MSW Program

Established in 1974 as Mississippi’s first Master of Social Work program, The University of Southern Mississippi School of Social Work continues to be the state’s premier social work program and sets the standard for graduate social work education.

The program has been fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education continuously since 1976.

We are inspired by a vision of social justice and advocacy for the health and well-being of all people in Mississippi, the Gulf South and our world.

Students will enjoy a vibrant, engaging curriculum based in “relational” practice offering a rich educational experience in a “Face-to-Face Classroom” environment delivered by an experienced, caring, and diverse faculty.

The curriculum offers students the opportunity (although not required) to enhance their learning experience by focusing in one of two emphasis areas: Interpersonal Practice or Administration & Empowerment.

Students who “want more” will want to take advantage of the many opportunities to engage with and partner with expert faculty focusing on specific research or community projects.

A variety of degree plan options including a 5 semester Full Time Program, a 3 semester Advanced Standing Program and an 8 semester Extended Program are offered on both the Hattiesburg and Gulf Coast campuses.

Admissions

In order to apply for the MSW program, students need to visit the School of Social Work’s website (http://www.usm.edu/social-work/msw-application). This link will take the student to the Graduate School, where specific details are provided so that an online admission application can be created and completed.

Admission to the MSW program is highly competitive and every year the School has more applicants than available space. Applicants are encouraged to ensure all of the required materials are submitted. The Admissions Committee reviews only complete applications.

Admission Standards

Applicants to the School of Social Work are evaluated and admitted without discrimination on the basis of age, gender, religion, color, creed, ethnic or national origin, disability, political, or sexual orientation.

All applicants to the MSW program are evaluated and admitted on the basis of the following criteria:

A. A bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university
B. A minimum of 12 semester hours of liberal arts coursework
C. The grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 on the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework required by the Graduate School
D. Official scores of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores (all sections)
E. A written personal statement
F. A written response to a case vignette
G. Three letters of recommendation from persons qualified to assess the applicant’s readiness for graduate study
H. International applicants must submit official TOEFL or IELTS scores

Advanced Standing

Applications to the Advanced Standing program are evaluated on the basis of the additional criteria below:

Qualified applicants will be allowed to enroll in the final 34 hours of our 60 hour MSW Program.

Advanced Standing students complete the degree in three semesters of study. To qualify, students must:

A. Have an earned Bachelor’s degree in social work from a CSWE accredited university within the last five years.
B. Be accepted by the MSW Admissions Committee for admission into the MSW program.
C. Have a minimum 3.0 GPA on last 60 hours of course work.
D. Have a minimum 3.5 GPA in their social work courses; with no C’s.
E. Have GRE scores that meet, or are higher than, the incoming graduate student cohort for the semester in which you are applying.
F. Pass a qualifying exam, given by the School of Social Work at The University of Southern Mississippi.

Application Deadlines

The **priority** deadline for submitting an application is March 15th of the year in which the applicant desires to begin the MSW program. Complete applications submitted by the priority deadline will receive priority consideration. Complete applications received after the deadline will be reviewed only if space remains in the MSW program.

Making it Personal

We want to meet and get to know you. Feel free to contact Dr. Jerome Kolbo, MSW Program Coordinator at 601-266-5913 or Jerome.kolbo@usm.edu to get more information, ask questions, or schedule a visit to one of our campuses.

We can also arrange for you to meet with current students.