

**Financial Assistance
for M.S.W. Students at
The University of Alabama
School of Social Work**

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Graduate Council Fellowship – All tuition (in-state or out-of-state) and \$15,000. Candidates typically have above a 3.5 overall GPA, and approximately 1250 on the GRE (a perfect score on the GRE is 1600---800 Verbal; 800 Analytical), excellent Statement of Purpose and letters of reference.

Candidates are nominated by their division (School of Social Work) after their application has been read and the School believes they are eligible for consideration for this fellowship.

There is no work or other commitment required for this fellowship. It is for the first year of graduate study only. These fellowships are competitive across campus.

National Alumni Association License Tag Fellowship

The School of Social Work may nominate admitted graduate students who are Alabama residents for selection as a National Alumni Association Fellowship. The student must have an outstanding overall GPA, essays, and letters of reference, and must show great potential to make an outstanding contribution to the people of Alabama during their career. This fellowship provides tuition and \$14,000.

Graduate Minority Fellowship (when available)

Nominations are made by the School of Social Work based on outstanding GPA and an outstanding test score on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). These fellowships are competitive across campus.

Graduate Assistantships are available in various divisions on campus. Students typically work 10 or more hours/week on campus as part of the assistantship. In most cases, students must approach the divisions individually to inquire about assistantships; however, assistantships through the Office of Student Affairs are advertised on the University of Alabama job line at www.jobs.ua.edu. The School of Social Work does not currently have assistantships for M.S.W. students.

(Note: Students who receive these assistantships must work for 10 hrs./wk. or more for which they get tuition reduction. If the student is a commuting or Distance Ed. student, on-campus work is not usually feasible.)

The CCS Adult Student Scholarship Program

Students in the Tuscaloosa Saturday First-Year M.S.W. Program and the Mobile, Montgomery, and Gadsden M.S.W. programs are eligible to apply for adult student scholarships through the College of Continuing Studies (CCS). Applications are available October 1 of each year for the following academic year. For scholarships requirements, deadlines and more information contact (205) 348-0089 or visit www.academicoutreach.ua.edu.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK SCHOLARSHIPS AND STIPENDS

Scholarships - The money for endowed scholarships is given by donors who often designate certain criteria or preferences. For example: “For an outstanding M.S.W. student from the Birmingham area who is interested in work in a career in mental health.”

Some scholarships are flexible and can be awarded to any outstanding M.S.W. student. “Outstanding” is determined by the admission score that the applicant has received on the application to the program. Faculty members score various components of the application and this is how the admission score is determined.

Some scholarships might be awarded based on need, but most are awarded based on merit as just described.

The dollar amount of the scholarships can range from approximately \$300/semester to almost \$3000/semester. The amount of each scholarship may vary from year to year due to the interest earned by the endowment that year.

Applicants who wish to be considered for a scholarship should fill out Part C of the “School of Social Work Application for Admission, Stipends and Scholarships,” also available at <http://www.socialwork.ua.edu/M.S.W./application.html>. No work is required for scholarships, but the student must remain in good academic standing.

Second-Year Scholarships – Concentration and other specialized scholarships are available for students starting in the 2nd year of the M.S.W. program. Applications for these scholarships are announced in August in the School’s STUDENT NEWS, and 2nd year students who are interested must submit an application typically in early September for the scholarship(s) for which they are eligible. Some of the scholarship applications require applicants to submit an essay regarding their interest in the concentration and the scholarship. The faculty members on the concentration committees, or who teach the courses related to specialty areas, select the students who receive the awards.

No obligation comes with the scholarship other than being in that concentration or in courses related to a specialty area as stated in the announcement for the scholarship, and remaining in good academic standing.

M.S.W. Stipends – The School of Social Work usually has some money set aside for student stipends. The stipends may range from \$100/semester to \$1,000/semester or more. There is no work or other obligation with these stipends.

The stipends are awarded on merit and/or financial need. By “financial need,” we are usually referring to the applicant’s debt from student loans, not car payments, house payments, etc.

The same application is filled out for the School stipends as for the School scholarships, which is in the M.S.W. application packet or on the School’s website (see above).

Field Education/Agency Stipends - Some second-year M.S.W. field placement agencies offer a stipend to students during the spring semester if the student does field placement at that agency.

The amounts vary, but can be as much as \$750/month during the 4 ½ months the student is at the agency in field placement and on the School’s website.

The Field Coordinator works with students on arranging for these. A list of agencies that provide a stipend to second-year students is in the M.S.W. application packet and on the School’s website..

Title IV-E Stipends - These stipends are for students who want to work in the State of Alabama in Child Welfare with the Dept. of Human Resources after graduation.

The stipends are typically \$1000/month for M.S.W. students during the semesters that the student is in the M.S.W. program (Fall-Spring).

The student must select the Social Work Practice with Children, Adolescents and their Families concentration and do a field placement with DHR in the Child Welfare Division.

The student also agrees to employment with DHR in Alabama after graduation. The stipend recipient must work for DHR two months for each month s/he received the stipend.

Applications for these stipends are submitted to the faculty member at the School who oversees the Title IV-E stipends. Currently, this is the Field Coordinator.

For more information regarding scholarships and financial aid, visit the following University websites: <http://www.graduate.ua.edu> and <http://www.financialaid.ua.edu>.

NOTE: Stipends or other forms of financial assistance may also be available from time-to-time in connection with special projects in which the School is involved and/or grants which the School receives. Read the School of Social Work Student News to learn of scholarships that become available from time to time and for assistantships that may become available.

FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

This aid is typically a federal student loan. If you do not believe you have sufficient money for tuition, books, and living expenses, you should apply to the federal government for a student loan. The money received from the School of Social Work's scholarships and stipends is not typically sufficient for all of these expenses.

The University of Alabama's Financial Aid Office can answer your questions about federal student financial aid: <http://financialaid.ua.edu/>. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>.

Please remember, however, that you must be enrolled for more than one course in order to get a student loan (4 hours minimum course load); therefore, our Distance Ed. M.S.W. students should list **both** of their 3-hour summer courses for a total of 6 hours for the summer when applying for a federal student loan.

Perkins Loan

This federal loan is usually restricted to undergraduate students; however, The University of Alabama has approved a limited number of Perkins Loans for M.S.W. students who will work after graduation with high-risk children who are from low-income communities. There is possible partial forgiveness of student loans for this after-graduation work. The student must first establish eligibility for need-based federal financial aid (fill out the FAFSA form). Please contact Dr. Raymond, Associate Dean, at graymond@sw.ua.edu, regarding applying for a Perkins Loan.