

Social Work - Advanced Standing - Direct Practice, MSW

PPAPDTMSW

Social workers play a crucial role in improving lives and strengthening communities, one moment and one person at a time. Wherever life takes you, this master's degree prepares you, a recent BSW graduate, to thrive in numerous professional settings, including mental health organizations, schools, nonprofits and government agencies.

Program description

Degree awarded: MSW Social Work (Advanced Direct Practice)

The advanced direct practice specialization offers students four areas of practice including children, youth and families; health; behavioral health and child welfare.

Across all areas, the curriculum is guided by social work values that emphasize evidence-based practice, client strengths, social justice and client empowerment. The primary curriculum goal of the MSW program is to educate advanced social work practitioners who demonstrate the knowledge, skills, values and ethics of the profession and who are competent for specialized practice.

Students learn how to diagnose and assess mental health conditions, create treatment plans, and provide appropriate interventions in a variety of clinical and community settings.

This program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

At a glance

- **College/School:** [Watts College of Public Service & Community Solut](#)
- **Location:** [Downtown Phoenix](#), [ASU at Tucson](#)

Degree requirements

39 credit hours including the required capstone course (SWG 621), or
51 credit hours including the required capstone course (SWG 621), or
60 credit hours including the required capstone course (SWG 621), or
60 credit hours including the required capstone course (SWG 621) (MSW/MPA concurrent degree)

Required Core (3 credit hours)

SWG 510 Foundation Practice I (3) or
SWG 514 Bridge Seminar I (3)

Advanced Direct Practice Concentration (12 credit hours)

SWG 606 Assessment of Mental Disorders (3)
SWG 619 Practice-Oriented Research (3)
SWG 641 Advanced Practicum: Direct Practice I (3)
SWG 642 Advanced Practicum: Direct Practice II (3)

Specialization (6 credit hours)

Restricted Electives (15--36 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)

SWG 621 Integrative Seminar (3)

Additional Curriculum Information

Students on the 39 credit hour path have an undergraduate Council on Social Work Education-accredited BSW in social work with a GPA of 3.20 in their junior and senior year within the last 6 years.

Students on the 51 credit hour path have an undergraduate CSWE-accredited BSW in social work degree.

The students on the 60 credit hour path have an undergraduate degree that is not directly in social work or community advocacy. Students in this path may need to take foundation coursework as part of their elective coursework to satisfy CSWE requirements. Students should see the academic advisor when selecting courses.

All credit hour path criteria must be approved by the academic unit prior to selection in the iPOS. The academic unit advises and monitors students to ensure they choose the appropriate coursework. Core course selection depends on the student's background.

Students select from specializations in:

- children, youth and families
- health, behavioral health
- public child welfare

The amount of restricted elective coursework depends on the credit hour path selected based on the student's background. Students should see the academic unit for a complete list of approved specialization and elective coursework.

Admission requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions.

Applicants must have a BSW from a Council on Social Work Education-accredited program with a minimum GPA of 3.20 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last two years of work leading to the Bachelor of Social Work (junior and senior GPA). Applicants must have received their Bachelor of Social Work degree no more than six years prior to the date of admission to the MSW program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work
3. three letters of reference
4. professional resume that includes volunteer and paid work experience
5. statement of educational and career goals
6. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide [proof of English proficiency](#) regardless of their current residency.

A combination of academic and professional references is desirable. References from friends, family members or personal therapists are not accepted. At least one of the three required references must be from the applicant's Bachelor of Social Work field instructor or, if employed in a social work-related job for two or more years, from the applicant's supervisor.

Guidelines for writing the statement can be found at the [program website](#).

For questions about the application process, students should contact the School of Social Work.

Tuition information

When it comes to paying for higher education, everyone's situation is different. Students can learn about [ASU tuition and financial aid](#) options to find out which will work best for them.

Application deadlines

Summer

[expand](#)

Program learning outcomes

Program learning outcomes identify what a student will learn or be able to do upon completion of their program. This program has the following program outcomes:

- Apply professional values and ethics during the advanced direct practice internship
- Plan, implement and evaluate evidence-based interventions
- Apply knowledge of human behavior in the social environment when working with individuals, families and groups

Career opportunities

Graduates have the preparation they need to work with individuals, families and small groups. They work in areas such as adult and juvenile corrections, behavioral health, homeless services and gerontology services.

Career examples include:

- counselor
- group therapy clinician
- hospital or school social worker
- individual counselor
- mental health service professional
- outreach coordinator or shelter director
- wellness programmer

Professional licensure

ASU programs that may lead to professional licensure or certification are intended to prepare students for potential licensure or certification in Arizona. Completion of an ASU program may not meet educational requirements for licensure or certification in another state. For more information, students should visit the [ASU professional licensure](#) webpage.

Contact information

[School of Social Work](#) | UCENT 800
mswadvising@asu.edu | 602-496-0800