



Introduction

The Master of Social Work (MSW) Program is an accredited degree program administered by The University of Akron and accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

The Lakewood MSW Cohort

The Lakewood cohort of the full-time MSW Program is in its fifth year. The Lakewood cohort of the Advanced Standing Program is going into its third year. Students accepted into this cohort must agree to attend all of their courses at the Lakewood site. While the majority of the Lakewood cohort classes will be taught in a traditional classroom format, with all students and the instructor situated in the same classroom, some courses may be available via distance learning technology with other UA sites or on-line.

Students may complete their field placements in the Cuyahoga County area or any agencies throughout the northeast Ohio area.

The Lakewood site is located in Lakewood High School, 14100 Franklin Boulevard, Lakewood, Ohio 44107. It is close to shops, restaurants, and coffee houses. This location is easily accessible via I-90 and Route 2. The Lakewood library is near and is designated as an OhioLink site. Books, articles, and other library materials can be ordered from the main campus and will be delivered to the Lakewood library. Wireless Internet connection is available on the campus.

The deadline for filing a completed application for the full time cohort is **October 31, 2018**. The deadline for filing a completed application for the advanced standing full time cohort is **March 31, 2019**.

Please refer to the Application Checklist. The application materials are available on the following websites:

- a. Graduate School: <http://www.uakron.edu/gradsch/apply-online/mastersdegr.dot>
- b. School of Social Work: <http://www.uakron.edu/socialwork/msw/lakewood/index.dot>

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

Send #1 -2 to the Graduate School

1. The University of Akron Graduate School Application and Application Fee*



2. Transcripts from all Universities Attended*
 - a. ***Apply on-line @ <http://www.uakron.edu/gradsch/apply-online/mastersdegr.dot>**
 - b. ***Official transcripts** must be submitted to the Graduate School from each college or university attended (*except The University of Akron*). Official transcripts must be sent to: **The University of Akron Graduate School, Leigh Hall, Room 515, Akron, Ohio, 44325-2101.**
 - c. *Upon receipt of the Graduate School application, application fee, and all transcripts the Graduate School will forward these credentials to the appropriate academic department for review. If the department is missing additional information you will be contacted by that department.
 - d. **Note: the Graduate School application will ask you to upload other documents. Just send #3 through #7 to the School of Social Work.**

Electronically send #3 through #7 to School of Social Work: Dr. Tim McCarragher

3. Preferred Program Format form
4. A 3-5 page typed essay
5. Recent resume
6. Three Recommendation forms from the School of Social Work
7. Undergraduate Field Evaluations (*Advanced Standing Only*)

**The University of Akron
School of Social Work
Attn: Dr. Tim McCarragher
Polsky room 411
Akron, Ohio 44325**

mccarra@uakron.edu

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/Home.aspx> or (614) 466-0912.



Program Options

The program is currently offered in a **full-time evening or part-time evening format**. **Advanced Standing** is offered to applicants with BSW degrees from accredited programs and is only available to students attending full-time.

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

The scheduling of courses depends upon the availability of rooms equipped with distance education technology as well as other factors. 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 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:00 PM – 8:45 PM.
- Upon successful completion of these credits, students will begin their concentration year and follow the full-time format.

Field Education Experience

The Concentration Field Experience consists of a total of 500 hours (17 hours per week) over both semesters of the concentration 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 Evening: TWO YEAR PROGRAM

Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 PM – 9:50 PM for the first two semesters (spring and summer) and the same times Mondays and Wednesdays the final two semesters (fall and spring). Some Saturday classes may be required depending on 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 Foundation Field experience consists of 200 hours (16 hours per week) for each of the first two consecutive semesters.



- The Concentration Field experience, generally requires another field setting, consists of 250 hours (17 hours per week) in each of final 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)**, the outline for which can be downloaded from the field education section of the School of Social Work website. 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 classroom instruction with students taking two courses each semester.
- Students will be enrolled in the two scheduled courses and adhere to the schedule as outlined to ensure progress toward graduation.
- Classes are scheduled evenings from 4:00 PM – 9:50 PM during the week or on Saturdays during the day to accommodate the schedules of working adults.
- Classes may meet other days and times depending on concentration 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 Foundation Field consists of 200 hours (*16 hours per week*) for each of two consecutive semesters beginning the second year.
- The Concentration 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)**, the outline for which is included in this packet (*see attached*).
- 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.

CONCENTRATIONS:

Micro Concentration - 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 Concentration - 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 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 by the deadline.

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 3.00 in social and behavioral science 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.
- **Submit three School of Social Work Recommendation forms**, excluding family members and friends, (including one from immediate supervisor if employed). The forms are located on the School of Social Work website.
- **Submit an essay** of 3 to 5 typed pages explaining:
 - 1) Why do you want to be a social worker?
 - 2) Why do you feel a graduate degree in social work is necessary to fulfill your professional or personal objectives?
 - 3) Describe your view of diversity in society.



- 4) Describe a situation in which you were the recipient/provider of help emotionally, socially or economically, and if/how this situation impacted the desire to pursue an advanced degree in social work.
 - **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.

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

Testing Out Policy

In order to avoid duplication and redundancy of course content during the foundation year, the MSW Program allows students the opportunity to test out of the following courses:

- **7750:631 Human Behavior and the Social Environment: Small Systems**
- **7750:646 Social Welfare Policy I**
- **7750:622 Fundamentals of Research I**

Students wishing to test out of one or more of the above courses must notify the MSW Program Director prior to the start of the semester in which the course is normally taught. The proficiency exam must be taken prior to classes starting in that semester. There are no fees or penalties associated with taking these exams. However, each exam may be taken only once.

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 course work for Full-time Evening and Part-time students.
- The completion of 36 hours of course work 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.

MSW Program

Advanced Standing Program Curriculum

Concentration (Micro Practice)

Summer Semester

7750:650 Advanced Standing Integrative Seminar 6 cr.

Fall Semester

7750:611 Dynamics of Racism & Discrimination 3 cr.

7750:663 Psychopathology & Social Work 3 cr.

7750:607 Advanced Practice w/Small Systems I 3 cr.

7750:603 Advanced Field Practicum 3 cr.



One Elective 3 cr.

Spring Semester

7750:675 Program Evaluation 3 cr.
7750:608 Advanced Practice w/Small Systems II 3 cr.
7750:604 Advanced Field Practicum 3 cr.
Two Electives 6 cr.

Concentration (Macro Practice)

Summer Semester

7750:650 Advanced Standing Integrative Seminar 6 cr.

Fall Semester

7750:611 Dynamics of Racism & Discrimination 3 cr.
7750:672 Community Organization & Planning 3 cr.
7750:674 Community, Economic Systems & Policy Analysis 3 cr.
7750:603 Advanced Field Practicum 3 cr.
One Elective 3 cr.

Spring Semester

7750:671 Social Work Administration 3 cr.
7750:673 Strategies of Community Organization 3 cr.
7750:675 Program Evaluation 3 cr.
7750:604 Advanced Field Practicum 3 cr.
One Elective 3 cr.

MSW Full-Time Program Curriculum

First Year Professional (Foundation)

Spring Semester

7750:631 HBSE: Small Systems 3 cr.
7750:646 Social Welfare Policy I 3 cr.
7750:622 Fundamentals of Research I 3 cr.
7750:605 Social Work Practice w/Small Systems 3 cr.
7750:601 Foundation Field Practicum 3 cr.

Summer Semester

7750:632 HBSE: Large Systems 3 cr.
7750:647 Social Welfare Policy II 3 cr.
7750:623 Fundamentals of Research II 3 cr.
7750:606 Social Work Practice w/Large Systems 3 cr.
7750:602 Foundation Field Practicum 3 cr.

Second Year Concentration (Micro Practice)

Fall Semester

7750:611 Dynamics of Racism & Discrimination 3 cr.



7750:663 Psychopathology & Social Work 3 cr.
7750:607 Advanced Practice w/Small Systems I 3 cr.
7750:603 Advanced Field Practicum 3 cr.
One Elective 3 cr.

Spring Semester

7750:675 Program Evaluation 3 cr.
7750:608 Advanced Practice w/Small Systems II 3 cr.
7750:604 Advanced Field Practicum 3 cr.
Two Electives 6 cr.

Second Year Concentration (Macro Practice)

Fall Semester

7750:611 Dynamics of Racism & Discrimination 3 cr.
7750:672 Community Organization & Planning 3 cr.
7750:674 Community, Economic Systems & Policy Analysis 3 cr.
7750:603 Advanced Field Practicum 3 cr.
One Elective 3 cr.

Spring Semester

7750:671 Social Work Administration 3 cr.
7750:673 Strategies of Community Organization 3 cr.
7750:675 Program Evaluation 3 cr.
7750:604 Advanced Field Practicum 3 cr.
One Elective 3 cr.

MSW Program

Part-Time Program Curriculum

Part-Time Program

First & Second Year Professional (Foundation)

Spring Semester—First Year

7750:631 HBSE: Small Systems 3 cr.
7750:646 Social Welfare Policy I 3 cr.

Summer Semester—First Year

7750:632 HBSE: Large Systems 3 cr.
7750:647 Social Welfare Policy II 3 cr.

Fall Semester – First Year

7750:611 Dynamics of Racism & Discrimination 3 cr.
Elective 3cr.

Spring Semester – Second Year

7750:605 Social Work Practice w/Small Systems 3 cr.
7750:622 Fundamentals of Research I 3 cr.
7750:601 Foundation Field Practicum 3 cr.



Summer Semester – Second Year

7750:606 Social Work Practice w/Large Systems 3 cr.

7750:623 Fundamentals of Research II 3 cr.

7750:602 Foundation Field Practicum 3 cr.

Fall Semester– Second Year

7750:607 Advanced Practice w/Small Systems I 3 cr.

7750:603 Advanced Field Practicum 3 cr.

7750:663 Psychopathology & Social Work 3 cr.

Spring Semester – Third Year

7750:675 Program Evaluation 3 cr.

7750:608 Advanced Practice w/Small Systems II 3 cr.

7750:604 Advanced Field Practicum 3 cr.

Summer Semester– Third Year

Elective 3 cr.

Elective 3 cr.