

**MASTER
OF
SOCIAL WORK**

ADMISSIONS APPLICATION



FALL 2015

Revised 11/4/2014

Dear 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

Enclosed you will find the following items:

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

You will need to submit the MSW Admissions Application and unofficial transcripts to the School of Social Work. The MSW 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 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.

MSW applications must be postmarked by May 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 MSW program is a 63-credit hour program. 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.

Within the MSW Program, we have three Plans of Study for each concentration, one full-time and two part-time Plans of Study. The layout of the Plans of Study may be found on our website at < <http://www.unlv.edu/degree/msw>>.

- 2-Year Full-time Program
- 3-Year Part-Time Program
- 4-Year Part-Time Program

FIELD PRACTICUM

Field practicum placements are an integral part of the program and are concurrent with classroom instruction. 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 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 MSW program.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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

- Overall undergraduate grade point average or 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
- 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 minimum overall grade point average of 2.75 for the bachelor's degree
- A bachelor's degree from an accredited school.
- No more than two course deficiencies when admitted to the program must be cleared up before the end of the first semester of graduate studies.
- The following liberal arts courses completed:
 - Two English composition or literature courses;
 - One college-level mathematics course (college algebra or statistics)
 - Three courses in social sciences (psychology, sociology and anthropology);
 - One course in fine arts or humanities;
 - One course in history or political science;
 - One course or content in human biological development (biology or psychology);
 - One course or content in diverse cultures, social conditions, or social problems.

*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 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

Last *First* *Middle Initial* *NSHE#*

Current Mailing Address

Street Address *City/State* *Zip*

Permanent Mailing Address

Street Address *City/State* *Zip*

Official State of Residency

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

Telephone

Work *Home* *Cell*

Email Address(es)

Current Occupation

Name of Institution where Bachelor's degree was 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. 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:**

MSW Program:

Full Time Part Time

Dual Degree JD/MSW Program*:

Full Time Part Time

***PLEASE NOTE:** Enrollment in the dual degree program is contingent on applying to both the Boyd School of Law and the School of Social Work, and acceptance into both programs. However, acceptance into one program and not the other does not preclude you from completing studies in the program in which you are accepted.

➤ **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 1st fall semester.*

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?

PRE-REQUISITE COURSES

Please list **course names and numbers** of the following undergraduate liberal arts courses that you have taken to fulfill liberal arts requirements.

➤ English Composition or Literature courses

1. _____

2. _____

➤ College level math course (college-level Algebra or Statistics)

1. _____

➤ Courses in Social Sciences (Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

➤ Course in Fine Arts or Humanities (Philosophy or Art History)

1. _____

➤ Course in History or Political Science

1. _____

➤ Course or content in human biological development (preferably, Biology; Psychology will be considered).

1. _____

➤ Course or content in diverse cultures, social conditions, or social problems.

1. _____

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 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 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 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