

MSW AND INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS

A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university is a requirement for all applicants to the MSW or interdisciplinary programs (e.g., JD/MSW, MBA/MSW), or to take courses on a non-matriculated basis. Additional requirements (e.g., standardized test scores) may apply for interdisciplinary programs. BA/MSW students earn a bachelor's degree conjointly with the MSW.

LIBERAL ARTS REQUIREMENT

The School of Social Work requires that applicants to the MSW or interdisciplinary programs have a bachelor's degree with a strong liberal arts base. A minimum of 24 credits of liberal arts coursework is required. Of these 24 credits, 6 must be in the social or behavioral sciences (e.g., psychology, sociology, anthropology, political science) and 6 must be in the arts or humanities (e.g., history, English, foreign languages, philosophy, ethnic or gender studies). The remaining 12 credits may be made up with any combination of the above or with courses from the natural sciences or mathematics.

HUMAN BIOLOGY REQUIREMENT

Before taking advanced year courses including advanced interventions, students must have taken a class or combination of classes with significant content in human anatomy, reproduction, and development. If you did not take such a course as an undergraduate, you must fulfill the requirement during your first year in the program. Most introductory biology classes (e.g., general biology, principles of biology) focus on life sciences at a general level. These courses alone will not fulfill the human biology requirement. If you are unsure whether courses you have taken satisfy the human biology requirement, submit descriptions of the courses (syllabi and course catalog descriptions are acceptable) to the Social Work Office of Academic Affairs for review. This requirement must be met during your first year in the program.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADVANCED STANDING

In addition to meeting the preceding requirements, applicants for advanced standing must have earned a BSW from a CSWE-accredited program within the previous six years, and have achieved a 3.0 overall GPA. BSW-holding applicants with less than a 3.0 GPA may not apply

International applicants whose first language is other than English must submit TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) scores. Because Social Work requires skills in oral communication, our minimum scores are higher than the university's: 600 on the paper-based test and 250 on the computer-based test. Test date must be within two years of actual semester start date.

Evidence of probable success in pursuing professional education for social work at the graduate level based upon undergraduate record and any previous graduate work. Skills in oral and written communications are an important prerequisite for admission.

Evidence of personal attributes that are considered essential to the professional practice of social work: Initiative, integrity, reliability, emotional stability, sound judgment, capacity for change, growth, self-discipline, and concern for the needs of others.

In support of probable success and personal attributes, three letters of reference that attest to the applicant's readiness to undertake a rigorous class and field program at the graduate level.

The UBSSW does not grant social work course credit for life experience or previous work experience.