

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

**ADVANCED STANDING
ADMISSIONS APPLICATION**



SUMMER 2015

Revised 1/5/2015

Dear Advanced Standing Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the UNLV Master of Social Work (MSW) Program. The MSW Program is designed to educate students for a career in social work practice. The MSW Program at UNLV is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Details of our program can be found in the enclosed program description and on the School of Social Work homepage: http://www.unlv.edu/Colleges/Urban/Social_Work/master_social_work.html

Advanced Standing in the MSW Program at UNLV is only available to students (1) who have achieved the BSW degree in the past five years from a school of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, and (2) an overall undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.25 or higher. Preference is given to those who have 3 years or more post-BSW social work practice.

Enclosed you will find the following items:

- Program Description
- Plans of Study
- Admission Requirements
- Advanced Standing MSW Admissions Application
- 3 Reference Forms
- Application Checklist

You will need to submit the MSW Advanced Standing Admissions Application and unofficial transcripts to the School of Social Work. The MSW Advanced Standing Admissions Application includes the admissions application form, the personal statement, your resume, and three reference forms. ***[Please do not use the Personal Statement or reference forms provided by the Graduate College; use only those in the MSW Advanced Standing Admissions Application.]***

You must also complete the Graduate College application, Apply Yourself (AY), online at <http://graduatecollege.unlv.edu/admissions/>. In addition, the application fee and official transcripts must be sent directly to the UNLV Graduate College.

Advanced Standing MSW applications must be postmarked by March 15, 2015. We will begin reviewing applications as they are received. Please consult the checklist to ensure that you submit all of the required application materials to the appropriate department, either the School of Social Work or the Graduate College.

We look forward to reviewing your application and we thank you for your interest in the UNLV School of Social Work.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Overcamp-Martini, Ph.D.
Graduate Program Coordinator

MSW PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

MISSION

The mission of the UNLV School of Social Work is to educate professional social workers who will become effective leaders and practitioners. By promoting excellence in teaching, research, and service, our focus is to prepare students to practice in a dramatically changing environment with a focus on achieving social and economic justice, overcoming barriers to oppression and poverty, developing a vision to enhance services on behalf of vulnerable populations, and building a strong human services community. Our commitment is to improve practice at all levels, to prepare practitioners to work effectively in a multicultural society, to actively engage in research to better understand complex social problems, and to advocate for needed social change.

Our mission serves as the basis for our curriculum through which the following themes are emphasized:

- critical analysis;
- strengths-based practice;
- integration of research with practice, theory, and policy development;
- appreciation of diversity in all of its forms; and
- promotion of social justice.

Our curriculum supports the School's mission and reflects the values inherent in social work while at the same time responding to the needs and concerns unique to southern Nevada and the southwestern United States.

COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

The graduate program in social work has been designed to be consistent with the accreditation standards of the field's national professional accrediting body, the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), and is fully accredited by CSWE. Students are provided a balance of academic instruction related to theory, research and major substantive issues, as well as practice experience through field practicum placements in a variety of agency environments.

The School's philosophy stresses the importance of both sound academic education and rich practical experience in preparing advanced social work practitioners. Faculty members bring to their positions a range of knowledge, applied experiences, and are active in scholarly research, consultation and practice in their respective fields of expertise.

PLANS OF STUDY

The Advanced Standing MSW program is a 42-credit hour program for students who have already earned a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree. Advanced Standing involves a Summer Term course of study of 12 credits, followed by 30 credit hours of concentration studies.

Students will select **Direct Practice (DP)** or **Management & Community Practice (MCP)** as their area of concentration. The Direct Practice concentration prepares students for advanced social work practice with individuals, families, and groups. The Management & Community Practice concentration prepares students for advanced practice in policy advocacy and management in human service organizations and agencies at the local, state, and national levels.

The Plan of Study for the Advanced Standing Program can be found on the School of Social Work website.

FIELD PRACTICUM

Field practicum placements are an integral part of the program and are concurrent with classroom instruction in a student's concentration studies. A wide variety of field practicum agencies are available, and students are placed in the field under the guidance of a field faculty member and in cooperation with the professional supervisory staff from local social service agencies. Students will be required to spend up to 20 hours per week in agency settings.

The following are examples of agency practice areas that are currently available to MSW students:

- social services
- domestic violence
- health and medical social work
- legal and forensic social work
- mental health inpatient and outpatient services
- gerontological social work
- substance abuse
- educational/ school social work
- child welfare
- policy, program, and client advocacy
- management and supervision
- program development
- program evaluation

All communication from the School regarding your application will be to the email address you provide. Notification of acceptance to the Advanced Standing MSW Program will be mailed to you, with information on the process for Field Practicum application. You can also access your acceptance or denial through AY where you apply with the Graduate College. Acceptance to the Graduate College does not mean acceptance to the Advanced Standing MSW program.

ADVANCED STANDING ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Advanced Standing MSW Program admissions decisions are based on a competitive process that consists of the following:

- BSW within five years from application from a school of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education;
- Overall grade point average (GPA);
- Personal Statement [Please use only the Personal Statement from the MSW Admissions Application; do NOT upload on the Graduate College AY system.]
- Volunteer and paid work experience;
- Resume/social service experience; and
- Professional/academic references (3) [Please use only the reference form from the MSW Admissions Application; do NOT upload on the Graduate College AY system.].

The minimum requirements are:

- A Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree within five years of application from a school of social work accredited by the Council of Social Work Education.
- Preference for three years of post-BSW social work practice.
- A minimum overall grade point average of 3.25 for the BSW degree.
- To continue beyond the Advanced Standing Summer Term, students must achieve a GPA of 3.0 for the Summer Term of 12 credit hours for these classes. If the 3.0 GPA is not achieved, the student will be permitted to enter the regular MSW Program of 63 credit hours.

***PLEASE NOTE:** No credit can be given for life or work experience.

Applicants must submit the following documents:

TO: The Graduate College

- Completed AY Application
- Official transcripts for all colleges and universities attended
- Application fee (TO: Board of Regents)

TO: The School of Social Work

- Completed Advanced Standing MSW Admissions Application
- Unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
- Personal Statement
- Resume (include paid & volunteer social service experience with hours worked per week, listing from (mo/yr) to (mo/yr))
- Three (3) references

**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS**

MSW ADMISSIONS APPLICATION

Name

<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Middle Initial</i>	<i>NSHE#</i>
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Current Mailing Address

<i>Street Address</i>	<i>City/State</i>	<i>Zip</i>
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Permanent Mailing Address

<i>Street Address</i>	<i>City/State</i>	<i>Zip</i>
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Official State of Residency

(One year of residency in Nevada is required for official Nevada residency.)

Telephone

<i>Work</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Cell</i>
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Email Address(es)

Current Occupation

Name of Institution where BSW degree was received:

Year BSW degree received: _____

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Have you been convicted of a crime?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please explain. Please be advised that some criminal convictions limit your practicum options as well as your ability to become licensed as a Social Worker in the State of Nevada.

Have you had any professional license revoked?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please use the space below to explain.

ENROLLMENT CLASSIFICATION

Taking into consideration the rigor of the full-time program, students may need to consider the part-time program once they've completed the Advanced Standing Summer Term. We recommend that students working more than 20 hours a week select the part-time program.

Please indicate the program and concentration for which you are applying:

➤ **Program Selection:**

☐ Full Time

☐ Part Time

➤ **Concentration Selection:** *Please select area of concentration carefully. For more information regarding the concentrations you may want to review our website. Final selection must be made by the end of the Advanced Standing Summer Term.*

☐ **Direct Practice**

☐ **Management & Community Practice**

☐ **Undecided**

PERSONAL STATEMENT

NSHE# _____

The profession of social work is intrinsically involved with the lives of individuals, groups, organizations, and communities. Therefore the School of Social Work needs to carefully evaluate pertinent information on all candidates. The Personal Statement is integral to our ability to evaluate applicants' preparedness, writing acumen, and goodness-of-fit for the program. Admission to the MSW Program is highly competitive; therefore the Personal Statement provides applicants with the ability to demonstrate their unique qualifications and competencies and assists us to build a successful cohort of incoming students.

Please respond to all of the following statements on three to five double-spaced (12-point font) typewritten pages. Please remove all identifiers on your submitted Personal Statement except your NSHE number.

- Trace the development of your interest in the field of social work.
- Describe what you consider your personal strengths and areas in need of development in relation to becoming a professional social worker.
- What do you see as the most pressing issues facing our society today? In what ways should we as social workers respond to these issues? If applicable, discuss your personal involvement in working on these issues.
- What are your career objectives as a professional social worker and how do you see your graduate studies as preparing you to meet those objectives?

MSW Applicant Signature

(Required)

If I am admitted to the School of Social Work at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas I agree to abide by the Code of Ethics established by the National Association of Social Workers.
See www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp

Signature

Date

REFERENCE FORMS

The applicant must submit to the School of Social Work three reference forms (see attachments), which reflect the applicant's academic experience, general capabilities, interest and motivation in pursuing a graduate degree in social work. References should be from professional (not personal) and/or academic references (dated within the last 2 years): one reference from the most recent employer in a social work position (if applicable) and one should be from an instructor (social work instructor, if applicable) if you have been in school within the past five (5) years. Please note that the person evaluating you must have been in a supervisory/evaluative position in relation to you, and not just a co-worker, fellow student etc.

Please respond: I waive the right to view this reference form in my file at the School of Social Work

☐ YES

☐ NO

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please use the following checklist to determine if you have sent the required materials to the **UNLV Graduate College and School of Social Work.**

Graduate College

Please submit the following:

- ☐ Graduate Application (AY)
- ☐ Official Transcripts from *ALL* undergraduate and graduate programs
- ☐ \$60 Application Fee, endorsed to *Board of Regents*

No reference letters are required for the Graduate College.

School of Social Work

Please submit the following:

****See address below****

- ☐ MSW Advanced Standing Admissions Application
- ☐ Unofficial Transcripts from ALL undergraduate and graduate programs
- ☐ *Three reference forms* **
- ☐ Personal statement
- ☐ Resume – Please include paid and volunteer social service experience with hours worked per week. List from (mo/yr) to (mo/yr)

****Students applying to the Advanced Standing MSW program are required to submit three (3) reference forms to the School of Social Work. Sealed reference forms must be obtained by the applicant to be included with the completed and signed MSW Advanced Standing Admissions Application and Personal Statement. The application must be submitted in its entirety.**

Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. If you have any further questions, please contact Sonia Taylor at (702) 895-1247 or email her at sonia.taylor@unlv.edu.

Thank you for considering UNLV for your higher educational studies.

UNLV School of Social Work
4505 Maryland Parkway
Box 455032
Las Vegas NV 89154