



## Introduction

**Application Information – *We now offer a fully asynchronous ONLINE MSW option along with an on campus (in-person) evening program at our Akron Campus.***

The application materials are available on the following website:

**Graduate School:**

<https://www.uakron.edu/graduate/admissions/apply>

The following information is required for applicants to the MSW Program:

1. The University of Akron Graduate School Application and Application Fee\*
2. Transcripts from all Universities Attended\*
  - a. **\*Apply online @**  
<https://www.uakron.edu/graduate/admissions/apply>
  - b. **\*Official transcripts** must be submitted to the Graduate School from each college or university attended.
3. A 3-6 page typed essay (instructions below)
4. Recent resume
5. Three Recommendations
6. Undergraduate Field Evaluations (*Advanced Standing Only*)

Descriptions of the program options are explained in this document. Students are expected to adhere to the program format under which they were admitted, and any requests for changes will be based on the program's ability to accommodate the request. Changes must be requested in writing at the beginning of the academic year. The Admissions Committee may require an in-person interview at their discretion.

**Applicants should be aware that having a prior felony conviction or prior sanctions for unprofessional conduct may impact future potential for obtaining licensure, as well as field placements and social work employment. For more information, please contact the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage & Family Therapist Board at <http://cswmft.ohio.gov/program.stm> or (614) 466-0912.**



## Program Options

The program is currently offered in an **Online** or **On Campus** format, **full-time, or part-time**. **Advanced Standing** is offered to applicants with BSW degrees from accredited programs and is only available to students attending full-time. The Advanced Standing summer course is online. Following the successful completion of the Advanced Standing summer course, students can elect to attend subsequent coursework either online or on campus.

Classes may meet on different days (*including Saturdays*) during the second year based on Specialization and the electives chosen.

The scheduling of courses depends upon the availability of rooms. The days and times courses are offered may vary from year to year. Students must be prepared to be flexible when the schedule of classes changes.

## ADVANCED STANDING

- Classes begin in June and continue for ten weeks.
- During this time, students are enrolled in a 10-week 6-credit Integrative Seminar that meets asynchronous, online.
- Upon successful completion of these credits, students will begin their Specialization year and follow the full-time format.

## Field Education Experience

The Specialization Field Experience consists of a total of 500 hours (17 hours per week) over both semesters of the Specialization year. Students **must** sign a FERPA waiver in order to begin their field education experience. Students who do not sign the waiver will not be placed.

## FULL-TIME - TWO YEAR PROGRAM

### Full-Time Evening – Online

- Classes meet online, asynchronous over 15 weeks

### Full-Time Evening – On Campus

- Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:15 PM – 9:45 PM for the first year
- Mondays and Wednesdays, the same time, for the second year
- Some Saturday classes may be required depending on Specialization and the electives chosen.



## ***Full-Time Field Education Experience***

Field Education occurs concurrent with classroom teaching and consists of a total of 900 hours of MSW supervised experience in a social service setting over the four semesters of the program.

- The Generalist Field experience consists of 200 hours (*16 hours per week*) for each of two consecutive semesters.
- The Specialization Field experience, which may require another field setting, consists of 250 hours (*17 hours per week*) in each of two consecutive semesters.
- Students may be permitted to complete the Field Education requirement at their place of employment, pending submission and approval of a **Field at Place of Employment Proposal (FAPE)**.
- Students must sign a FERPA waiver in order to begin the field education experience. Students who do not sign the waiver will not be placed.

## **PART-TIME - FOUR YEAR PROGRAM**

- The part-time program consists of four consecutive years of instruction with students taking two-three courses each semester.
- Students will be enrolled in the scheduled courses and adhere to the schedule as outlined to ensure progress toward graduation.
- On campus classes are scheduled evenings from 4:15 PM – 9:45 PM during the week or on Saturdays during the day to accommodate the schedules of working adults.
- On campus classes may meet other days and times depending on Specialization and/or the availability of distance learning classroom space.

## ***Field Education Experience***

- The Field Education Experience begins during the second year and occurs concurrent with classroom teaching.
- Field consists of 900 hours of MSW supervised experience in a social service setting. The Generalist Field consists of 200 hours (*16 hours per week*) for each of two consecutive semesters beginning the second year.
- The Specialization Field, which may require another field setting, consists of 250 hours (*17 hours per week*) in each of two consecutive semesters beginning the fourth year.
- Students may be permitted to complete the Field Education requirement at their place of employment, pending submission and approval of a **Field at Place of Employment Proposal (FAPE)**.
- Students must sign a FERPA waiver in order to begin the field education experience. Students who do not sign the waiver will not be placed.



## SPECIALIZATIONS:

**Micro Specialization** - Refers to advanced social work practice with small client systems (*individuals, families, and groups*) and collateral persons, professionals, and organizations relevant to practice with these small systems. Micro field assignments may include in-depth assessment of client systems and resources, crisis intervention, application of intervention theories and skills, formulation of short and long-range goals, utilization of empowerment strategies to meet these goals, identification of and connection to community resources, and evaluation of intervention outcomes.

**Macro Specialization** - Refers to advanced social work practice with large client systems (*organizations, neighborhoods, and communities*) and focuses on supervision, management and administration, research, planning, grant writing, policy formulation, advocacy, and impacting the legislative process. Macro field assignments may include development/implementation of needs assessment methodologies, identification of strategies and outcome measures, participation in grant preparation, design and/or implementation of programs and service delivery systems, involvement in program evaluation, work with client groups for the purpose of organizing and policy change, and evaluation of intervention outcomes.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The MSW Program is committed to diversity in the student body. An applicant for admission as a degree candidate in social work (*full-time, part-time, or advanced standing*) must fulfill the general admission requirements of **both** the Graduate School of The University of Akron and the MSW Program prior to admission.

The applicant must therefore complete application forms for **both** the Graduate School **and** the MSW Program. *It is the applicant's responsibility to make sure that all required application materials have been received.*

### Applicants to the MSW Program must also:

- **Have an undergraduate** major in social work or a related field;
- **Have a minimum grade** point average of 3.0 in all courses taken prior to application for admission and a well-balanced liberal arts curriculum which must include content from areas such as Communication, Math and Humanities, Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Philosophy, Art, English, and Anthropology. ***Applicants with a GPA below a 3.0 can still apply and may be considered for part-time MSW coursework.***



- **Submit three Recommendation forms**, excluding family members and friends, *(including one from immediate supervisor if employed)*.

Preferred recommendations are those that come from academic instructors or professionals who have supervised you in a social work-related position (paid, volunteer or internship). Personal recommendations are not acceptable.

- **Submit an essay** of 3 to 6 typed pages, double-spaced, 1" margins, addressing:
  1. What motivates you to pursue a career in social work? (Describe the personal, academic, or professional experiences that have inspired you to seek a career in social work). How have these experiences shaped your decision to pursue an MSW degree?
  2. Describe a time you helped someone overcome a challenge or crisis.
  3. Describe a time you worked with people from diverse backgrounds.
  4. What role do you see yourself playing in addressing inequities experienced by marginalized groups?
  5. Select **ONE** of the following and respond:
    - What is the role of social workers in addressing mental health crises in today's society? Discuss the rising awareness of mental health challenges and how social workers can advocate for better mental health resources, policies, and services.
    - How should Social Workers respond to the ongoing opioid crisis? Examine the role of social workers in helping individuals and communities impacted by substance use disorders, especially in the context of the opioid epidemic.
    - How can social workers address the disparities in healthcare access and equity? Reflect on the role of social workers in addressing healthcare inequities and advocating for vulnerable populations who experience barriers to accessing care.
    - How should social workers approach the issue of mass incarceration and criminal justice reform? Examine the role of social workers in advocating for criminal justice reform, supporting individuals affected by mass incarceration, and addressing issues like rehabilitation, re-entry, and restorative justice.
- **Submit a recent resume**, which highlights social work or human service experience.

**The Advanced Standing Program** applicants must meet the requirements for regular admission to the MSW Program **plus** these requirements:

1. A baccalaureate degree in social work completed within the last five years from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education



2. A minimum overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.2 in all courses and a minimum GPA in social work courses of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale
3. Submission of undergraduate field evaluations along with other admission materials.
4. One recommendation must come from your undergraduate academic advisor, program coordinator or director, or field coordinator and one must come from a faculty member familiar with your academic performance.

For students graduating in May, acceptance will be contingent upon receipt of a final transcript and proof of a BSW degree.

### **Transfer of Credit**

An applicant who wishes to transfer from another MSW program must complete the same admissions process and meet the same admission requirements as other degree candidates.

- A formal written request for transfer must be made at the time of application for admission.
- A maximum of 20 semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred from other programs accredited by the Council of Social Work Education.
- The credits must fall within the six-year time limit to complete degree requirements.
- Acceptance of graduate transfer credit is determined by the Program's Admissions Committee, which assesses potential transfer courses and the adequacy of the applicant's performance in these courses. A grade of less than "B" in any course will disqualify that course from consideration for transfer.
- Transfer students must submit field work evaluations at the time of application for admission.
- According to CSWE guidelines, credit will not be given for work or life experience.

### **PROGRAM COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS**

- The completion of 60 hours of coursework.
- The completion of 36 hours of coursework for Advanced Standing students.



- An average grade of “B” or better on all classroom courses and satisfactory grades in all field courses.
- Students will be registered only for 600 level courses.
- Graduate courses taken at the 500 level are not applicable for the graduate degree program in social work.
- Other general requirements for the Master of Social Work degree are the same as those established by the Graduate School of The University of Akron and are in accordance with accreditation standards established by the Council on Social Work Education.
- There is no foreign language requirement.
- The GRE is **not** required.
- According to CSWE guidelines, credit will not be given for work or life experience.

## MSW Program

### Full-Time Program Curriculum - Full-Time Program

#### First Year Professional (Generalist)

##### Fall Semester

SOWK:620 Field I Seminar 1 cr.

SOWK:628 Human Behavior and Social Environment 3 cr.

SOWK:626 Advancing Human Rights and Social Policy 3 cr.

SOWK:624 Ethics & Professional Behavior 2 cr.

SOWK:605 Social Work Practice w/Small Systems 3 cr.

SOWK:601 Generalist Field Practicum I 3 cr.

##### Spring Semester

SOWK:6XX Elective 3 cr.

SOWK:627 Science of Social Work 3 cr.

SOWK:611 Dynamics of Racism & Discrimination 3 cr.

SOWK:606 Social Work Practice w/Large Systems 3 cr.

SOWK:602 Generalist Field Practicum II 3 cr.

#### Second Year Specialization (Micro Practice)

##### Fall Semester

SOWK:621 Advanced Field Seminar 1 cr.

SOWK:6XX Electives 5 cr.

SOWK:663 Psychopathology & Social Work 3 cr.

SOWK:607 Advanced Practice w/Small Systems I 3 cr.



SOWK:603 Advanced Field Practicum I 3 cr.

## Spring Semester

SOWK:6XX Electives 6 cr.

SOWK:675 Program Evaluation 3 cr.

SOWK:608 Advanced Practice w/Small Systems II 3 cr.

SOWK:604 Advanced Field Practicum II 3 cr.

## Second Year Specialization (Macro Practice)

### Fall Semester

SOWK:621 Advanced Field Seminar 1 cr.

SOWK:6XX Electives 5 cr.

SOWK:665 Supervision & Staff Development 3 cr.

SOWK:671 Social Work Administration 3 cr.

SOWK:603 Advanced Field Practicum I 3 cr.

### Spring Semester

SOWK:6XX Electives 6 cr.

SOWK:676 Fiscal Management of Social Agencies 3 cr.

SOWK:675 Program Evaluation 3 cr.

SOWK:604 Advanced Field Practicum II 3 cr.

## MSW Program

### Part-Time Program Curriculum

#### Part-Time Program

## First & Second Year Professional (Generalist)

### Fall Semester—First Year

SOWK:628 Human Behavior and Social Environment 3 cr.

SOWK:626 Advancing Human Rights and Social Policy 3 cr.

### Spring Semester—First Year

SOWK:627 Science of Social Work 3 cr.

SOWK:611 Dynamics of Racism & Discrimination 3 cr.

### Fall Semester—Second Year

SOWK:620 Field I Seminar 1 cr.

SOWK:624 Ethics & Professional Behavior 2 cr.

SOWK:605 Social Work Practice w/Small Systems 3 cr.

SOWK:601 Generalist Field Practicum I 3 cr.

### Spring Semester—Second Year

SOWK:6XX Elective 3 cr.





SOWK:606 Social Work Practice w/Large Systems 3 cr.  
SOWK:602 Generalist Field Practicum II 3 cr.

### **Third & Fourth Year Specialization (Micro Practice)**

#### **Fall Semester—Third Year**

SOWK:607 Advanced Practice w/Small Systems I 3 cr.  
SOWK:663 Psychopathology & Social Work 3 cr.

#### **Spring Semester—Third Year**

SOWK:6XX Electives 6 cr.

#### **Fall Semester—Fourth Year**

SOWK:621 Advanced Field Seminar 1 cr.  
SOWK:6XX Elective 5 cr.  
SOWK:603 Advanced Field Practicum 3 cr.

#### **Spring Semester—Fourth Year**

SOWK:608 Advanced Practice w/Small Systems II 3 cr.  
SOWK:604 Advanced Field Practicum II 3 cr.  
SOWK:675 Program Evaluation 3 cr.

### **Third & Fourth Year Specialization (Macro Practice)**

#### **Fall Semester—Third Year**

SOWK:665 Supervision & Staff Development 3 cr.  
SOWK:671 Social Work Administration 3 cr.

#### **Spring Semester—Third Year**

SOWK:6XX Electives 6 cr.

#### **Fall Semester—Fourth Year**

SOWK:621 Advanced Field Seminar 1 cr.  
SOWK:6XX Elective 5 cr.  
SOWK:603 Advanced Field Practicum 3 cr.

#### **Spring Semester—Fourth Year**

SOWK:676 Fiscal Management of Social Agencies 3 cr.  
SOWK:675 Program Evaluation 3 cr.  
SOWK:604 Advanced Field Practicum II 3 cr.

### **MSW Program Advanced Standing Curriculum Advanced Standing Program**



## **Specialization (Micro Practice )**

### **Summer Semester**

SOWK:650 Advanced Standing Integrative Seminar 6 cr.

### **Fall Semester**

SOWK:611 Dynamics of Racism & Discrimination 3 cr.

SOWK:663 Psychopathology & Social Work 3 cr.

SOWK:607 Advanced Practice w/Small Systems I 3 cr.

SOWK:603 Advanced Field Practicum 3 cr.

One Elective 3 cr.

### **Spring Semester**

SOWK:675 Program Evaluation 3 cr.

SOWK:608 Advanced Practice w/Small Systems II 3 cr.

SOWK:604 Advanced Field Practicum 3 cr.

Two Electives 6 cr.

## **Specialization (Macro Practice )**

### **Summer Semester**

SOWK:650 Advanced Standing Integrative Seminar 6 cr.

### **Fall Semester**

SOWK:611 Dynamics of Racism & Discrimination 3 cr.

SOWK:672 Community Organization & Planning 3 cr.

SOWK:674 Community, Economic Systems & Policy Analysis 3 cr.

SOWK:603 Advanced Field Practicum 3 cr.

One Elective 3 cr.

### **Spring Semester**

SOWK:671 Social Work Administration 3 cr.

SOWK:673 Strategies of Community Organization 3 cr.

SOWK:675 Program Evaluation 3 cr.

SOWK:604 Advanced Field Practicum 3 cr.

One Elective 3 cr.