



GCSW



Graduate College of Social Work
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON



Who We Are

The University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work (GCSW)

prepares diverse leaders in practice and research to address complex challenges and achieve sustainable social, racial, economic and political justice, locally and globally, through exceptional education, innovative research and meaningful community engagement.

GCSW mirrors the diversity of Houston, the nation's fourth most populous city, home to more than two million residents, deep rooted ethnic communities and the world-renowned Texas Medical Center.

Our MSW and PhD students hail from near and far, embodying an impressive array of origins, ages, experiences, outlooks, and aspirations. Ours is a community grounded in the principles of social justice, that thinks critically, embraces challenges, and acquires knowledge through experience. Learn more about how you can become a part of our vibrant community, committed to social justice, and sustainable change.

MSW PROGRAM

Established by the Texas Legislature in 1967 and fully accredited since 1970, the University of Houston GCSW provides master's level education for the practice of professional social work with the goal of enhancing social functioning of all persons as individuals, family members, community participants, and members of society.

Students in the MSW program choose from 2 Areas of Specialized Practice: Clinical and Macro

Clinical Practice

Focuses on the application of theories, methods, skills and ethics for the enhancement of cognitive, mental, emotional and social well-being of individuals, couples, families, and groups. Clinical Practice requires leadership in promoting social, racial, economic, and political justice. Its methods are relationship centered, contextualized, culturally responsive and strengths focused. Clinical Practice calls upon knowledge surrounding biopsychosocial functioning and evidence-supported interventions. It can include assessment and intervention, diagnosis and treatment, education and prevention, advocacy, case management, counseling, as well as supervision and consultation.

Macro Practice

Prepares students for work in settings where the needs of diverse, vulnerable groups, organizations and communities require highly skilled, professional leaders. Practice in both public and private organizations is designed to promote progressive social change that contributes to the growth and empowerment of individuals, agencies, and communities. Core concepts and practice skills are developed for work at the organizational, community, societal and global levels. Students are prepared to assume leadership positions as advocates, managers, program planners, researchers, policy analysts and agency and community-capacity builders at the organizational, community, societal and global levels.

We offer 3 enrollment models, including full-time and part-time options.

Face to Face Full-Time

The GCSW offers a **face-to-face program** at the main UH campus that can be completed in two years for full program students or one year for advanced standing students. Students take classes primarily during the day and typically complete practicum during daytime hours. Full-time students enroll in 12 to 16 hours (4 – 5 classes) each semester. Full program students are assigned to a cohort for the foundation curriculum which helps them build a strong support network.

Hybrid Part-Time

GCSW's **Hybrid Program** is designed to provide those who are currently employed in social work and related fields the opportunity to pursue an MSW. Students in the Hybrid Program meet for classes no more than two Saturdays per month at the UH Sugar Land Campus and complete the remaining coursework online. The Practicum Education Office strives to support hybrid students in navigating the challenges of busy schedules. There may be options for practicum at a place where a student is already employed in a social service capacity or with an agency that offers some flexibility in schedule. For the advanced placement, students will attend our practicum agency marketplace in the spring and interview with agencies. There is no guarantee of a placement with only evening/weekend hours. The program is completed in three years for full program students and two years for advanced standing students. Students attend classes as a cohort together.

Online Part-Time

The **Online MSW program** is a great option for independent, self-motivated learners requiring a flexible schedule. Students are assigned to a cohort with which they take the majority of their classes. For practicum outside the Greater Houston area (Brazoria, Fort Bend, Montgomery, Galveston, and Harris County) students work closely with the Practicum Education Office to identify qualified agencies in their area. For online students engaging in practicum within the Greater Houston area, the practicum office works to connect students with already affiliated agencies. Similar to the hybrid program, the online program is completed in three years for full program students and two years for advanced standing students.

Advanced Standing

Applicants holding a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited undergraduate program may request review for Advanced Standing, an accelerated MSW program. Advanced Standing is available in any of the enrollment models.

MSW Opportunities

FOCUSED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES (FLOS)

Focused Learning Opportunities (FLOs) are optional ways students may develop an in-depth and holistic focus in a specific area of social work practice. FLOs are organized around areas of expertise of current GCSW faculty, enabling students to pair learning in a variety of environments (classroom, field, community engagement, trainings, etc.) with meaningful mentorship from GCSW faculty members. Current FLOs include:

- **TRAUMA EDUCATION PROGRAM**
- **GLOBAL LEADERS OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EDUCATION**
- **POLITICAL SOCIAL WORK**
- **ABOLITIONIST SOCIAL WORK**
- **MENTAL HEALTH ADVANCED PRACTICE IN SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM**
- **NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE**



DUAL DEGREE OPTIONS

Dual degree programs allow students to earn two degrees in less time than it would take to complete them sequentially. Students interested in a dual degree must be admitted separately to each of the programs. In addition, it is recommended that students plan to complete the dual degree options as full-time students, as university policy requires students to complete an MSW within five years. Options for dual degree programs include:

- **MSW/PHD (IN SOCIAL WORK)**
- **MSW/MBA (MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION)**
- **MSW/MPH (MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH)**
- **MSW/JD (DOCTOR OF JURISPRUDENCE)**
- **MSW/MPP (MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY)**



PRACTICUM

Social Work Practicum is a required component of the College's educational training for social work practice.

The Practicum is designed to integrate the theoretical and conceptual contributions of the classroom through an experiential learning experience under the supervision of a community social worker. Full program students will complete a minimum of 900 hours of practicum in two different settings and advanced standing students complete 500 hours in one concentration practice setting.

PHD PROGRAM

Established in 1993, the GCSW PhD Program continues to empower those who define social work's future. Equipped to become influential scholars, faculty members, researchers, and leaders, our PhD graduates advance the field's knowledge base through rigorous research and public impact scholarship, and champion the values of social, racial, economic, and political justice with a focus on and commitment to anti-racism.

GCSW places a high priority on doctoral student support, making every effort to assist students during their educational endeavors. Numerous scholarships, assistantships, fellowships, and financial aid opportunities are available. PhD Program coursework can be completed in two academic years plus one summer, with 9 or 10 credit hours per semester, followed by an original PhD dissertation of publication quality.

In addition, our dual MSW/ Ph.D. program welcomes a limited number of applicants without a master's degree in social work to pursue a program of study that leads to both MSW and PhD degrees. Upon acceptance to both the MSW and PhD Programs, the coursework for this dual degree program can be completed in approximately three-and-a-half years, followed by an original PhD dissertation of publication quality.



Our PhD Program embraces and nurtures passionate, self-aware, and confident students who possess a desire to conduct research and to assume leadership roles in social work education and research. Located in an incredibly diverse city, an International gateway, and home to one of the world's leading medical centers, the GCSW offers abundant opportunities for research, engagement, and outreach. As an autonomous college, the GCSW also allows for authentic, one-on-one connections between our students and esteemed faculty members, who are personally invested in our PhD students' success. Applying what they've learned – the art of teaching and the science of advanced research – our graduates have done amazing things that include achieving tenure, full professorship, establishing new programs and schools of social work, and becoming respected researchers at prestigious research institutions. For all these reasons and more, the GCSW has become a national program of destination for those pursuing a doctorate in social work.



MSW Admissions

To be considered for unconditional admission to the MSW program, applicants must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a GPA of 3.0 or better (4.0 scale) for all undergraduate and graduate course work, or a 3.0 in the last 60 hours of coursework. The undergraduate education must reflect a sound liberal arts foundation, including courses in the humanities, as well as in the social, behavioral, and biological sciences.

Advanced Standing for BSW Graduates

Applicants holding a Bachelor of Social Work degree from a Council on Social Work Education accredited undergraduate program may request review for Advanced Standing admission. Advanced Standing applicants must meet unconditional admissions requirements, plus have achieved a GPA of 3.0 or better (4.0 scale) for the social work major.

Conditional Admission

An applicant whose cumulative AND last 60 hours GPA is below a 3.0 may be considered for conditional admission. Students admitted conditionally must earn a minimum GPA of 3.0 on their first semester of graduate work.

Social Work Transfer Students

Those transferring from a CSWE accredited MSW program must meet all regular admissions requirements **AND** submit:

- Statement of Good Standing from the dean or director of current program
- Syllabi for courses completed

A maximum of 30 hours credit, under certain conditions, can be transferred for credit toward the GCSW degree.

PhD Admissions

To be considered for admission to the PhD program, applicants must hold a master's degree in social work (MSW) from a CSWE accredited program OR hold a master's degree in a related social science discipline from an accredited program.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND DEADLINES



NOTE: Graduate Record Exam (GRE) Scores are **NOT** required for MSW or PhD program applicants.

International applicants have additional requirements.

To learn more, visit uh.edu/graduate-school/admissions. Other materials may be requested after you apply. Visit uh.edu/socialwork for a detailed list of requirements.

MSW Program Application Checklist

- APPLICATION FEE
- OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS
- LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
- PERSONAL STATEMENT
- RESUME
- TOEFL, IELTS, OR DUOLINGO SCORES (FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS ONLY)

PHD Program Application Checklist

- APPLICATION FEE
- OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS
- LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
- RESEARCH STATEMENT
- WRITING SAMPLES
- VITA|RESUME
- TOEFL, IELTS OR DUOLINGO SCORES (FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS ONLY)

Want to learn more?

Throughout the year, GCSW welcomes prospective MSW and PhD students to on-campus and online information sessions.

Visit uh.edu/socialwork or e-mail gcswinfo@uh.edu if you have questions.

Connect with us!

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