The mission of the Master of Social Work (MSW) program at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke is to prepare students for professional social work practice within an advanced generalist model. Social workers prepared using an advanced generalist model have the capacity to practice in varied settings with diverse client populations. They are equipped to utilize resources available in rural areas and prepared for the challenges of working with indigenous communities. They have an awareness of both historical and contemporary social issues that are embedded in a framework of a larger, more global reality. There are few social work programs in rural and Native American communities that prepare students in this manner.

The MSW program offers full-time and part-time programs and an Advanced Standing Program.

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Goals of the MSW Program

The MSW program at UNCP enhances the current UNCP mission, emphasizing fieldwork as a mechanism for integration of knowledge and experience. The program provides students opportunities to apply the advanced social work generalist model under the supervision of a practicing social worker. The program includes the following goals:

1. To offer a comprehensive foundation curriculum, based upon the liberal arts perspective, that effectively addresses social work values and ethics, diversity, the promotion of social and economic justice, population-at-risk, human behavior and the social environment, social work practice, social welfare policy and services, research, and field practicum.

2. To draw upon the generalist perspective and professional experiences offers a comprehensive, integrated advanced generalist concentration curriculum.

3. To offer a focus on social work generalist practice at all levels: individual, family, community, state, nation, and international, with an emphasis on rural and Native American communities.

4. To prepare graduates for participation in advanced level education beyond the MSW degree and to promote life-long learning among North Carolina social workers by providing quality continuing education opportunities.

5. To emphasize the rural community in practice, with special emphasis in dealing with populations-at-risk.

6. To promote the active involvement of faculty and graduate students in scholarly production, including basic and applied research.

7. To engage in action and analysis that lead to the development, adoption, and implementation of effective and humane policies and programs.

8. To provide professional leadership in planning, organizing, delivering and evaluating quality social services at the community level.

Implementation of the program goals will be characterized by the following:

Regional Rural Focus: Requires students to become knowledgeable about the regional landscape in which they live and understand the unique circumstances of practicing in culturally diverse rural areas. This addresses the University’s goal of improving the quality of life for a culturally diverse society.

Community Development and Leadership: Requires students to take leadership roles in public and private social service agencies in such areas as mental health, anti-poverty work, rural community development, and child welfare, while encouraging responsible participatory citizenship. This is in keeping with the University’s mission of preparing knowledgeable professionals for future community development.

Life Long Learning and Professional Development: The program seeks to develop professional working relationships based on collaboration, and mutual learning dedicated to social justice, equity, and cultural competence.

Social and Economic Justice: The MSW program seeks to develop understanding of the multi-level relationships among economic, political, and social systems that contribute to the perpetuation of poverty and oppression.

International Exchange: Following the University’s mission, the Social Work Department will continue to support faculty/student exchanges, preparing students with global perspectives.

Technology: Graduates from the UNCP MSW program will gain a working knowledge of emerging information technology that meets the needs of the communities and contexts in which they will be practicing.

Admission Criteria

1. A satisfactory undergraduate academic record which meets at least one of the following minimum requirements: a 2.5 overall GPA or 3.0 in the undergraduate major, or a 3.0 on all work taken during the senior year. For Advanced Standing, a 3.2 GPA in major or 3.0 overall.
2. A completed, signed application form and application fee.
3. Three recommendations from faculty (not UNCP Social Work Faculty) or professional supervisors.
4. An official score reports from either the GRE or Miller Analogies Test (MAT).
5. An official transcript from every academic institution attended.
6. Have completed an undergraduate or graduate course of study reflective of a liberal arts education including the humanities, social and behavioral sciences, physical sciences (specifically human biology), and mathematics. Students are expected to have mastered general social science knowledge through course work in sociology, psychology, or cultural anthropology classes, completed an undergraduate research methods and statistics course and an economics course. The admissions committee will evaluate applicants' transcripts for a liberal arts perspective and may require specific coursework as a condition for admission to the MSW program.
7. An essay, which demonstrates ability to construct an argument and indicates professional and academic goals, which match program competencies.
8. In addition, for consideration for Advanced Standing, must have a BSW from a CSWE Accredited University.
9. Must complete a criminal background check. Contact the Graduate School for instructions.
10. Resume

The MSW program does not grant academic credit for life or work experience. Only students admitted to the program can take the core Social Work Courses.