

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS MSW PROGRAM

1. What are the admission requirements for the MSW program?

The requirements for the MSW program can be found at:
<http://www.sw.ua.edu/msw/appforms/Admission-Requirements-MSW-Program.pdf>

2. Am I required to have an undergraduate degree in Social Work for admission to the MSW program?

No. However, it is expected that students entering the First-year Saturday or Two-year weekday MSW program will have an undergraduate background in the liberal arts. View details here: <http://sw.ua.edu/msw/appforms/Liberal-Arts-Requirements-MSW-Program.pdf>

In order to be considered for the Advanced-Standing one-year program you must have a BSW degree from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited BSW Program and meet additional admissions requirements. For details regarding eligibility, please visit <http://www.sw.ua.edu/msw/appforms/Admission-Requirements-MSW-Program.pdf>

3. How can I obtain an application packet?

Application materials can be viewed and/or printed from this website at: http://www.sw.ua.edu/msw/application_2.html. You can also request an application packet be mailed to you by contacting Casey Redmill, Admissions Coordinator, credmill@sw.ua.edu or (205) 348-8413, or Mary Sella, Assistant for Student Services, msella@sw.ua.edu or (205) 348-8557.

4. When can I begin the application process?

You may begin the application process after you have completed 91 semester hours towards your undergraduate degree.

5. When is the application deadline?

Applications are accepted on a continuous basis; however, the priority deadline for application for admission, scholarships and stipends is February 1 of the year for which admission is desired and September 1 for those beginning the Advanced-Standing program that starts in January.

6. Do I need to submit all application materials at one time?

All application materials do not have to be sent together. In fact, letters of recommendation should be mailed directly to the School of Social Work by the person giving the reference. Also, official transcripts must be mailed directly to the Graduate School from the requested institution.

7. From whom should letters of reference be sent?

Three letters of recommendation are required by the School of Social Work. The references should be able to objectively speak to your ability for graduate study and potential for social work. Letters from former professors are preferred, and at least one must be from a professor in your undergraduate major. If you have been employed in social services for one or more years, letters will be accepted from an employment supervisor. Letters from family members and friends are not appropriate.

8. Do I have to take an entrance exam for admission to the MSW program?

Students who do not have an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 overall or a 3.0 in the last 60 semester hours (90 quarter hours) of coursework in a degree program will be required to take the Miller's Analogy Test (MAT) or the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). A score in the 40th percentile or higher on the MAT or 900 on the GRE (combined verbal and quantitative) is required. The Analytical Writing section of the GRE will be evaluated in light of the faculty's assessment of the Statement of Purpose and the Professional Awareness Statement. Applicants who are required to take either the GRE or MAT must have the score sent directly from the respective testing service to the UA Graduate School. Entrance examination scores are valid for five years.

9. Whom should I contact in order to be sure that all of my application materials have been received?

The School of Social Work's Registrar, Barbara Nicol, receives all application materials. She can be contacted at: bnicol@sw.ua.edu or (205) 348-3928.

10. When will admission decisions be made?

Once all application materials are received by the School of Social Work (including transcripts and letters of recommendation), applicants usually receive a letter of notification within three to four weeks.

11. Are there additional requirements for International applicants?

International students must meet the Graduate School's requirements for admission, including the equivalent of a four-year bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. A student whose first language is not English must submit an official score report for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or must have earned a degree from an accredited U.S. college or university within the past 3 years. The minimum TOEFL score for admission to the Graduate School is 550 on the paper-based TOEFL (pBT), 213 on the computer-based TOEFL (cBT), or 79 on the internet-based TOEFL (iBT). The minimum IELTS score for admission is 6.5. TOEFL and IELTS scores must be less than two years old at the time of intended initial enrollment at The University of Alabama.

12. What is your policy regarding transferring graduate credit from another University ?

Courses of full graduate-level credit earned in **a regionally accredited institution** where a student was enrolled in the graduate school may be submitted for review for inclusion in a degree program. Evaluation of credit for transfer will not be made until after the student has enrolled in the Graduate School of The University of Alabama. Acceptance of credit requires the approval of the student's advisory committee and the dean of the Graduate School. Credit will not be accepted for transfer from any institution at which the student failed to achieve a "B" average on all graduate work attempted.

A student initiates in the Office of the Graduate School the request for evaluation of graduate credit obtained at another institution. It is also the student's responsibility to assure that an official transcript of the credit concerned is received by the Graduate School well in advance of the final semester and typically before or at the time of advancement to candidacy.

With the approval of the student's department and the dean of the Graduate School, the **greater of 12 hours or 25 percent** of the required coursework for a graduate degree may be transferred from another institution. All credit toward the master's degree, including transfer credit, must have been earned during the six years (18 fall, spring, and summer semesters) immediately preceding the date on which the degree is to be awarded. (Graduate Catalog)

13. Do you have an Advanced-Standing MSW Program?

Yes, we offer the Advanced-Standing program each year in Tuscaloosa. Students may apply to begin the program in the spring or summer semester. We also offer the Advanced-Standing program in alternating years at the distance sites. Currently, we have distance sites in Mobile, Montgomery and Gadsden, AL. Applicants must have a BSW from a CSWE accredited program and meet additional admissions requirements to be eligible for Advanced Standing. For details regarding eligibility, please visit <http://www.sw.ua.edu/msw/appforms/Admission-Requirements-MSW-Program.pdf>

14. When does the MSW Program begin?

All programs begin in May or June except the Weekday program in Tuscaloosa, which begins in August, and the additional Advanced-Standing program in Tuscaloosa which begins in January.

15. What is the cost of the program?

Tuition rates for resident and non-resident graduate students can be found at www.cost.ua.edu. (Applicants to the first-year Saturday program and the distance education programs should refer to the Distance Education brochure for a breakdown of the tuition for the first year of the program.)

16. Do you have an online program?

No, however, we do have distance education sites within Alabama where MSW classes are offered.

17. Where are your distance sites located?

The MSW is offered at distance sites in Mobile, Montgomery, and Gadsden, AL.

18. What concentrations do you offer?

The concentration in Services to Children, Adolescence and their Families is offered in Tuscaloosa and at the distance sites. The concentration in Services to Adults and their Families is offered in Tuscaloosa only.

19. What is the Washington, DC program?

The M.S.W. program provides the opportunity for students to complete the second-year field education requirement and other specific program requirements in Washington, D.C. These placements offer special opportunities to obtain field experience not ordinarily available in Alabama. (Graduate Catalog)

20. How do I apply for the MSW/MPH dual degree program?

Prospective students should apply to the MSW program first. Instructions on applying to the MPH program are included in the application packet and are also available at <http://www.sw.ua.edu/msw/appforms/MPH-MSW-Dual-Degree-Program.pdf>

It is important to note that applicants to the MPH program are required to take the GRE.

21. What type of financial assistance is available?

There are several types of financial assistance available to MSW students including MSW stipends, Field Education/Agency Stipends, Title IV-E stipends, scholarships, fellowships, assistantships, and federal financial aid. For details about the various types of financial aid, visit <http://www.sw.ua.edu/msw/appforms/Financial-Assistance-MSW-Students.pdf>

22. Do you host information sessions?

Yes. Each year we host information sessions in Tuscaloosa. Information sessions are offered at the distance sites (Mobile, Montgomery and Gadsden, AL) in alternating years. An information session will be held in Gadsden, AL on Tuesday, November 18, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. To register for an information session in Tuscaloosa or Gadsden, call (205) 348-6791 or e-mail gmontgomery@sw.ua.edu.

23. Whom do I contact if I have additional questions?

Our Student Services staff is available to answer any questions that you might have about the MSW program and the application process. Mary Sella can be contacted at (205) 348-8557 or msella@sw.ua.edu and Casey Redmill can be contacted at (205) 348-8413 or credmill@sw.ua.edu. If you have questions about the status of your application or need to verify that we have received all of your application materials, please contact Barbara Nicol at (205) 348-3928 or bnicol@sw.ua.edu.