**Application Timeline and Deadline**

* **October 1st**: Review of applications will begin and admissions will be decided on a rolling basis.
* **March 1st at 11:59pm:** Deadline for applications for fall term admission. Applications submitted after the due date will not be considered for the upcoming academic year.
* Applications submitted before March 1st will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Some exceptional candidates may receive early admission decisions, while other strong applications will continue to be evaluated as part of our comprehensive review process through March 1st. All applicants will receive a final decision by mid to late March.
* It takes 24-48 hours for the University Graduate School to process uploaded application materials. Applications with missing or incorrectly uploaded materials by the deadline date and time will not be forwarded to the School of Social Work for consideration.

**Application Materials Required by the School of Social Work:**

* **An MSW Degree:** You must have an MSW from a CSWE accredited program to be considered. Master degrees from other disciplines will not be considered for admission.
* **3 Years of Post-MSW Experience:**
	+ Please note that there are no exceptions to this requirement.
	+ To be considered as three years of post-MSW experience, applicants must have received their MSW degree in August, three full years prior to their first semester in the DSW program.
* **Current Social Work Placement:** You must have a paid or voluntary social work placement where you can apply assignments and your capstone project for the DSW.
* **Letters of Recommendation**
	+ Three letters of recommendation are required for all applicants.
	+ At least two of these letters should come from professional sources (preferably from social workers, but not necessarily).
	+ One may be an academic source (e.g. former professor or department head).
	+ Applicants may choose to have all three references come from professional sources if an academic reference is not available.
	+ All references are due/uploaded by the deadline (March 1st at 11:59pm) for your application to be complete and considered.
* **Transcripts**
	+ For the application, only unofficial transcripts are required. It is not advised to request official transcripts from their institution at the time of applying to avoid delays in their transcripts being received, which may result in an incomplete application that will not be considered.
	+ Upload an unofficial transcript for any institution of higher education at which you have completed 15 or more credit hours.
	+ If you attended a community college where you completed 15 or more credit hours and later transferred to a different institution to complete your undergraduate degree, the graduate school requires that you also include unofficial transcripts from the community college.
	+ All unofficial transcripts must be uploaded by the deadline (March 1st at 11:59pm) for your application to be complete and considered.
* **Grade Point Average:** A grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (overall) in your MSW program.
* **Resume/CV:** A resume is required for the DSW application. Applicants who are currently working in academic settings may submit an academic CV in place of a traditional business resume.
* **Statement of Purpose:** Follow the Instructions for the DSW Statement of Purpose (see below).
* **Potential Interview:** Applicants may be asked to have a phone interview with a member of the DSW program committee.
* [**Application Materials Required by the University Graduate School (UGS**](https://graduate.ua.edu/applicants/requirements/)**):**
	+ Application Fee
	+ Graduate School Application plus fee ($65 U.S Residents & $80 International Students).
	+ Some applicants may be eligible for a waiver of the application fee. Information about waivers can be found here.
* What is NOT Required: A GRE Score; A writing sample separate from the Statement of Purpose.
* Note that as a primarily online educational program, the DSW Program is unable to accept international applicants.

**Tips for Success**

* Read and follow all of the instructions! Some applicants are not considered because they didn’t follow instructions.
* Write a Statement of Purpose that is engaging, stands out, and meets the requirements!
* Do not wait until the day of the deadline to submit. If technical or other delays cause your materials to have a timestamp that is later than the March 1st, 11:59pm deadline, your application will not be considered.
* Contact your references early. References receive a link for their recommendation letter. Check to make sure they received it.
* It is your responsibility to make sure that your application is complete. Monitor the completion status of your application. The School of Social Work does not contact applicants to remind them to upload documents or that the application is completed incorrectly.
* Make sure that all of your materials are uploaded and labeled properly.
* If something does not seem correct about your application, make sure you contact the Graduate School or the School of Social Work.

**University of Alabama School of Social Work**

**DSW Program | The Statement of Purpose Instructions**

The Statement of Purpose should provide a detailed and edited essay that addresses the following points:

* A summary of your social work experience and area of social work interest or specialization.
* A summary of why you are interested in pursuing the DSW degree, including a description of how you believe that the degree will make an impact on your career, as well as the impact that the degree may make on your area of practice. You should also indicate whether they are interested in the *advanced clinical track* or the *organizational leadership* track and why that track is best fitting for their career needs.
* Describe a specific challenge or issue in clinical, organizational, and/or community-based social work practice that you would like to address as part of the DSW program curriculum. This issue should reflect critical thought about social work practice and reflect an interest on practice change. This should be an issue related to social work ethics, social justice, and/or quality of service delivery.

The statement should be no more than five pages long, double spaced, 12pt font.

As you write your Statement of Purpose, be mindful of some of the characteristics that the review committee will focus on as they review your essay:

* Your ability to identify and articulate a social justice, ethical, or social service problem that can be addressed through the DSW coursework and capstone project. The description of this issue should be clear and compelling.
* The extent to which the description of your work experience reflects a high level of competency at the MSW social work level, as well as an in-depth understanding and appreciation of social work values and ethics.
* The appropriateness of your current social work practice setting (paid employment or volunteer setting) for applying DSW coursework and other required assignments.
* You must cite literature supporting your statement, using APA format.
* The overall quality of writing and/or other indicators not mentioned above.