

SOCIAL WORK

Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-admissions/how-to-apply/>). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA. We seek students passionate about helping their communities and striving for economic and social justice. Applicants must exhibit potential and professional capabilities essential for effective functioning in the graduate school environment. Applicants must also have personal qualifications essential for effective social work practice, including sensitivity and responsiveness in relationships, concern for the needs of others, adaptability, good judgement, critical thinking, creativity, integrity, and skill in oral and written communications.

An applicant must meet the following requirements:

- A bachelor's degree with a broad liberal arts foundation from an accredited college or university
- A minimum average of a B (3.0 GPA on a 4 point scale) in all undergraduate work
- No admissions test (e.g., GRE) are required for admission.

Consistent with the Council for Social Work Education's Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards, the Penn State World Campus MSW program does not grant course credit, transfer credit, or exemptions for prior life, volunteer, or employment experience.

The language of instruction at Penn State is English. English proficiency test scores (TOEFL/IELTS) may be required for international applicants. See GCAC-305 Admission Requirements for International Students (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/gcac-305-admission-requirements-international-students/>) for more information.

Advanced Standing

Students who have received a social work degree (BSW) within the past five years and have a minimum 3.25 GPA from a Council for Social Work Education accredited undergraduate program are eligible for advanced standing. Students who are granted advanced standing during the admissions process can receive credit for the generalist courses offered during Year 1 of full-time study. The number of advanced credits granted depends on the comparability of the student's undergraduate courses to the Penn State World Campus MSW program's courses and on the grades earned in those undergraduate course (i.e., must be a B grade or higher).

In addition, students entering with advanced standing can receive six (6) field education credits. The six credits of field education are granted based on the number of hours of field experience completed at the undergraduate level, provided that the undergraduate social work practicum totals a minimum of 400 hours and the student achieved at least a B grade.

Application Components

- A completed Graduate School online application form with the application fee
- Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended

- Resume or CV
- Goal Statement
- Letters of Reference