

Your Destination for Innovation, Access, and Diversity

University of Houston
Graduate College of Social Work



Your Destination

Social Work is a fitting career choice for those who want to promote the well-being of all people and strive to achieve social and economic justice. Few professions can match the wealth of options social work offers. Social workers help people in all stages of life, from children to the elderly, in diverse settings, including hospitals, schools, businesses, public agencies, police departments, legislatures, private practice and many other settings. They are counselors, therapists, advocates and educators, as well as community organizers, program planners, policy analysts and researchers. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, employment of social workers is expected to increase by 22 % during the 2006-16 decade, much faster than the average for all other occupations.

The University of Houston's Graduate College of Social Work (GCSW) provides exceptional education for advanced social work practice, research and leadership through teaching, advancing knowledge and community engagement to achieve social, economic and political justice.

We are your destination for innovation, access and diversity!

Innovation

From modest beginnings in 1968, the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work has evolved to its current standing as a nationally recognized graduate social work program. We are leaders in our field, known for innovative approaches in the areas of research, curriculum and funding initiatives for students.

Access

Our students have access to all the resources of a large, urban campus, while enjoying the conveniences and community of a smaller college. Students also have access to all the resources a larger, diverse city provides. The college is affiliated with the majority of the social service agencies in the greater Houston area, providing rich, diverse internship options. That's over 400 agencies, including many in the Texas Medical Center.

Diversity

The University of Houston is the most ethnically diverse research university in the nation. We reflect the diversity and optimistic spirit that characterizes the City of Houston. Plus, UH is one of only three public Carnegie-designated Tier One research universities in Texas. What a great place to get a valuable social work education!

Our Distinguished Faculty

Our professors are great teachers, community advocates and international leaders. In fact, we are the only social work program in the world to have a Nobel laureate on faculty. UH Graduate College of Social Work professor Jody Williams and the organization of which she was founding coordinator — the International Campaign to Ban Landmines — were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 for their role in establishing an international treaty banning anti-personnel land mines. And her advocacy efforts and influence on our students continues to grow.

Our professors are also renowned scientists, researchers, scholars, visionaries and dreamers who apply their creativity in the investigation of pressing social and health problems. Patrick Bordnick is one of the foremost experts in the world on virtual reality applications for behavioral science. Through his Virtual Reality Lab, he uses virtual environments for assessing drug use triggers and craving as well as developing treatment software for nicotine and alcohol dependence, among other addiction-related projects.

Dennis Kao conducts research on health and health care disparities. He uses geo-ethnography (which combines mapping, interviews and field observations) to explore the spatial accessibility of health services for aging minorities. His research explores the neighborhoods of older minorities and how these spaces may affect their potential accessibility to, and actual utilization of, health services. Now that's using technology to solve real world problems!

Our professors are as passionate about their research as they are about teaching students.



UH social work professor Brené Brown takes her passion for writing and research on the importance of nurturing authenticity, love and belonging, and a resilient spirit in our families, schools and communities to the classroom as she teaches courses on shame and empathy, among others. Her work has been featured on the Katie Couric's show, Katie, PBS, NPR, CNN and the Oprah and Friends Radio Network, and has appeared in national newspapers and magazines including The Washington Post, Psychology Today, Self and Elle. Her 2010 TEDxHouston talk on the power of vulnerability is one of most watched talks on TED.com, with approximately 5 million views. She is also a frequent guest on radio shows across the U.S. But don't take our word for it, her numerous teaching awards speak volumes to what our students are saying.

The University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work is home to some 26 professors with diverse interests and real-world experiences that can truly make your educational journey the most valuable preparation you'll have in taking your career anywhere you dream.

Research Centers and Scholarship

The University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work houses three active multidisciplinary research centers that draw its members from faculty across the university. These centers provide the basic research infrastructure for faculty and students. They are the engines that develop, conduct and disseminate our research and scholarship.

The **Center for Drug and Social Policy Research (CDSPR)** is dedicated to the development of new knowledge in substance abuse and related social problems. CDSPR conducts large scale research with funding from National Institute on Drug Abuse, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grants. The CDSPR's diverse studies focus on the health consequences of substance abuse, including HIV, mental health disorders and infectious diseases.

The **Child and Family Center for Innovative Research** works with multiple disciplines to solve problems related to the social functioning of children and their families through the use of innovative devices and approaches. The center has accumulated research expertise and aims at strengthening and expanding the research capacity of the program by integrating an extensive behavioral health (e.g. substance abuse, mental disorders) and social work clinical research component and a new and innovative Virtual Reality Core Research Facility that will serve UH and its collaborators locally and beyond.

The **Dorothy I. Height Center for Health Equity & Evaluation Research (DH-CHEER)**, a joint venture with The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Division of Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences, is a comprehensive health disparities research, education and training center. Its researchers and staff conduct interdisciplinary research and collaborate with diverse communities and other institutions in the medical center. DH-CHEER's research focus is health disparities across the disease spectrum and how factors like culture, behavior, access to health care and genetics may contribute to an increased risk of cancer and other diseases among certain groups.

Office of Community Projects

The Office of Community Projects (OCP) is the administrative unit that houses and manages the majority of the college's community service projects and activities. Among many other activities, OCP offers continuing education courses, program evaluation and needs assessment services.

Our Students

One of our greatest strengths is that of our students. Just like all facets of our college, our students are very diverse. With more than 350 two year full-time, three year and weekend college MSW students, our students work hard and make the most of their educational experiences. And they distinguish themselves as leaders. We are proud to offer our students the opportunity to participate in nearly 20 student organizations that represent their diverse interests, including the Clinical Leadership Society, MACRO Student Organization, Students for the Advancement of International Social Work and many more!

For more information about our student organizations and honor societies, visit uh.edu/socialwork/current-students/organizations



Our Alumni Network

Just like our faculty who prepared them, our graduates are respected leaders, recognized social advocates and loyal alumni. We are proud to have so many who stay actively involved with the college through the GCSW Alumni Association, which sponsors continuing education events, hosts social networking functions, supports important college programs and scholarships, and mentors graduating students.

Each year the Alumni Association awards the Charlotte Campbell Scholarship to a student in the last year of the program. As well, the alumni association makes a donation to the GCSW Student Association to help with graduation expenses each year.

Even before you graduate, or as an alumnus, our college's Career Development Services are available to assist you in identifying and securing professional social work employment. Our Office of Alumni and Career Services is here to help you realize your career aspirations. We offer everything from individual career counseling and résumé critiques to an online job board, workshops and mock interviews.

Our alumni are in 48 states and six foreign countries, as well as serving in the Armed Forces in places throughout the world.

Master of Social Work Degree

The Master of Social Work program at the UH Graduate College of Social Work offers a unique one semester Foundation curriculum, which serves as the prerequisite for all following coursework. The Foundation Semester includes courses in Social Work Practice, Policy, Research, Human Behavior in the Social Environment, and a Practice Lab, as well as 180 clock hours of field practica (internship).

Following the Foundation Semester, all students complete advanced courses in Social Welfare Policy, Assessment, and Evaluation of Practice (three credit hours each), plus 9-12 credit hours in their chosen concentration of study. The advanced curriculum also includes a minimum of 12 credit hours of free choice elective coursework, and an additional three hour Human Behavior in the Social Environment elective. All students complete 480 clock hours in the advanced field practica (total MSW field clock hours=900).

Students select an advanced concentration in either Clinical Practice or MACRO Practice. Additionally, all students complete at least one crossover concentration course.

A Concentration in Clinical Practice

Clinical Practice is the application of theories, methods, skills, values and ethics needed to enhance the cognitive, mental, emotional, behavioral, physical and social well-being

of individuals, couples, families, groups and communities. Clinical practice requires leadership in promoting social, economic and political justice. Its methods are relationship-centered, contextualized, culturally sensitive and strengths focused. It includes knowledge about biopsychosocial functioning and evidence based interventions. Clinical practice can include assessment and intervention, diagnosis and treatment, education and prevention advocacy, counseling and psychotherapy, and supervision and consultation.

A Concentration in MACRO Practice

MACRO Practice prepares students for practice in settings where the needs of diverse, vulnerable populations require highly skilled, professional leaders. Work in communities, 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.

For details about the MSW curriculum, visit uh.edu/socialwork/academics/msw/curriculum

Courses and Enrollment Models

A minimum of 63 semester credit hours is required for the MSW degree. All students are required to complete the 15 credit hour foundation semester plus 48 credit hours in the student's chosen concentration and electives. The degree program can be completed in a variety of ways within a three-year time frame. Examples of enrollment plans are available at uh.edu/socialwork/academics/msw/enrollment-plans

For more information about required

coursework and a Degree Plan Checklist, visit uh.edu/socialwork/academics/msw/curriculum. Students are admitted into two year, three year or weekend college enrollment programs. Advanced standing is also available. Changing from one enrollment plan to another requires prior approval from the advisor.

Some of our class offerings include:

- Group Therapy
- Affecting Social Welfare Policy
- Managing Human Service Organizations

- Crisis Intervention
- Empowerment
- Grief and Bereavement
- Prejudice and Bullying in the Schools
- Global Justice Issues
- Community Development
- Homelessness: From Policy to Practice
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Drugs and Society
- Clinical Practice with Elders
- Spirituality and Social Work
- Women's Issues
- Shame, Empathy and Resilience

Specializations

Optional specializations are available to students who would like to develop additional knowledge and skills essential to working effectively with specific populations and/or social issues. Specializations are available in Gerontology, Health Disparities, Political Social Work and Social Work Practice with Latinos. These specializations do not require additional hours. They are earned by completing 9 credit hours of select courses in the chosen specialization area, with a minimum of a “B” average. Although not required, a related field practicum is encouraged.

MSW Specialization in Gerontology

The MSW Specialization in Gerontology addresses the educational needs of students who will be engaged in practice with older adults by providing them with rich opportunities to learn from gerontology experts. This program has been developed according to standards and guidelines established by the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education.

MSW Specialization in Health Disparities

The MSW Specialization in Health Disparities trains health care professionals to

be more sensitive and culturally competent in understanding and addressing the needs of minorities and socioeconomically disadvantaged people. This program is offered in collaboration with the Dorothy I. Height Center for Health Equity & Evaluation Research (DH-CHEER).

MSW Specialization in Political Social Work

The MSW Specialization in Political Social Work provides advanced knowledge of political, socio-economic, contextualized practice in traditional and nontraditional settings.

MSW Specialization in Social Work Practice with Latinos

The MSW Specialization in Social Work Practice with Latinos prepares social workers to work with the Latino population in a variety of community and social service settings through awareness and understanding of the historical, political, economic, social and cultural contexts of Latinos.

For details about the specialization programs, visit uh.edu/socialwork/academics/msw/specializations

Advanced Standing

Applicants holding a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree from a Council on Social Work Education accredited undergraduate program may request review for Advanced Standing admission. The Advanced Standing program allows BSW students to waive the foundation coursework, which is the equivalent of 15 semester credit hours of the 63 semester credit hour MSW program. Applicants for Advanced Standing admission have additional admissions requirements (*see page 15 for details*). For specific requirements on Advanced Standing, visit uh.edu/socialwork/prospective-students/msw-admissions/special

Weekend College

The UH Graduate College of Social Work's Weekend College is designed to provide people who may currently be working in social work related settings the opportunity to pursue their MSW degree exclusively on evenings and weekends. All advanced courses and both field practica (internships) have a clinical focus. Faculty employ different ways to deliver course content so that students are not in class every weekend of the semester. Courses are delivered face to face, online and in hybrid format. Students can also take courses from

our full list of elective offerings. Instructors for the weekend college include full-time and adjunct faculty. Students complete a total of 900 hours of field experience. For the first field placement, Weekend College students are able to complete all field requirements on the weekends. The second placement is completed different ways, including block placements in the last semester of the program. Some students are also able to complete their field requirements at their place of employment. Financial aid is available for any student taking 5 hours or more in one semester.

Dual Degrees

Dual degree programs allow students to earn two degrees in less time than it would take to complete them sequentially. Students interested in this option must be admitted separately to each of the programs; admission to one has no official bearing on admission to the other. That means you must submit separate applications and fees to both programs. Students interested in pursuing dual degree programs are encouraged to begin their application process early. In addition, you should plan to complete the dual degree options as a full-time student, as accreditation standards dictate that students must complete an MSW within four years.

Options for dual degrees include:

MSW/Ph.D.*

The dual MSW/Ph.D. program prepares students to teach, participate in research and hold high-level positions in administration. Upon acceptance to both programs, it will take approximately three and a half years to complete the dual MSW/Ph.D. coursework with additional time allotted for completion of the dissertation. It is recommended that students begin the MSW program prior to applying to the Ph.D. program.

MSW/MBA*

The UH Graduate College of Social Work and the UH C. T. Bauer College of Business offer a concurrent degree program that enables students to prepare for a career where both

social work and business administration are critical, like nonprofit management, organizational development and employee assistance programs. It will take approximately three years of full-time study to complete the coursework for both degrees.

MSW/MPH*

The UH Graduate College of Social Work and The University of Texas School of Public Health offer a concurrent degree program that enables students to prepare for careers in which knowledge and skills in both social work and public health are critical, like policy analysis, hospital administration and research. It will take approximately three years of full-time study to complete the coursework for both degrees.

MSW/JD*

The UH Graduate College of Social Work and the UH Law Center offer a concurrent degree program that prepares students for professional practice in arenas where law and social work intersect and complement each other, like public services, health and mental health care systems, services to children and families and the political arena. It will take approximately four years of full-time study to complete the coursework for both degrees.

** Upon acceptance to each, enrollment in both programs must occur within a period of one calendar year.*

For more information about dual degrees, requirements and contact information, visit uh.edu/socialwork/academics/dual-degree

Field Education

The Field Practicum is an essential component of the college's professional education for social work practice. Field instruction enables students to integrate the knowing, feeling and doing aspects of their social work education in actual service delivery situations. The result is a knowledgeable, skilled, self-evaluating and professionally reflective social worker. As students undertake learning within the reality of agency life, theory from the classroom is applied, skills are developed and refined, and attitudes and values are examined.

The UH Graduate College of Social Work is affiliated with over 400 social work agencies in the greater Houston area, including hospitals in the Texas Medical Center, behavioral health and child trauma agencies. Plus, our students travel to sites in the Texas Legislature and even Hong Kong. For details, including a partial listing of approved practicum settings frequently used as training sites, visit uh.edu/socialwork/academics/field-education



Opportunities for International Study

Global opportunities exist for students and faculty to interact and learn about cross cultural social work in a hands-on environment. Through our Office of International Social Work Education, the College hosts a number of workshops and lectures from international speakers. Students have opportunities to travel abroad during the summer to learn about social issues and social services in other parts of the world. Recent trips have included China, Hong Kong, England, South Africa, Sweden and Turkey. Unique opportunities for field education are available through our partnership with City University of Hong Kong.

For details, visit uh.edu/socialwork/current-students/study-abroad

FIELDS OF STUDY/PROGRAMS

Ph.D. in Social Work

The goal of the UH Graduate College of Social Work's Doctoral Program is to prepare social work researchers, scholars and educators to advance the knowledge base of the profession, promote a scientific basis for social work, and actively promote global, social and economic justice. Our Ph.D. graduates are equipped to become acknowledged scholars, college professors and social work leaders who can facilitate change through rigorous and contextualized analysis of social problems and social work interventions in a manner respectful of the experiences of all affected.

Unique opportunities for our Ph.D. students include an annual research symposium, in which students have the opportunity to present their current research; and an online, peer reviewed doctoral journal, *Perspectives on Social Work*, a publication that features the work of our Ph.D. students.

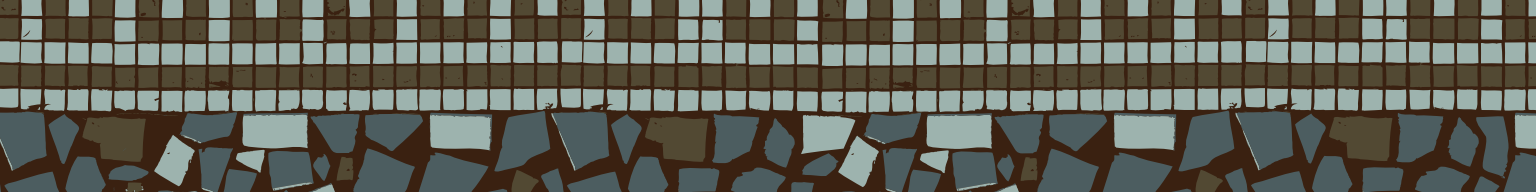
Coursework can be completed in two academic years, with 9-12 credit hours per semester, followed by an original Ph.D. dissertation of publication quality.

The college places a high priority on doctoral student support and makes every effort to assist students during their educational endeavor. Students requiring financial assistance should consult with the Doctoral Program Director and/or with the appropriate UH office. Applicants are advised to apply early to be considered for financial assistance.

Research assistantships, fellowships and/or partial tuition assistance are usually available to most full-time Ph.D. students. Scholarships are also awarded based upon funding availability, student qualifications and research interests. Minority scholarships are available through the CSWE Minority Fellows Program. Information is available on the Council on Social Work Education website at www.cswe.org.

For more information about the Ph.D. program, visit uh.edu/socialwork/academics/phd





The David M. Underwood Chapter of Nonprofit Leadership Alliance

The Nonprofit Leadership Alliance (NLA) is an innovative course of study that equips undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students to become skilled professionals and leaders in America's nonprofit organizations. Participation in NLA builds on and enhances a student's major course of study. At graduation, students

receive not only the nationally recognized NLA certificate but also the professional credential of Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP) in addition to their undergraduate degree. To learn more about this award winning program, visit uh.edu/socialwork/academics/nonprofit-leaders

The NLA program is proud to offer scholarship opportunities for students to help fund the costs of obtaining the certification.

The Flanakin American Humanities Scholarship

Description: Awarded to a graduating Nonprofit Leadership Alliance student to help with the costs of post graduate transition expenses or graduate school. The application deadline is April 1.

The Gary Nichols Scholarship for Leadership and Service

Description: Awarded to an undergraduate student who is participating in the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance, has extensive community involvement, and a GPA of 2.5 or higher. The application deadline is April 1.

The Raymond Oeland McCall Award

Description: Awarded to a Nonprofit Leadership Alliance student interning at Spaulding for Children. Students apply in the semester prior to start of the NLA internship.

The University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work makes every effort to assist our students in obtaining financial support for graduate education. We have over 30 named scholarships and fellowships from which we make multiple awards each year. One third of our students receive some type of support in the form of scholarships, stipend programs, assistantships and/or fellowships to students. In particular, we work to locate financial support for out of state students.

Estimated Cost: \$14,000/year

**This is just an example of in-state tuition and fees based on fall 2012 rates at 15 hours a semester of first-year MSW curriculum. This may not reflect your actual amount as course fees and certain programs may vary.*

Most scholarships and fellowships are awarded through a general GCSW scholarship committee. The deadline for the majority of scholarships is May 1.



Unique Funding Opportunities for MSW Students

Agencies for Gerontology Intercultural Field Training (AGIFT) Fellowships

Originally funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation of New York City and also funded by the William Randolph Hearst Endowment in Gerontology Social Work Scholars Program, AGIFT prepares graduate social work students for competent, culturally sensitive practice in gerontological and geriatric social work. Fellowships are available during the semesters in which the student is enrolled in designated field practicum courses and placed in designated AGIFT agencies. Students are selected for fellowships through a competitive application process administered by the Office of Field Education.

Child Welfare Education Project (CWEP) Stipends

CWEP stipends are awarded to incoming and current GCSW students to prepare them for challenging and rewarding work in Children's Protective Services. The project provides stipends for full- and part-time students. Recipients are chosen by a committee of GCSW and CPS representatives. Full-time students receive a minimum stipend of \$4,000 a semester for up to five semesters; part-time students receive a stipend of \$5,000 for the first semester and \$3,000 the following semesters for up to 12 semesters. Financial support received by students through CWEP requires repayment through professional social work employment in Children's Protective Services.

Scholarships for Bilingual Students

Scholarships for bilingual students are awarded to entering full-time students who are bicultural and bilingual, focused on clinical social work practice, and committed to working in Texas for two years after receiving the MSW degree. Funding for the scholarship program has been provided by several foundations, including the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health and the Simmons Foundation, as well as generous individuals. The scholarship program currently provides support to Spanish-speaking, Vietnamese-speaking, and Chinese-speaking students. Similarly, the George Foundation supports students who are Spanish-speaking and are committed to working with Spanish-speaking clients in Fort Bend County for two years after receiving their MSW degree.

For a current list of all funding opportunities, visit: uh.edu/socialwork/current-students/scholarships

UH Financial Aid Options

A variety of grants and loans are available through the University of Houston Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid. For more information, visit www.uh.edu/enroll/sfa or meet with a financial aid counselor in the Welcome Center, corner of Entrance 1 and Calhoun. To apply for federal student loans and grants, visit www.fafsa.ed.gov or call 1-800-433-3243. The UH school code for FAFSA is 003652.

You may also review the online UH Graduate and Professional Studies Bulletin regarding financial aid options. If needed, short-term loans are also available.

HELPING YOU MEET YOUR GOALS

Application Deadlines for Fall Admission

MSW Program

Fall: For priority consideration and Advanced Standing, all materials must be postmarked no later than Feb. 1. Applications will continue to be received through March 31, if space is available. Application packages that are incomplete on or after May 1 will not be reviewed.

Spring: For Advanced Standing students only, the deadline is October 1.

Ph.D. Program

The deadline for Ph.D. applications and materials is January 15. Applicants are encouraged to apply early.

MSW Admissions Requirements

To be considered for admission to the MSW program, applicants must:

1. Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. 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. You must submit official academic transcripts showing the date the degree was awarded.
2. Have achieved a grade point average of 3.0 or better (4.0 scale) for the last 60 hours of academic coursework. We will calculate your GPA based on your transcripts.
3. Submit a GRE score. You must have official test scores sent directly to the school. Test scores should not be more than five years old. The University of Houston's institutional code for the GRE is 6870, and the social work code is 5001. For information about the GRE, call 1-866-473-4373 or visit

www.ets.org. You may apply without scores, but must submit them prior to enrollment in the program.

4. Submit three letters of recommendation from persons who can address your ability and potential for graduate education and professional social work practice (i.e., former professors, employment supervisors, professional colleagues).
5. Submit a personal narrative statement that describes your academic and employment histories, your interest in the social work profession, your career goals and your commitment to social and economic justice. Specific instructions for the narrative statement are provided at uh.edu/socialwork/prospective-students/msw-admissions/apply-msw-checklist

See page 18 for the full MSW Application Instructions and Checklist.

Ph.D. Admissions Requirements

For a list of the Ph.D. Program application requirements and application instructions, visit uh.edu/socialwork/prospective-students/phd-admissions

Information Sessions for Prospective Applicants

The college offers a series of information sessions during the year. For information about dates and times, visit www.uh.edu/socialwork/prospective-students/msw-admissions/visit-us or call us at 713-743-8075.

Special Admissions Categories for MSW Programs

Advanced Standing for BSW Graduates

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 admission.

The Advanced Standing program allows BSW students to waive the foundation coursework at the UH Graduate College of Social Work, which is the equivalent of 15 semester credit hours of the 63 semester credit hour MSW program. The program for all Advanced Standing students begins in the fall semester. Students can attend on a full-time or part-time basis. Forty-eight credit hours are required to complete the program. Full-time students complete the program in four semesters, including summer.

Applicants for Advanced Standing admission must meet all regular admissions requirements described previously, plus:

1. At least one of your three references for your application must be from your faculty advisor or the chairperson of the Social Work Department where you completed your BSW degree.
2. You must have achieved a grade point average of 3.0 or better (4.0 scale) for the last 60 hours of academic coursework AND a 3.0 for your social work major. We will calculate your GPA based on your transcripts.

Not everyone who applies for Advanced Standing will be admitted with the advanced status; the admissions committee may deny Advanced Standing but still approve admission to the regular

program.

Advanced Standing students can be considered for Fall or Spring admission. The application deadline for Fall Advanced Standing is February 1. For Spring consideration, the deadline is October 1.

Social Work Transfer Students

Students who transfer to the UH Graduate College of Social Work from another CSWE accredited MSW program must meet all regular admissions requirements, AND submit:

- A Statement of Good Standing from the dean or director of your program
- Written evaluation of any previous field performance
- Syllabi for courses completed

A maximum of 30 semester hours credit, earned within five years of the student's enrollment at the UH Graduate College of Social Work, with grades of B or above, can be transferred for credit toward the MSW degree at UH.

Conditional Admission

An applicant whose grade point average is below a 3.0 for the last 60 hours of academic work may be admitted conditionally. To be considered for conditional admission, applicants must have at least a 2.6 grade point average for the last 60 hours (or 90 quarter hours), as well as meet additional requirements. For more information on the conditional admission policy, please see uh.edu/socialwork/prospective-students/msw-admissions/special

Additional Requirements for International Students

International applicants (those holding F1 or J1 visas) must apply to both the UH Graduate College of Social Work and the University of Houston Office of International Admissions.

For more information on the additional admissions requirements for international students, visit uh.edu/admissions/apply/international

HELPING YOU MEET YOUR GOALS

Admissions Reviews & Decisions

MSW program applications are reviewed by the UH Graduate College of Social Work Admissions Committee. Reviewers take into account the “whole applicant,” and no single criterion automatically determines whether an applicant is or is not admitted into the program. Reviews are done on a rolling basis—i.e., applications are reviewed as they are completed rather than waiting for the application deadline to occur. Therefore, early application is encouraged since all openings may be filled

prior to the application deadline. Admissions decisions are not given over the telephone. Communications will be sent via mail and email.

For the Ph.D. program, after all required materials have been received, and an in-person interview, if needed, has been completed, the application is reviewed by the Doctoral Admissions Committee which makes the final admissions decisions.

Before You Apply to the MSW Program

The decision to enter a graduate program leading to an advanced degree in social work is a significant one. The program requirements (i.e. field work and coursework for the MSW program, research and coursework for the Ph.D. program) are demanding and require careful planning in order to move through the selected program successfully. Prospective applicants are encouraged to make the program a priority and take steps to adjust work hours, make child care arrangements and address other time constraints during the entire program.

Course Scheduling

The UH Graduate College of Social Work strives to maintain a diverse student body; many students are employed outside the home, and many have child care responsibilities in addition to school and/or employment. As a result, students must make numerous adjustments in their schedules in order to attend classes and to fulfill the clock hour requirements for field practicum. While we are aware of the multiple demands placed on our students, the foundation semester of the program is highly structured. If a student is unable, for whatever reason, to complete the semester as shown in the full-

and part-time enrollment models, the student may have to take a leave of absence from the program and begin again when he/she is able to complete the semester as prescribed. Applicants are strongly encouraged to plan carefully in order to ensure successful completion of the program. Students must be prepared to adjust work hours, child care arrangements and other time constraints during the entire program.

A Caution about Full-time Employment

If you plan to enroll as a full-time student, we strongly advise against simultaneous full-time employment. From past experience, we know that this heavy load creates problems in class attendance, generates significant barriers to the completion of field practicum courses, and generally results in academic failure. The recommended balance of employment and graduate enrollment is:

Employment Hours per Week	Semester Hours Enrolled
None	15 Credit Hours
Up to 10	9 Credit Hours
20–40	6 Credit Hours

Field Practicum

Part of the uniqueness of the MSW degree is in its applied focus as reflected by required field practicum courses. In field courses, students are assigned as interns under the supervision of a social work field instructor in various practice settings. Students are required to complete a total of 900 clock hours in field courses, starting in October of their first semester. Full-time and three-year students should not expect to find field agencies available for night or weekend placements.

Campus Visits & Tours

Information Sessions

The University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work holds meetings during each admissions cycle for prospective MSW applicants. If you are considering applying to our program, we strongly encourage you to attend this information-packed one hour session. Specifically, you'll receive information about the social work profession, the university and the UH Graduate College of Social Work; the course of study for the MSW degree; and the application and admissions process. Meetings are informal and provide an opportunity for questions and answers. Meetings are held for both the MSW and Ph.D. programs. For a current schedule, visit uh.edu/socialwork/prospective-students/msw-admissions

Off-Campus Events

The GCSW attends a number of recruitment events off campus, including conferences, graduate fairs and community lectures. Please come see us at your campus or in your town!

Academic and Professional Advising

The college has a full-time academic advising office which plays a pivotal role in the student's academic life. Advisors work with students individually as well as hold advising sessions each semester as part of an ongoing process to help students negotiate the curriculum, discuss academic progress and ensure that all requirements are being met successfully.



UH Campus Tours

We invite prospective students and their families to visit our campus daily. Campus tours of the University of Houston are given Monday through Friday at 10 a.m. or 3 p.m., and Saturday at 11 a.m. and depart from the UH Welcome Center, located at the corner of Calhoun and University Drive in the parking garage. There is a presentation given by one of our UH admissions counselors followed by a 45-minute walking tour (or a presentation following the tour). Reservations aren't necessary for tours, but we'll be better prepared to serve you if we know you're coming to visit. Parking charges will apply if you park in the garage. For more information on UH campus tours, virtual tours and video tours, visit uh.edu/campusvisits.

MSW Application Instructions and Checklist

Thank you for applying to the UH Graduate College of Social Work. Instructions for applying to the MSW Program are detailed below. All forms you'll need for the application are available at www.uh.edu/socialwork

Send all MSW Program application materials to:
UH Graduate College of Social Work
Admissions Office
110HA Social Work Building
Houston, TX 77204-4013

☐ ONLINE APPLYTEXAS APPLICATION

Complete a UH Graduate Application on the ApplyTexas website at www.applytexas.org.

☐ APPLICATION FEE

Submit a non-refundable application fee of \$60.00 with your ApplyTexas application.

☐ OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

Submit official transcripts from all of your previous college/university work. Transcripts can either be sent to the UH Graduate College of Social Work directly from your colleges and universities or submitted with your other application materials in a sealed envelope from the school or university. Unsealed transcripts issued directly to you will not be accepted.

☐ THREE PART PERSONAL NARRATIVE STATEMENT

Complete and submit your three part personal narrative statement; *all sections must be submitted or your application will not be reviewed*. Use proper references as appropriate.

PART I (Autobiographical Essay) What were the significant factors that influenced your choice of social work? What skills and experiences do you have that will contribute to your success as a graduate student and social work professional? How is the UH Graduate College of Social Work a good place for you to build on those skills?
2 pages, double spaced, 12 point font

PART II (Essay on Career Goals) Tell us about your career goals as they relate to your definition of social and economic justice.
1 page, double spaced, 12 point font

PART III (Social Issue Essay) Discuss a social issue that is of concern to you and relevant to social work practice. Share ideas about key factors contributing to the issue as well as possible ways to address the problem.
1-2 pages, double spaced, 12 point font

☐ THREE RECOMMENDATIONS

Submit three recommendations from **professors** or **professionals**. If you graduated from college within the last 5 years, one recommendation from a professor or instructor is required. If you are applying for Advanced Standing, one of your three recommendations must be from your faculty advisor or chairperson of your BSW Program. *For all applicants:* if more than one of the three recommendations is personal, the file will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed. At least two references should be academic or professional. Recommendation forms are required for the application.

☐ OFFICIAL GRE SCORES

Submit official scores from the **GRE** (Graduate Record Exam). Scores should be less than five years old. The University of Houston's institutional code for the GRE is **6870** and the social work code is **5001**. Information about costs and test dates at UH may be obtained from UH Student Service Center (Room 204), 713-743-5444. *You may apply without scores, but must submit them in order to enroll in the program. The UH Graduate College of Social Work does not require a minimum score on the GRE.*

☐ RÉSUMÉ

Submit a comprehensive resume, which includes, but is not limited to, the following. *Recommended length: 1-2 pages*

- Paid or volunteer experience in social service agencies or other settings (include beginning and ending dates, whether full-time or part-time, number of hours per week)
- Community or college activities
- Hobbies and/or leisure activities
- Reading interests (Give specific examples.)

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS: Additional materials are required for international applicants. Refer to the MSW Application section on our website at uh.edu/socialwork/prospective-students/msw-admissions/apply-msw-checklist

DEADLINES: For **Advanced Standing** and priority consideration, applications must be postmarked by **February 1**. (the Spring deadline for Advanced Standing is **October 1**). All other applications must be received no later than **March 31**.

MYUH: After you submit your application on ApplyTexas, you will receive instructions in the mail for logging into the University's student information system at my.uh.edu. There you can check the status of your application and update your contact information. Once your application shows complete, it can take 6-8 weeks for a decision letter to be mailed from the UH Graduate College of Social Work.

All records and documents submitted to the UH Graduate College of Social Work become property of the University and may not be returned. The application fee covers part of the cost of handling the application and is therefore non-refundable. For more information, visit uh.edu/socialwork.

Social Work Doctoral Program Application

You must complete our application (found online at uh.edu/socialwork) and submit the additional materials noted on the application when applying to the program. This application requests the submission of a narrative statement, publications and/or research papers, and other materials.

☐ **ONLINE APPLYTEXAS APPLICATION**

Complete the online Apply Texas Application at the following website: www.applytexas.org.

☐ **APPLICATION FEE**

Submit the department's non-refundable application fee. It is \$100.00 with your Apply Texas application.

☐ **PH.D. PROGRAM COVER PAGE**

Complete and submit the Ph.D. cover page. The cover page can be downloaded from the Prospective Students page of our website: uh.edu/socialwork/prospective-students/phd-admissions/application

☐ **OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS**

Order **official** copies of your transcripts **with the seal from all colleges and/or universities you have attended**. Transcripts are to be mailed directly to the UH Graduate College of Social Work Doctoral Program Admissions Office at the address below.

☐ **RESEARCH STATEMENT**

☐ **VITA/RÉSUMÉ**

☐ **WRITING SAMPLES**

☐ **DOCTORAL PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION FORMS**

Each recommendation form **must be accompanied with a reference letter**. Submit a minimum of three (3) but not more than five (5) letters of recommendation from persons who are familiar with your competencies and your potential for doctoral education. **At least two (2) letters must be from tenure track faculty with a doctorate degree** (i.e., current and/or former graduate level professors).

☐ **GRE SCORES**

Official scores of your GRE (Graduate Record Exam) must be submitted to the University of Houston-Main Campus by the testing center. Our institutional code for the GRE is **6870** and the Social Work code is **5001**.

Please mail your completed application, documents, and all correspondence to:

University of Houston
Graduate College of Social Work
Admissions Office
110HA Social Work Building
Houston, Texas 77204-4013

When all required materials have been received, including an in-person interview **if needed**, your application will be reviewed by the Doctoral Admissions Committee, which makes the final decisions.

All materials must be received **on or before January 15**. You are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Thank you for your interest in the Ph.D. Program.



UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

GRADUATE COLLEGE of SOCIAL WORK

University of Houston
Graduate College of Social Work
110 HA Social Work Building, Houston, TX 77204-4013
uh.edu/socialwork
713-743-8075
MSW admissions email: mswinfo@sw.uh.edu
Ph.D. admissions email: phdinfo@sw.uh.edu

Our Mural—“Pulling Together”, created by ARTWORKZ’s Reginald Adams, is a tile mosaic mural covering seven interior walls in the lobby of the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work. It includes richly colored tile mosaics of life-sized people pulling the chains of oppression that prevent entry into a world characterized by Social and Economic Justice for All. On the central mural wall, a crowd struggles to open doors that reveal a brilliant sphere rising above the horizon. That circular form, a symbol of the highest level of knowledge and understanding of oneself, was created using pieces of broken mirror in which viewers of the mural see their own reflections.