nacogdoches?

Offering courses at other sites depends on the number of students interested in attending classes at a distant site and the availability of program resources. No new courses are currently being planned for distant sites.

8. Do you offer online courses in social work?

A number of courses in the MSW curriculum are offered online and others are under development. It is the goal of the School of Social Work to offer a significant portion of the degree online in the future.

9. What are requirements for international applicants?

International applicants must meet the same requirements for admission as a student from the United States. In addition, all international applicants must submit a completed International Student Application (available at www.sfasu.edu/admissions) plus a non-refundable \$50 application evaluation fee. Applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit evidence to demonstrate competency in the English language sufficient to function successfully in graduate work.

10. What type of undergraduate degree do I need?

Students wishing to enter the advanced standing (one-year) program must have an undergraduate degree in social work. For other applicants, a liberal arts background is the ideal preparation for the MSW program, but all majors are accepted. For some, additional coursework in human biology, social statistics, and/or multicultural studies may be required.

11. What is the MSW program application deadline?

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis but should be submitted as early as possible prior to the upcoming semester.

12. Does SFA provide financial aid?

Yes. Financial aid programs in which Stephen F. Austin State University participates include the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Leveraging Educational Assistance Program, Texas Grant Program, Texas Public Educational Grant, Federal Work-Study Program, Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Family Educational Loan Program (Stafford Loan), and the Hinson-Hazelwood Student Loan Program. Consideration for these programs requires need analysis. Unsubsidized Stafford Loans, Federal Parent Loans, short-term emergency loans and University scholarships may be available to students who do not demonstrate financial need. Information regarding student aid can be found at <http://www.sfasu.edu/faith/>. A limited number of graduate





assistantships and specific scholarships such as the Elisabeth Kenny Memorial Scholarship and the Ima Hogg Mental Health Foundation Scholarship are also available.



13. Are there any specialized stipend programs?

The Child Welfare Professional Development Project (CWDPDP) in the School of Social Work at SFA receives federal funds (Title IV-E, Social Security Act) from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. The purpose of the funds is to prepare undergraduate and graduate students for work in public child welfare and to provide a needed pool of trained social workers in the field of child protection. CWDPDP stipends are offered to MSW students, both Child Protective Services (CPS) employees and non-CPS employees. Interested students should contact Ms. Diane Sizemore at (936) 468-1808 or sizemore@sfasu.edu or Ms. Carol Levine at (936) 468-5105 or at clevine@sfasu.edu for more information.

14. Is student housing available?

Rooms and apartments are provided for approximately 5,000 students on campus. Application forms can be found on the university housing web site at www.sfasu.edu/housing

15. Will I be able to pursue social work licensure after graduation?

Yes, students graduating from the SFA School of Social work are qualified to sit for the licensure examination in the state of Texas. For more information about application for licensure, students may contact the Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners at 1-800-232-3162 or <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/socialwork/>

16. Who do I call for additional information?

You may contact the MSW Program Office at 936-468-4020 or via email at sorrellscr@sfasu.edu. The SFA School of Social Work Student Handbook is available on the university website at: [http://www.sfasu.edu/socialwork/documents/MSW_Student_Handbook_2018-2019_\(002\).pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/socialwork/documents/MSW_Student_Handbook_2018-2019_(002).pdf)



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Master of Social Work Program

Curriculum

Advanced Standing Full-time (10 months)

Summer Session II

SWK 504 Introduction to Rurality	<u>3</u>
	3

Fall Semester

SWK 517 Rural Social Policy Analysis	3
SWK 520 Social Work Research Process	3
SWK 525 Advanced Generalist Practice	3
SWK 535 Seminar in Advanced Rural Practice	3
SWK 558 Advanced Social Work with Groups	<u>3</u>
	15

Spring Semester

SWK 530 Research Practicum	3
SWK 539 Field Instruction III	3
SWK 540 Field Instruction IV	4
SWK 541 Field Instruction V	4
Elective	<u>3</u>
	17

Total Credits 35

Advanced standing students must take SWK 504-Introduction to Rurality and SWK 514-Advanced Standing Seminar in the summer proceeding the fall semester. A thesis option (SWK 589 and SWK 590) may be substituted for SWK 530.

AC = Advanced concentration.

F = professional foundation.

T = Transition course.

The MSW Handbook is available online at:

[http://www.sfasu.edu/socialwork/documents/MSW_Student_Handbook_2018-2019_\(002\).pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/socialwork/documents/MSW_Student_Handbook_2018-2019_(002).pdf)

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Master of Social Work Program

Curriculum

Advanced Standing Part-time (2 year plan)

Summer Session II

SWK 504 Introduction to Rurality	<u>3</u>
	6

Fall Semester

SWK 517 Rural Social Policy Analysis	3
SWK 525 Advanced Generalist Practice	3
SWK 535 Seminar in Advanced Rural Practice	3
SWK 558 Advanced Practice with Groups	<u>3</u>
	12

Spring Semester

SWK 520 Social Work Research Process	3
Elective	<u>3</u>
	6

Fall Semester

SWK 549 Field Instruction III	<u>5</u>
	5

Spring Semester

SWK 530 Research Practicum	3
SWK 559 Field Instruction III	<u>6</u>
	9

Total Credits 35

Advanced standing students must take SWK 504-Introduction to Rurality and SWK 514-Advanced Standing Seminar in the summer proceeding the fall semester. A thesis option (SWK 589 and SWK 590) may be substituted for SWK 530.

AC = Advanced concentration.

F = professional foundation.

T = Transition course.

The MSW Handbook is available online at:

[http://www.sfasu.edu/socialwork/documents/MSW_Student_Handbook_2018-2019_\(002\).pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/socialwork/documents/MSW_Student_Handbook_2018-2019_(002).pdf)

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Master of Social Work Program

Curriculum

Non-Advanced Standing Part-Time (3 Year Plan of Study)

Fall Semester #1

SWK 501 Introduction to the Social Work Profession	3
SWK 502 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I	3
SWK 504 Intro to Rurality	3
SWK 505 Generalist Practice I	3
SWK 519 Field Instruction I	<u>4</u>
	16

Spring Semester #1

SWK 500 Applied Research Methods	3
SWK 507 Social Welfare Policy & Services	3
SWK 512 Human Behavior and the Social Environment II	3
SWK 515 Generalist Practice II	3
SWK 529 Field Instruction II	<u>4</u>
	16

Fall Semester #2

SWK 517 Rural Social Policy Analysis	3
SWK 520 Social Work Research Process	3
SWK 558 Advanced Practice with Groups	<u>3</u>
	9

Spring Semester #2

SWK 530 Research Practicum	3
Elective	<u>3</u>
	6

Fall Semester #3

SWK 525 Advanced Generalist Practice	3
SWK 535 Seminar in Advanced Rural Practice	<u>3</u>
	6

Spring Semester #3

SWK 539 Field Instruction III	3
SWK 540 Field Instruction IV	4
SWK 541 Field Instruction V	<u>4</u>
	11

Total Credits 64

The MSW Handbook is available online at:

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Master of Social Work Program

Curriculum

Non-Advanced Standing Full-time (2 year plan)

Fall Semester

SWK 501 Introduction to the Social Work Profession	3
SWK 502 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I	3
SWK 504 Introduction to Rurality	3
SWK 505 Generalist Practice I	3
SWK 519 Field Instruction I	<u>4</u>
	16

Spring Semester

SWK 500 Applied Research Methods	3
SWK 507 Social Welfare Policy & Services	3
SWK 512 Human Behavior and the Social Environment II	3
SWK 515 Generalist Practice II	3
SWK 529 Field Instruction II	<u>4</u>
	16

Fall Semester

SWK 517 Rural Social Policy Analysis	3
SWK 520 Social Work Research Process	3
SWK 525 Advanced Generalist Practice	3
SWK 535 Seminar in Advanced Rural Practice	3
SWK 558 Advanced Practice with Groups	<u>3</u>
	15

Spring Semester

SWK 530 Research Practicum	3
SWK 539 Field Instruction III	3
SWK 540 Field Instruction IV	4
SWK 541 Field Instruction V	4
Elective	<u>3</u>
	17

Total Credits 64

The MSW Handbook is available online at:

[http://www.sfasu.edu/socialwork/documents/MSW_Student_Handbook_2018-2019_\(002\).pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/socialwork/documents/MSW_Student_Handbook_2018-2019_(002).pdf)

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