Social Work

Degree offered
• Master of Social Work

Nature of the Program
The mission of the M.S.W. Social Work Program at West Virginia University is to train graduate students in advanced social work practice either with individuals, families, and groups or in community organizing and social administration. The focus of this training is to produce competent and effective practitioners committed to enhancing social well-being and quality of life with particular emphasis on vulnerable and oppressed populations in small towns and rural areas characteristic of the Appalachian region.

Students have the opportunity to focus their practice interests by selecting one of two practice tracks—direct practice or community organization and social administration. Students have the opportunity to complete their field internships with agencies throughout West Virginia and adjacent areas. In addition, a dual degree option is offered in conjunction with the Department of Public Administration. Graduate certificates are available in the areas of gerontology and non-profit management (http://grad.wvu.edu/). All degree programs offered by the university are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

The School of Social Work supports both full-time and part-time graduate study at the campus in Morgantown and part-time graduate study at several extended campus sites, including Charleston, Beckley, Keyser, Wheeling, and Martinsburg. Regular-standing students—those with degrees in areas other than social work or those with social work degrees who do not meet the criteria for advanced-standing status—begin the program in fall semesters. It takes two years to complete the program on a full-time basis (including two summer sessions between the first and second years of the program) and three years to complete the program on a part-time basis (including summer sessions). Full-time advanced standing students (those with a qualifying B.S.W. degree) begin the program in January and complete the program in sixteen months. Part-time advanced-standing students begin in the fall semester and finish in just under two years.

Applicants to the M.S.W. program come from a variety of academic disciplines and have varying degrees of experience in the field of social work. Students interested in applying should consult the website: http://socialwork.wvu.edu or contact:

M.S.W. Admissions
School of Social Work
West Virginia University
P.O. Box 6830
Morgantown, WV 26506-6830

Phone: (304) 293-3501

Application information is also available on our website: http://socialwork.wvu.edu.

Career Opportunities
Graduates of the M.S.W. program are employed throughout the United States and internationally. They work as individual, family, and group treatment specialists, planners, community organizers, and social researchers. They also work as social work educators and as administrators in a variety of programs such as mental health clinics, hospitals, correctional institutions, courts, delinquency programs, aging programs, family counseling agencies, child protective agencies, public welfare departments, child development programs, drug and alcohol abuse programs, public schools, community action agencies, settlement houses, city governments, state government planning agencies, federal administrative agencies, and private research and development organizations concerned with human problems.

There has been a constant growth in the need for professional social workers. It is anticipated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and other research bodies that the employment demand for social workers will continue to increase in numbers and in varieties of programs. The WVU social work curriculum is designed to help students prepare for these careers.

Faculty
Director
• Elise Fullmer - Ph.D. (University at Albany, The State University of New York)

Professor
• Karen V. Harper-Dorton - Ph.D. (Ohio State University)
  Professor and Chair, Title IV-E Project in Child Welfare, Rural Social Work, Social Administration
Associate Professor

- Helen P. Hartnett - Ph.D. (Ohio State University)
  M.S.W. Director, Communities and Organizations, Homelessness
- Kristina Hash - Ph.D. (Virginia Commonwealth University)
  Aging, Family Care Giving, Gay and Lesbian Issues
- Neal Newfield - Ph.D. (Texas Tech University)
  Strategic Therapy, Hypnosis, Solution-focused Therapy, Social Documentary Photography
- Carrie Rishel - Ph.D. (University of Pittsburgh)
  Child Mental Health, Program Evaluation
- Leslie Tower - Ph.D. (Barry University)
  Domestic Violence, Women’s Issues, Health Care Administration
- Michael Zakour - Ph.D. (Washington University)
  Associate Director of the Nova Institute, Organizations and Communities, Non-profit Management, Disaster Response

Assistant Professor

- Portia Adams - Ph.D. (Washington University)
  Clinical Practice, Adolescents
- HaeJung Kim - Ph.D. (University of Maryland)
  Non-profit Management, Social Policy
- Emily McCave - Ph.D. (University of Kansas)
  Research LGBT

Clinical Associate Professor

- Linda Ferrise - M.S.W. (West Virginia University)
  Baccalaureate Program Director, Clinical Practice, Community Mental Health

Clinical Assistant Professor

- Patricia Chase - Ed.D (West Virginia University)
  Child Welfare

Senior Lecturer

- Eveldora Wheeler - M.S.W. (University of Pittsburgh)
  Management, Training, Deliberation and Dialogue

Instructors and Faculty Equivalents

- Carol Amendola - M.S.W. (West Virginia University), L.C.S.W.
  B.S.W. Program Coordinator, Clinical Practice, Child Welfare
- J. Scott Dixon - M.S.W. (Temple University)
  Martinsburg M.S.W. Coordinator, Spirituality, Mental Health, Poverty Issues
- Jacqueline Englehardt - M.S.W. (West Virginia University), L.C.S.W.
  Professional and Community Education, Non-profit Management
- Lori Fell - M.S.W. (West Virginia University)
  M.S.W. Coordinator, Group Work, Spirituality in Social Work Practice, Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery
- Samuel J. Leizear - M.S.W. (WVU), L.C.S.W.
  Field Education Coordinator, Human Diversity, Health Care and Aging, LGBT Issues
- Chatman Neely - M.S.W. (West Virginia University)
  Wheeling M.S.W. Coordinator, Clinical Practice, Teaching Instructor
- Alyssa Nichols - M.S.W./M.P.A. (West Virginia University)
  Teaching Instructor
- Debra Young - Ed.D (Marshall University)
  Charleston M.S.W. Coordinator, Community Organization and Social Administration

Research Associate

- Rebekah Bledsoe - M.S.W. (West Virginia University)
  Title IV-E, Child Welfare
Emeritus Faculty
- Marjorie H. Buckholz-Cleveland - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
- Barry Locke - Ed.D (West Virginia University)
- Roger A. Lohmann - Ph.D. (Brandeis University)
- Nancy Lohmann - Ph.D. (Brandeis University)
- Caroline T. Mudd - M.S.W. (University of Pennsylvania)

The School of Social Work
M.S.W. Admission Process

The School of Social Work has adopted an online application process. Please carefully read and follow all instructions as outlined.

Application Deadlines
Please remember that all required materials must be received and processed by the following deadline dates. Keep in mind transcripts, references, and test scores often take longer than anticipated to arrive.

- March 1 is the priority deadline. Applications submitted by March 1 will be given preference for graduate assistantships and scholarships.
- April 1 is the standard deadline. All applications must be submitted by April 1 for consideration.
- May 1 is the late application deadline. All applications must be submitted by May 1, and late application acceptance is based upon available space.

Requirements
Note: Materials marked with an * must be uploaded/submitted at http://grad.wvu.edu/apply in the Supplemental Material section.

College Prep
- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university

Prerequisite Courses
- Successful completion of thirty hours of courses in the liberal arts, including the social, behavioral, and biological sciences
- Evidence of study related to diverse cultures, social conditions, social problems, and individual lifespan

Advanced-Standing
Applicants who have received a B.S.W. from a Council on Social Work Education-accredited program within the last eight years may apply for advanced-standing. Advanced-standing enables the baccalaureate-holding social worker to move directly to the program's advanced curriculum, waiving twelve credits of foundation-level courses as well as the foundation field experience.

The School of Social Work does not give academic credit for work or life-experience.

Grade Point Average
- At least a 2.75 (If an applicant's GPA is under 2.75, they may be granted provisional status if they demonstrate the potential for graduate study. Provisional status will be removed if the student earns and maintains a 2.75 in their first twelve hours of coursework.)
- A 3.0 or higher for advanced-standing applicants in their undergraduate social work courses

Application and Application Fee*
- Complete the combined WVU Graduate/School of Social Work application
- $60 application fee

Transcripts
- Submit official transcripts to the WVU Office of Graduate Admissions at P.O. Box 6009, Morgantown, WV 26506

Resume*:
- Submit a current resume including employment and volunteer experience
Letters of Recommendation*

Three letters of recommendation are required. Contact information for these individuals should be provided within the online Graduate Application. Please submit a recommendation from each of the following categories:

- Academic
- Social Work/Human Service Experience (volunteer or paid)
- Employer

Advanced-standing applicants must submit a supporting recommendation from the director of their undergraduate program.

Testing

Applicants with an undergraduate GPA above 3.0 do not have to take the General Requirements Examination (GRE).

Applicants whose undergraduate GPA is below 3.0 must take the GRE. Official copies of test scores must be sent directly from Educational Testing Services (ETS) to WVU. Our Institution code is 5904.

International Students whose first language is not English must take the Test Of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The GRE is also required if GPA is below 3.0.

Admission Essay*:

All applicants must submit an Admission Essay. Please read the detailed description below.

Admission Essay Guidelines

This essay is one essential part of the student’s admission application. This is the student’s opportunity to communicate with the Graduate Program Committee members about their professional goals. Before submitting, make certain that the essay gives the reader a clear picture of your personal interests, experiences, and professional objectives. Once complete, please upload the Admissions Essay to your online application under the “Personal Statement” tab.

The Admission Essay must address each of the following:

Human Services and Community Work

Please discuss any volunteer or paid experiences in human services, community work, and/or other experiences that contributed to your choice of social work as a profession. The Program Committee is looking for evidence of some leadership ability, experience, or interest in working with diverse populations or oppressed groups; commitment to social and economic justice; and other interests congruent with WVU’s School of Social Work mission and social work practice in a rural setting.

Professional Ethics

The NASW Code of Ethics includes the following statement:

“Social workers treat each person in a caring and respectful fashion, mindful of individual differences and cultural and ethnic diversity. Social workers promote clients’ socially responsible self-determination. Social workers seek to enhance a client’s capacity and opportunity to change and to address their own needs. Social workers are cognizant of their dual responsibility to clients and to the broader society. They seek to resolve conflicts between client’s interests and the broader society’s interests in a socially responsible manner consistent with the values, ethical principles, and ethical standards of the profession.”

Using a specific experience you have had with someone/some group different than you (in terms of race, socioeconomic background, gender, religion, sexual orientation, culture, age, etc.), discuss what challenges you had and what lessons you learned from this. How did the interaction affect your personal views about this individual/group? How will you reconcile any conflicts between your personal values and the requirement of the profession?

Social Work Practice

Please describe an aspect of social work that interests you most and explain how you became interested in this issue. Identify how you think social work, as a profession, should respond to this issue. Feel free to describe a response at the policy, program, or practice levels of social work.

Addendum

If necessary, applicants should submit an addendum that addresses any gaps or deficiencies in their academic record, including incomplete grades, withdrawals from courses, etc.
Advanced-Standing Applicants must also address:

Please choose a practice example on individuals, group, family, or organization and describe it, disguising names and identifying information. Please introduce the example with a brief paragraph describing the agency, its function, and its purpose. Please limit your response to 500 words.

Your description headings should include the following:

- **Assessment** – A summary of the essential case data, including age, ethnicity, race, presenting problem, history of the problem, coping abilities. (If the assessment is based on a group or organization, describe the type of group/organization, membership makeup, and purpose.)
- **Case Plan** – Describe the plan and how it relates to the assessment evaluation.
- **Interventions** – Describe and analyze your practice interventions and how they are related to the case plan or assessment formulation.
- **Evaluation** – Critically analyze the strength and limitations of your intervention. With hindsight, how might you have intervened differently and why?

Admission Essay Guidelines have been compiled and adapted from the following institutions: University of Maine, UNC-Chapel Hill, University of Maryland at Baltimore, and the University of Michigan.

**Curriculum and Degree Requirements**

- Degree Requirements
- Curriculum Components
- Field Instruction
- Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirements for Good Standing
- Summary of Degree Requirements for Regular M.S.W. Program
- Summary of Degree Requirements for Advanced Standing M.S.W. Program
- Dual M.S.W/M.P.A.

**Master’s Degree Requirements:**

The degree of master of social work (M.S.W.) is conferred upon those students who satisfactorily complete the requirements as established for graduate education. These requirements are as follows:

**Degree Requirements**

A minimum GPA of 2.75 is required in all courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major Requirements</td>
<td>18-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area of Emphasis Requirement</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td>42-58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Satisfactory completion of no less than fifty-eight semester hours for those admitted to the regular M.S.W. program and forty-two semester hours for those admitted to the advanced standing M.S.W. program. These hours may be earned through the program on the campus in Morgantown as well as at the extended campus sites.
- Satisfactory completion of all components called for by the degree plan to which students are admitted in the graduate program.

**Curriculum Components**

All M.S.W. students complete coursework in social work practice, social welfare policy, human behavior and the social environment, social work research, and field instruction. In addition, students select a practice track.

Direct practice track students gain the knowledge and skills to provide direct and clinical services to individuals, families, and small treatment groups. Community organization and social administration track students gain knowledge and skills to provide leadership to communities in the development, administration, and support of service programs.

**Major Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 513</td>
<td>Social Work Research Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 520</td>
<td>Human Behavr-Social Environmnt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 531</td>
<td>Social Welfare Policy/Services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Field Instruction

Field instruction provides the student with an opportunity to test classroom knowledge as well as to develop and refine advanced-practice skills. Field instruction opportunities are available throughout West Virginia and adjacent areas as well as in a select number of settings outside the region.

Full-time regular-standing M.S.W. students have a generalist field experience during the first two semesters of study. Advanced-field placement is typically completed on a concurrent plan requiring sixteen–twenty-four hours of field instruction activity each week throughout the second year of study according to degree plans.

Students are required to take at least three credits of classroom coursework concurrently with the advanced field placement and to complete assignments designed to facilitate the integration of field and classroom study. Decisions regarding the field placement assignment are jointly reached by the student, faculty advisor, and field instruction coordinator. Only sites on the Division of Social Work's list of approved agencies may be used for field instruction.

Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirements for Good Standing

All graduate courses must be completed with a grade of C or better; students may repeat any course for which the final grade is less than C one time only. Students are required to maintain an overall minimum GPA of 2.75 (on a four-point scale) to continue in the program, to be eligible for field instruction, and to be eligible for graduation.

Summary of Degree Requirements for Regular M.S.W. Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Course Credits</th>
<th>30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Generalist Field Credits</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 581 Generalist Field Experience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Field Credits</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 682 Advanced Field Experience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives Credits</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>58</td>
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</table>

Summary of Degree Requirements for Advanced Standing M.S.W. Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Course Credits</th>
<th>18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Field Credits</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 682 Advanced Field Experience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives Credits</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dual M.S.W/M.P.A.

A dual degree option resulting in the master of social work (M.S.W.) and master of public administration (M.P.A.) is available through the Division of Social Work and the Division of Public Administration. For a student admitted to the regular M.S.W. program, a total of eighty-two credit hours are required to meet the dual degree requirements. For a student admitted to the advanced standing M.S.W. program, a total of sixty-nine credit hours are required to meet dual degree requirements. Many students complete such requirements through one or more additional semesters of study beyond the semesters required for the M.S.W. degree. Applicants must meet the admission requirements of each program. Acceptance by one program does not guarantee acceptance by the other. Additional information and descriptive materials about the dual degree program are available from either of the following:

M.S.W. Admissions
Division of Social Work
West Virginia University
P.O. Box 6830
Morgantown, WV 26506-6830

or

Division of Public Administration
West Virginia University
P.O. Box 6322
Morgantown, WV 26506-6322

Graduate Certificate in Gerontology

The Graduate Certificate in Gerontology is available to students who meet WVU graduate admission requirements and have an interest in learning more about the aging processes and older people. The certificate affords students an opportunity to explore the basic biological, psychological, and sociological processes of aging; the effects on needs and experiences of older people; and the impact of social policies related to human aging. An understanding of the unique problems and needs of older adults in Appalachia and other rural areas is emphasized.

• The certificate requires fifteen graduate credits as detailed below.
• A 3.0 grade-point average must be maintained in all certificate coursework.

Coordination of the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology was assumed by the Beatrice Ruth Burgess Center for WV Families and Communities of the WVU School of Social Work in Fall 2009. As Certificate requirements are reviewed, it is possible that some of them may be modified. You may want to check this site periodically or contact Dr. Kristina Hash, Director of the Gerontology Certificate Program, for the latest information about program requirements.

Students must apply to be enrolled in the certificate program. An application form (http://socialwork.wvu.edu/certificate-programs/graduate-certificate-in-gerontology) is available on this website or may be obtained from Dr. Hash who may be contacted at (304) 293-8807.

Those interested in the Gerontology Certificate may also want to explore the Summer Institute on Aging (http://socialwork.wvu.edu/certificate-programs/graduate-certificate-in-gerontology).

Curriculum Requirements for Gerontology Certificate Program are as follows:

A grade of B or better must be earned in all required courses

**Required Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GER 512</td>
<td>Public Policy of Aging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GER 645</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Gerontology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GER 681</td>
<td>Rural Gerontology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives (Select two)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 653</td>
<td>End Of Life Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 572</td>
<td>Contemporary Issues in Aging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GER 645</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Gerontology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 754</td>
<td>Decision Analysis-Healthcare</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**

15

For further information, please consult the School of Social Work's website, http://socialwork.wvu.edu/certificates, or contact Dr. Kris Hash at KMHash@mail.wvu.edu.
Graduate Certificate in Non-profit Management

The School of Social Work, in cooperation with the other units of the School of Applied Social Sciences, offers a fifteen-hour graduate Non-profit Management Certificate Program. The program consists of two required three-hour courses, six hours of electives, and a three-hour capstone project.

Required Courses
All students must enroll in SOWK 654 and SOWK 655.

Electives
Students enrolled in the certificate may choose a wide variety of electives, including appropriate courses in their field of study, employment, volunteer history, or other interests. In the past, certificate students have elected courses in public administration, social work, sociology, political science, geography, agriculture, journalism, and other disciplines.

Please consult the School of Social Work’s website (http://socialwork.wvu.edu/certificate-programs/graduate-certificate-in-gerontology) for more information.

Capstone
Upon completion of the required and elective coursework, each student is required to do an individual capstone project in order to complete the certificate requirements. Students in public administration typically do their non-profit capstone requirement concurrently with a similar departmental requirement there. Dual-degree and social work students frequently develop their capstone projects in conjunction with their field placements.

Candidates for the graduate certificates must meet regular WVU graduate admission requirements. Program participants must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in certificate coursework.

For more information on the Graduate Certificate in Non-profit Management, please contact Dr. Helen Hartnett at helen.hartnett@mail.wvu.edu or by calling (304) 293-8808.

School of Social Work
105 Knapp Hall
P.O. Box 6830
West Virginia University
Morgantown, WV 26506-6830
(304) 293-3501