



Introduction

Application Information – *We offer a fully asynchronous ONLINE MSW option for SPRING 2026 start (January 12, 2026).*

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. Four Recommendations

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** format, **full-time**, **or part-time**. This is an intensive format where students attend consecutive semesters to complete the program.

FULL-TIME - SEVENTEEN MONTH PROGRAM

Full-Time - Online

- Classes meet online, asynchronous over 15 weeks each spring and fall semester. Classes meet online asynchronous over 13 weeks summer semester.
- Students will complete the generalist year in spring and summer semesters.
- Students will complete the specialist year in fall and the second spring semesters.

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 (Spring and Summer).
- The Specialization Field experience, which may require another field setting, consists of 250 hours (*17 hours per week*) in each of two consecutive semesters (fall and second spring).
- 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 - TWENTY-EIGHT MONTH PROGRAM

- The part-time program consists of seven consecutive semesters of instruction with students taking two-four courses each semester.
- Students will be enrolled in the scheduled courses and adhere to the schedule as outlined to ensure progress toward graduation.

Field Education Experience

- The Field Education Experience begins after completing the first four generalist courses and occurs concurrent with classroom teaching during the final remaining generalist courses.



- 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 last two semesters in the specialist 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, or part-time*) must fulfill the general admission requirements of **both** the Graduate School of The University of Akron and the MSW Program prior to admission.



SPRING ADMISSION GUIDELINES | 2026

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 four 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.
- **Pay the applicaiotn fee (fee is waived for 2026)**.

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.
- 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 – SPRING Start

First Year Professional (Generalist)

Spring 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.

Summer 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.

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.



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 SPRING Start

Part-Time Program Curriculum

Part-Time Program

Professional (Generalist)

Spring Semester

SOWK 628 Human Behavior and Social Environment 3 cr.

SOWK 626 Advancing Human Rights and Social Policy 3 cr.

Summer Semester

SOWK 627 Science of Social Work 3 cr.

SOWK 611 Dynamics of Racism & Discrimination 3 cr.

Fall Semester

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

SOWK 6XX Elective 3 cr.

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

SOWK 602 Generalist Field Practicum II 3 cr.

Specialization (Micro Practice)

Summer Semester



SOWK 607 Advanced Practice w/Small Systems I 3 cr.
SOWK 663 Psychopathology & Social Work 3 cr.
SOWK 6XX Electives 3 cr.

Fall Semester

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

Spring Semester

SOWK 604 Advanced Field Practicum II 3 cr.
SOWK 608 Advanced Practice w/Small Systems II 3 cr.
SOWK 675 Program Evaluation 3 cr.
SOWK 6XX Electives 3 cr.

Specialization (Macro Practice)

Fall Semester

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

Spring Semester

SOWK:6XX Electives 6 cr.

Fall Semester

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

Spring Semester

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