

Preparing for the MSW

Pacific's Master of Social Work (MSW) program is a two-year graduate/professional degree. Students may enter the MSW with any undergraduate major as long as they meet the admission criteria for the MSW.

Students interested in pursuing the MSW should seek out opportunities for community engagement and field experience during their undergraduate years.

Students earning a BSW from Pacific University are guaranteed an admissions interview for Pacific's MSW. Students with a BS or BA from Pacific will apply to our two-year Master of Social Work Program.

Students earning a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) undergraduate degree may be eligible for "advanced standing" in the MSW. Advanced Standing reduces the time to the master's degree to one year. A BSW does not guarantee acceptance to the MSW program or acceptance with advanced standing. However, students with a Pacific University BSW are guaranteed an admission interview, guaranteed consideration for Advanced Standing, and will have their MSW application fees waived. BSW students can only be accepted to the Advanced Standing program if they have completed their baccalaureate degrees no more than five years prior to application. If students completed their baccalaureate degree in social work more than five years before applying to the MSW program, they must demonstrate that they have engaged in continuing education and professional social work practice during a majority of the years since their baccalaureate education, in order to be considered for the Advanced Standing program option.

Students who obtained their BSW from Pacific University will have their application fees waived.

Students interested in the MSW should contact the MSW Admissions Officer at MSW@pacificu.edu. Please note: the MSW program is located on our Eugene campus.

Classes are held two days a week to allow students to commute from the surrounding area and region.

Regular Admission to 2-year Program: Any applicant with a four-year (undergraduate) degree from an accredited institution is eligible to apply for admission to Pacific's MSW program. The degree need not be in the social sciences but should contain courses that address the Liberal Arts Requirement stated below.

Admission to Advanced Standing MSW Program: Any applicant who has completed a Bachelor of Social Work degree from a CSWE accredited program, no longer than five years prior to beginning the MSW program, is eligible. Applicants who have completed a BSW degree more than five years ago are not eligible for admission but may apply for Regular Admission to the 2-year program. Note: A BSW does not guarantee applicants admission to Pacific's MSW program.

Along with meeting all other requirements for admissions, Admission with Advanced Standing status is offered to students who have completed a baccalaureate degree in social work (BSW) from a Council on Social Work Education accredited program, those recognized through its international Social Work Degree Recognition and Evaluation Service, or covered under a memorandum of understanding with international social work accreditors.

Admission Requirements

The criterion used for admission by Pacific University's Master of Social Work program is as follows:

Liberal Arts Requirement: While specific courses are not required, ideally, applicants will have completed a minimum of two courses from each of the following three categories:

- Natural Sciences: Examples include Anatomy, Biology, Botany, Chemistry,

Environmental Science, Geography, Geology, Mathematics, Physics, and Statistics.

- Social and Behavioral: Examples include Anthropology, Latino Studies, Counseling, Economics, History, Human Development, Native American Studies, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, and Women's Studies.
- Humanities and Arts: Examples include Art History, Film Studies, Oral Communication, Critical Thinking, Dance, English, Foreign Language, Literature, Music, Philosophy, Religion, Sign Language, and Theatre.

Qualified candidates are academically strong with excellent oral and written communication skills and a passion for helping others. Participation in community programs, leadership experience, and the ability to work as an effective team member are also highly valued.

The program uses a holistic review process, including such factors as:

- Academic record
- Community service and social work related experience
- Communication skills
- Strength of interview
- Ability to work as an effective team member
- Letters of evaluation/recommendation
- Commitment to the profession

Students interested in pursuing the MSW should seek out opportunities for community engagement and field experience during their undergraduate years. The Center for Civic Engagement can help students find appropriate field experiences.