

UNC Pembroke
Department of Social Work
Master of Social Work Program

Application Information and Procedures

Recommended Deadlines:

The MSW Program may review applicants throughout the academic year, yet there are specific application dates and start dates for each pathway to program completion. The application deadlines and start dates for each degree pathway are:

- 1. Advanced Standing** (33 credit hours; minimum required undergraduate GPA of 3.2 overall and Bachelor of Social Work degree from CSWE accredited university within past 5 years required for consideration)
 - a. Application deadline: April 15th
 - b. Start date: Summer I Session
- 2. Fast Track** (45 credit hours; minimum required undergraduate GPA of 2.75 overall, and Bachelor of Social Work degree from CSWE accredited university within past 5 years required for consideration)
 - a. Application deadline: April 15th
 - b. Start date: Summer I Session
- 3. Traditional** (48-60 credit hours; minimum required undergraduate GPA of 2.75 overall)
 - a. Application deadline: July 15th
 - b. Start date: Fall Semester

Required Application Materials:

- 1. Application Fee:**
 - a. \$45.00 non-refundable application fee (\$60.00 non-refundable application fee for international applicants). Call the Cashier's Office with credit card at 910.521.6410 or 910.521.6206 or pay in person in the Cashier's Office with cash, check, money order, or credit card.
- 2. Application Form:**
 - a. Create an account for the web-based graduate application. [Click Here](#) to get to The Graduate School's admissions website then follow the instructions.
- 3. Transcripts:**
 - a. Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended.
 - b. Grade Point Average (GPA) requirements:
 - i. Fast Track or Traditional: minimum required GPA of 2.75 overall, 3.0 to be competitive
 - ii. Advanced Standing: minimum required GPA of 3.2 overall.
- 4. Test Scores:**
 - a. The Department of Social Work does not consider graduate school admissions exams, such as the Miller Analogy Test (MAT) or Graduate Record Examination

(GRE). Exam scores submitted as part of the application will not be considered.

Master of Social Work Program-Specific Requirements:

1. Required undergraduate prerequisites for the MSW program
 - a. Six liberal arts prerequisite requirements that must be completed prior to full admission to the MSW Program:
 - i. Human Biology or Anatomy & Physiology
 - ii. Economics
 - iii. Political Science
 - iv. Introduction to Psychology
 - v. Introduction to Sociology
 - vi. Statistics
2. Three professional and academic letters of recommendation from professional supervisors or university faculty who are not members of the UNCP Department of Social Work.
3. An essay
 - a. Approximately four to six pages in length.
 - b. Demonstrates the applicant's ability to thoroughly construct an argument, indicates the applicant's professional and academic goals, and reflects congruence with the values and ethics of professional social work practice as specified through the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics [Click Here](#)
4. Criminal Background Check
 - a. Contact the School of Graduate Studies for instructions [Click Here](#)
5. Reference Materials
 - a. Advisement Guides/Study Plans for Full-time, Part-time, and Advanced Standing tracks can be located on the UNCP Department of Social Work website [Click Here](#)
 - b. Liberal arts/general education prerequisite course requirements can be located on the UNCP Department of Social Work website [Click Here](#)
 - c. National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics [Click Here](#)

**UNCP Master of Social Work Program
General Education Prerequisite Requirements for Application**

In order for an applicant to receive full admission to the Master of Social Work program, the following prerequisite requirements must be completed (in addition to other application requirements). Any courses listed by the applicant as an “equivalent” prerequisite must be reviewed and approved by the MSW Program Director.

Course	UNCP Courses that Meet the Prerequisite Requirement	Equivalent Prerequisite Courses
	(Place “√” in box if completed)	(Write equivalent course, if completed)
Statistics	<input type="checkbox"/> SWK/CRJ/SOC 3600 Social Statistics, or	Or equivalent statistics course
	<input type="checkbox"/> MAT 2100 Introduction to Statistics, or	Course Equivalent:
	<input type="checkbox"/> PSY 2080 Research Statistics	
Political Science	<input type="checkbox"/> PLS 1000 Introduction to Political Science, or	Or equivalent Introduction to Political Science or American Government
	<input type="checkbox"/> PLS 1010 Introduction to American National Government	Course Equivalent:
Psychology	<input type="checkbox"/> PSY 1010 Introductory Psychology	Or equivalent Introduction to Psychology
		Course Equivalent:
Sociology	<input type="checkbox"/> SOC 1020 Introduction to Sociology, or	Or equivalent Introduction to Sociology or Social Problems
	<input type="checkbox"/> SOC 2090 Social Problems in Modern Society	Course Equivalent:
Human Biology	<input type="checkbox"/> BIO 1030 Basic Human Biology, or	Or equivalent Human Biology or Human Anatomy and Physiology
	<input type="checkbox"/> PED 3490 Anatomy and Physiology, or	Course Equivalent:
	<input type="checkbox"/> BIO 2110 Human Anatomy and Physiology I	
Economics	<input type="checkbox"/> ECN 1000 Economics of Social Issues, or	Or equivalent Economics course
	<input type="checkbox"/> ECN 2020 Principles of Microeconomics, or	Course Equivalent:
	<input type="checkbox"/> ECN 2030 Principles of Macroeconomics, or	
	<input type="checkbox"/> ECN/GGY 2060 Economic Geography	

UNCP Master of Social Work (MSW) Program Application Essay Requirements

The required essay should display a critical thought process, address both topics described below, and demonstrate the ability to write at a level appropriate for graduate work. The essay must be double-spaced, typewritten, and meet the specified page length. Any form of plagiarized work will not be accepted. The essay should coherently incorporate both of the elements below:

A. Autobiographical Statement (2-3 pages)

Write an autobiographical statement explaining why you would like to be a master's level social worker. Social work practice is concerned with behavior in the context of the social environment. Your response could integrate important family and community influences, as well as a description of characteristics that distinguish you as a potential candidate for the Master of Social Work degree. Those reviewing your essay are evaluating evidence of your:

1. Commitment to social justice
2. Leadership abilities
3. Notable achievements and accomplishments (academic work or volunteer)
4. Perseverance in the face of adversity, oppression, socioeconomic disadvantage, and /or discrimination
5. Significant experience in diverse communities
6. Bilingual skills (including American Sign Language)
7. Disadvantaged background

It is important to communicate how you have developed as a result of these experiences, what knowledge you have gained, and how these experiences will affect your approach to your social work education and professional practice. Include comments on the factors that contributed to your choice of graduate level social work education and why are you making this choice at this time. Discuss your career goals and what you expect to be doing within five years and ten years.

B. Social Problem (2-3 pages)

Describe a social problem that you perceive as significant. Discuss it in relation to the following four areas:

1. Describe the societal contributions to the origin and maintenance of this problem.
2. Clearly discuss reasons this problem deserves public attention and resources.
3. If relevant, integrate any personal experiences that have contributed to your identification with and understanding of the problem.
4. Identify and explain possible methods of addressing the social problem, including social work leadership roles you might undertake.

Applicant's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) about the Master of Social Work Program

Is the MSW program accredited?

The MSW program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the nationally recognized accrediting agency for social work programs. [Click Here](#) to view the MSW program accreditation status on the Council on Social Work Education website.

Can you tell me about the faculty?

The MSW faculty represent vast knowledge and diversity, which contributes to the learning context of the program. Faculty yield from across the United States, as well as international locations such as Ghana. Expertise includes clinical social work, gerontological social work, child welfare, family and domestic violence, substance use and abuse, military-related issues, school social work, and human trafficking. Various methods are used to promote instructor-student and student-student interactions including experiential learning activities, guest educators, and team-based learning.

What fields of practice do the graduates usually enter?

Our graduates receive learning for professional practice according to a generalist model, which equips them to engage in various fields of practice including: schools, social service agencies, court systems, military installations, and assisted living facilities. Graduates typically practice in locations ranging from rural to urban within the greater North Carolina area.

When should I have my application submitted?

Traditional students begin during the fall semesters (submit by July 15th). Advanced Standing and Fast Track students begin in summer only (submit by April 15th). If planning to receive financial aid, please submit your application within an appropriate time frame so any financial aid information can be processed in enough time to begin taking classes.

Can you tell me more about the program?

Our MSW program offers several routes to completion of the MSW degree: Advanced Standing, Fast Track, and Traditional. Students primarily attend full-time or part-time. Advanced Standing and Fast Track students must have obtained a BSW degree within the past 5 years and fulfill all other eligibility requirements. The program requirements range from 33-60 credit hours depending on which route a student enters. The Advanced Standing route includes 500 field practicum hours. The Fast Track and Traditional routes include 930 field practicum hours. Advanced Standing and Fast Track students begin in the summer semesters only, while traditional students begin in the fall semesters.

What can I expect as far as course load and study time?

Students enrolled full-time take at least four to five courses (3 hours each) per semester in addition to over 200 hours of field practicum (approximately three to four days per week at the

practicum site). Students enrolled part-time take at least three courses per semester in addition to field practicum. Students enrolled as Advanced Standing take 4 courses in the summer, then approximately 5 courses in addition to field practicum during fall and spring semesters. For example advisement guides/study plans, please view the forms under Requirements for Master of Social Work [Click Here](#). In addition to class attendance and field practicum, it is expected that students will include 6 to 9 hours of study and homework completion each week per course.

I am not exactly sure what role I want to fill in social work. Can you tell me what types of field placements students go into?

It is common for new students to be uncertain of what field of practice may be of interest. The generalist model in the MSW program helps to introduce students to several areas of practice in various settings. For example, student field placements have included hospitals, mental health agencies, substance use and abuse agencies, military veteran services, vocational rehabilitation, disability support services, domestic violence shelters, and school settings. Contact the MSW Field Director to answer questions about field practicum when it is time to coordinate this critical learning experience. You may [Click Here](#) to view the names and contact information of each department member.

What is the average class size?

The class size can vary, yet the average has been approximately 25 students.

I have a long commute and a full-time job, are there any online courses?

The MSW program is a traditional classroom program that primarily meets face-to-face. Students can expect to attend classes approximately three to four days per week throughout the semester. The offering of distance education courses only occur on rare occasions. Courses are primarily offered in the evening during weekdays with periodic scheduling of afternoon class times.

What if I begin a program as full-time and find that it is challenging to balance my education, work, and family life?

Students can transition from full-time to part-time status, which would provide a reduced course load. Courses are only offered one time per year so once a student has transitioned to part-time, the individual will not be able to transition back to full-time. Students do have up to six years to complete the MSW program. Students are encouraged to consider education, work, and family life balance prior to applying to a specific program track.

What if I have more questions about the Advanced Standing (33 credit hour), Fast Track (45 credit hour) or Traditional (48-60 credit hour) routes? Is there someone I can contact?

Absolutely, anyone in the Department of Social Work would be very willing to answer your questions. You may [Click Here](#) to view the names and contact information of each department member.