**Introduction**

The Master of Social Work Program is an accredited degree program administered by The University of Akron and accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

**The Stark County MSW Cohort**

The Stark County cohort of the full-time MSW Program is in its second year. Students accepted into this cohort must agree to attend all of their courses at the Stark County site. While the majority of the Stark County cohort classes will be taught in a traditional classroom format, with all students and the instructor situated in the same classroom, some courses may be available via distance learning technology with other UA sites or on-line.

The deadline for filing a completed application for the cohort is **June 15, 2021**.

Please refer to the Application Checklist. The application materials are available on the following websites:

* 1. **Graduate School:** [**http://www.uakron.edu/gradsch/apply-online/mastersdegr.dot**](http://www.uakron.edu/gradsch/apply-online/mastersdegr.dot)
  2. **School of Social Work:** [**http://www.uakron.edu/socialwork/msw/stark/index.dot**](http://www.uakron.edu/socialwork/msw/stark/index.dot)

The following information is required for applicants to the MSW Program-Stark County site:

**Send #1 -2 to the Graduate School**

1. The University of Akron Graduate School Application
2. Transcripts from all Universities Attended\*
   1. **\*Apply on-line @** [**http://www.uakron.edu/gradsch/apply-online/mastersdegr.dot**](http://www.uakron.edu/gradsch/apply-online/mastersdegr.dot)
   2. **\*Official transcripts** must be submitted to the Graduate School from each college or university attended (*except The University of Akron*).  Official transcripts must be sent to: **The University of Akron Graduate School, Leigh Hall, Room 515, Akron, Ohio, 44325-2101**.
   3. *\**Upon receipt of the Graduate School application, application fee, and all transcripts the Graduate School will forward these credentials to the appropriate academic department for review. If the department is missing additional information you will be contacted by that department.
   4. ***Note:* The Graduate School application will ask you to upload other documents. Instead send #3 through #5 to the School of Social Work.**

**Electronically send #3 through #5 to Robert Terry: (rpterry@uakron.edu)**

**3.** A 3-5 page typed essay

**4.** Recent resume

**5.** Three Recommendation forms from the School of Social Work

[**rpterry@uakron.edu**](mailto:rpterry@uakron.edu)

**The University of Akron**

**School of Social Work**

**Attn: Robert Terry**

**Polsky Room 411**

**Akron, Ohio 44325**

Descriptions of the program options are explained in this document. Students are expected to adhere to the program format under which they were admitted, and any requests for changes will be based on the program’s ability to accommodate the request. Changes must be requested in writing at the beginning of the academic year. The Admissions Committee may require an in-person interview at their discretion.

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| Applicants should be aware that having a prior felony conviction or prior sanctions for unprofessional conduct may impact future potential for obtaining licensure, as well as field placements and social work employment. For more information, please contact the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage & Family Therapist Board at <http://cswmft.ohio.gov/Home.aspx> or (614) 466-0912. |

**Program Options**

The program is currently offered *only* in a **full-time evening format in Stark County, Ohio.**

Classes may meet on different days (*including Saturdays*) based on concentration and the electives chosen.

The scheduling of courses depends upon the availability of rooms equipped with distance education technology as well as other factors. The days and times courses are offered may vary from year to year. Students must be prepared to be flexible when the schedule of classes changes.

**Full-Time Evening: TWO YEAR PROGRAM**

Classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:15 PM – 9:45 PM throughout the course of the program. These identified days may be subject to change depending upon schedule availability of the classrooms, but adequate notice will be provided should this be the case. Some Saturday classes may be required depending on the electives chosen.

**Full-Time Field Education Experience**

Field Education occurs concurrent with classroom teaching and consists of a total of 900 hours of MSW supervised experience in a social service setting over the four semesters of the program.

* The Foundation Field experience consists of 200 hours (16 hours per week) for each of the first two consecutive semesters.
* The Concentration Field experience, generally requires another field setting, consists of 250 hours (17 hours per week) in each of final two consecutive semesters.
* **Students are expected to complete the Field Education requirement at their place of employment**, pending submission and approval of a **Field at Place of Employment proposal *(FAPE)*,** the outline for which can be downloaded from the field education section of the School of Social Work website. Students must sign a FERPA waiver in order to begin the field education experience. Students who do not sign the waiver will not be placed.

**CONCENTRATION:**

**Micro Concentration -** Refers to advanced social work practice with small client systems (*individuals, families, and groups*) and collateral persons, professionals, and organizations relevant to practice with these small systems. Micro field assignments may include in-depth assessment of client systems and resources, crisis intervention, application of intervention theories and skills, formulation of short and long-range goals, utilization of empowerment strategies to meet these goals, identification of and connection to community resources, and evaluation of intervention outcomes.

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

The MSW Program is committed to diversity in the student body. An applicant for admission as a degree candidate in social work must fulfill the general admission requirements of both the Graduate School of The University of Akron and the MSW Program prior to admission. The applicant must therefore complete application forms for both the Graduate School and the MSW Program. It is the applicant’s responsibility to make sure that all required application materials have been received by the deadline.

**Applicants to the MSW Program must also:**

* **Have an undergraduate** major in social work OR a related field;
* **Have a minimum grade** point average of 3.00 in social and behavioral science courses taken prior to application for admission and a well-balanced liberal arts curriculum which must include content from areas such as Communication, Math and Humanities, Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Philosophy, Art, English, and Anthropology.
* **Submit three School of Social Work Recommendation forms**, (see attached materials) excluding family members and friends, *(including one from immediate supervisor if employed*).   
  Preferred recommendations are those that come from academic instructors or professionals who have supervised you in a social work-related position (paid, volunteer or internship). Personal recommendations are not acceptable**. Please do not submit Recommendation forms provided by The University of Akron Graduate School. These forms will not be accepted by the School of Social Work.**
* **Submit an essay** of 3 to 5 typed pages, double-spaced, 1” margins, explaining:

**1)** Why do you want to be a social worker?

**2)** Why do you feel a graduate degree in social work is necessary to fulfill  
 your professional or personal objectives?

**3)** Describe your view of diversity in society.

**4)** Describe a situation in which you were the recipient/provider of help  
 emotionally, socially or economically, and if/how this situation impacted  
 the desire to pursue an advanced degree in social work.

* **Submit a** **recent resume** which highlights social work or human service experience.

**Testing Out Policy**

In order to avoid duplication and redundancy of course content during the foundation year, the MSW Program allows students the opportunity to test out of the following courses:

* **7750:631 Human Behavior and the Social Environment: Small Systems**
* **7750:646 Social Welfare Policy I**
* **7750:622 Fundamentals of Research I**

Students wishing to test out of one or more of the above courses must notify the MSW Program Director prior to the start of the semester in which the course is normally taught. The proficiency exam must be taken prior to classes starting in that semester. There are no fees or penalties associated with taking these exams. However, each exam may be taken only once.

**Transfer of Credit**

An applicant who wishes to transfer from another MSW program must complete the same admissions process and meet the same admission requirements as other degree candidates. A formal written request for transfer must be made at the time of application for admission. A maximum of 20 semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred from other programs accredited by the Council of Social Work Education. The credits must fall within the six-year time limit to complete degree requirements. Acceptance of graduate transfer credit is determined by the Program’s Admissions Committee, which assesses potential transfer courses and the adequacy of the applicant’s performance in these courses. A grade of less than “B” in any course will disqualify that course from consideration for transfer. Transfer students must submit field work evaluations at the time of application for admission. According to CSWE guidelines, credit will not begiven for work or life experience.

**PROGRAM COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS**

* The completion of 60 hours of course work for Full-time Evening students.
* An average grade of “B” or better on all classroom courses and satisfactory grades in all field courses.
* Students will be registered only for 600 level courses.
* Graduate courses taken at the 500 level are not applicable for the graduate degree program in social work.
* Other general requirements for the Master of Social Work degree are the same as those established by the Graduate School of The University of Akron and are in accordance with accreditation standards established by the Council on Social Work Education.
* There is no foreign language requirement.
* The GRE is **not** required.

**MSW Program   
Full-Time Program Curriculum**

**Full-Time Program**

**First Year Professional (Foundation)  
Fall Semester**   
7750:631 HBSE: Small Systems 3 cr.   
7750:646 Social Welfare Policy I 3 cr.   
7750:622 Fundamentals of Research I 3 cr.   
7750:605 Social Work Practice w/Small Systems 3 cr.   
7750:601 Foundation Field Practicum 3 cr.

**Spring Semester**   
7750:632 HBSE: Large Systems 3 cr.   
7750:647 Social Welfare Policy II 3 cr.   
7750:623 Fundamentals of Research II 3 cr.   
7750:606 Social Work Practice w/Large Systems 3 cr.   
7750:602 Foundation Field Practicum 3 cr.

**Second Year Concentration (Micro Practice)   
Fall Semester**7750:611 Dynamics of Racism & Discrimination 3 cr.   
7750:663 Psychopathology & Social Work 3 cr.   
7750:607 Advanced Practice w/Small Systems I 3 cr.   
7750:603 Advanced Field Practicum 3 cr.   
One Elective 3 cr.

**Spring Semester**   
7750:675 Program Evaluation 3 cr.   
7750:608 Advanced Practice w/Small Systems II 3 cr.   
7750:604 Advanced Field Practicum 3 cr.   
Two Electives 6 cr.