

Social Work

Required Courses

Why Social Work?

Social Workers serve individuals, families and communities. It is the helping profession. With an advanced degree in social work, you will have more employment doors opened and have the ability to make a greater difference in people's lives.

The curriculum includes study in Human Behavior in the Social Environment, Clinical Practice, Research and Policy. Ferris has a clinical concentration in the MSW program. As such, the emphasis will be on clinical theory and practice as well as the policy contexts of practice. You will be trained to treat behavioral, mental and emotional issues and be prepared to work as counselors, therapists and clinical supervisors.

Full time students typically complete their MSW degree in two years. For students with a BSW from an accredited university, the Advanced Standing program enables students to complete their degree in three semesters.

Students complete 900 hours of field instruction in one or two different social work agencies. Advanced Standing students' BSW field education counts toward the total number of hours. The capstone project gives students an opportunity to engage in research or program development.

An MSW degree is considered a terminal practice degree in the field of social work. Ferris State University's MSW program is currently in candidacy for accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education. All students entering the program in fall 2014 will be graduated from an accredited program retroactively.

Career Opportunities

The Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasts a 25% employment growth for social workers, faster than the average for all occupations. With an MSW, graduates will have a higher earning capacity as well as be in positions of greater influence. The wide range of clinical positions includes mental health and substance abuse therapists, behavioral health counselors, medical social workers, school social workers, marital counselors and child and family clinicians.

Admission Requirements

Traditional Program: Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university. Applicants must have an undergraduate degree that includes a clear liberal arts base with a firm foundation in the social sciences, political science, humanities and the sciences. 3.0 overall undergraduate GPA.

Advanced Standing: Bachelor's in Social Work from a CSWE Accredited social work program.
3.5 average GPA in social work courses.

Graduate Requirements

Traditional Program: 3.0 GPA in all courses, minimum 65 credits, completion of all required courses listed Traditional Year and Advanced Year.

Advanced Standing: 3.0 GPA in all courses, minimum 35 credits, completion of all required courses listed Advanced Year.

More Information

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ADA compliant check sheets are being developed for the 2019-2020 Catalog. If you would like to request an ADA compliant check sheet before the 19-20 catalog is published, please send your request to: FSUCurriculum@ferris.edu