

MSW Frequently Asked Questions

When and where can I get an application for the Collaborative MSW Program?

Applications are revised annually and available at the MSW web-site in October. Because the application is date sensitive it is removed from the MSW web-site when applications are closed.

Do applicants have to choose one university over the other to apply for admissions?

There is one application process for the Collaborative MSW Program. Students are assigned to a home university once they are accepted into the MSW program. Most students are assigned to the campus of their choice. Students graduate from their home university and register for classes at their home campus.

What are the requirements for admission to the Collaborative MSW Program?

Applicants to the MSW program must be graduates of an accredited university, have an overall GPA of 2.75 or higher and have at least two of the four prerequisites completed before enrollment. Applicants who hold a BSW degree from a CSWE accredited Social Work program can enter at the advanced standing level provided this degree was obtained within 8 years of enrolling. Successful applicants have at least two years of post degree experience working in social services as an employee or a volunteer. All applicants must obtain three reference forms and a former professor or academic advisor must complete at least one of these forms. Successful applicants also complete a 3-5 page essay that clearly outlines their career goals, skills and abilities that will compliment the MSW degree and include critical discussion of a significant and current social problem. The essay provides an opportunity for the admissions committee to review the applicant's writing skills and assess their critical thinking abilities. The MSW program is designed for people who have social service experience and are confident an MSW will help them achieve their career goals.

Do applicants have to have a BSW degree to be admitted to the Collaborative MSW Program?

Applicants with a variety of academic backgrounds apply to the Collaborative MSW program and are admitted. Successful applicants must complete four prerequisite courses before

commencing the advanced curriculum. These courses include: Statistics, Research Methods, Human Biology and Human Development. These courses can be taken from any accredited university. There are many distance education options available to students as well. The Collaborative MSW program has developed a list of acceptable courses offered by the UW-system colleges and universities. Applicants interested in obtaining this list should contact the MSW office.

Do applicants to the Collaborative MSW have to take the GRE to qualify for admissions?

The GRE is not required for admission to the MSW.

How competitive is admission to the Collaborative MSW Program?

There has been considerable interest in the Collaborative MSW Program since it was opened in 2003. Consequently, only about 40-50% of the applicants have been admitted. We have developed a waiting list for each cohort. Three people on each list will be admitted for the following academic year.

Is there financial aid available for the Collaborative MSW Program?

There are two stipend programs available for people who are interested in working in public child welfare after graduation. One program is specifically for Native American Students. Students must apply for these stipends after they have been accepted to the program. Most students obtain guaranteed student loans to cover the cost of graduate school. At this time there are no Graduate Assistantships available for students. Students are encouraged to complete the FAF at the time they apply to graduate school.

Students interested in other opportunities for financial aid should contact the financial aid office at either university.

Does the Collaborative MSW Program offer any Distance Education courses?

Most classes are taught at UW Fox Valley in Menasha WI. Some elective courses are taught at the UWGB campus or on the UW Oshkosh campus. Some faculty use a combination of web-based and classroom-based teaching approaches allowing students to minimize their travel requirements. Students travel to classes from the broad region of NE WI and often are able to arrange car pools. At times the program is able to arrange teleconferencing for some classes.

How many students are in the Collaborative MSW program?

Each year 15 new students are admitted to the full-time foundation cohort, 15 new students are admitted to the full-time advanced standing cohort, 16 students are admitted to the part-time foundation cohort and 8-10 new students are admitted to the part-time advanced standing cohort. Most Foundation classes have 31 students in them, except for practice classes, which are limited to 16 students. Most advanced curriculum classes have 19 students, except field, which is limited to 15 students. Most non-social work elective courses have small class sizes as well.

Can students transfer from a different graduate program into the Collaborative MSW Program?

Students who wish to transfer from other CSWE accredited MSW programs are generally accepted into the Collaborative MSW if they leave their other social work program in good standing. Students who wish to transfer from a different discipline are generally not able to count other graduate work toward their MSW degree.

How likely is an MSW graduate to get hired in the NE WI region?

All Collaborative MSW students engage in field practica that prepare them for practice in the field upon graduation. Many of the students are hired at their field agencies prior to graduation and about 80% of the MSW students are hired within WI in the social work field within 3 months of graduation. Many students remain at agencies they were employed at during their graduate studies; however, they are prepared for promotions upon graduation.

Are graduates from the Collaborative MSW program qualified to be school social workers upon graduation?

At this time the Collaborative MSW does not offer the required courses for the School Social Work credential. Students can obtain their courses at UW Milwaukee or UW Madison.

Are graduates of the Collaborative MSW qualified to be Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) upon graduation?

In most cases students who are interested in this credential will be technically qualified to begin earning the 3000 clinical hours required for the LCSW at the time of graduation. However, the Collaborative MSW is focused on

public sector social work practice and is not specifically focused on therapeutic/clinical social work practice. Students must develop a portfolio to establish their qualifications to apply for this credential. Specific LCSW preparation courses are offered by the Collaborative MSW program post-MSW graduation. These classes will be available beginning Spring 2008.

When can students apply for social work certification?

Students who complete the foundation curriculum can apply for the Basic Social Work Certification through the Department of Regulations and Licensing. Once students complete the MSW and are ready for graduation they can apply for the Advanced Practice Social Work Certification.

For answers to additional questions please e-mail:

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