Admission to the BSW Program

Thank you for your interest in joining Pacific University’s Social Work Program. The Social Work Program encourages applications from students of diverse populations and backgrounds.

A complete application to the Social Work Program includes the following components (description of this process and the forms are available on the Pacific Social Work homepage):

1. A complete Application for Admission form (see below)
2. Sophomore standing or above
3. Successful (grade of C- or better) completion of SOCWK 201 Principles of Social Work
4. Copy of Site Supervisor Student Evaluation for SOCWK 201
5. Signed NASW ethics statement (see below)
6. One letter of reference (form letter provided below)
7. A personal statement (outline provided below)
8. An Entrance Interview

Steps in the Application Process

1. Student contacts the Social Work Program Director to obtain a complete packet of application materials or prints them out from the Social Work homepage.

2. Student fills out and submits the Application for Admission packet with all of the supporting documents, including the personal statement and the Site Supervisor Evaluation form from SOCWK 201.

3. Using the reference form included in the packet of application materials, have one letter of reference sent to:

   Jessica Ritter, PhD
   BSW Program
   Pacific University
   2043 College Way
   Forest Grove, OR 97116
The person you ask to write on your behalf should be able to speak to your academic and/or professional capabilities and your potential as a social work student (e.g., those who have supervised you at work or volunteer work; professors; teachers).

4. Once the completed packet of materials has been submitted, and the letter of reference received, the student will be contacted, via e-mail, to schedule an Entrance Interview.

**What to expect at the Entrance Interview:**
The purpose of the interview is to discuss the content of your application packet, including your personal statement. You will also be given an opportunity to ask any questions that you may have about the program. The Entrance Interview will be conducted by the BSW Program Director and additional program representatives as determined by the Director.

5. After the application file is complete and the Entrance Interview has been conducted, the Social Work Program Director will send written notification of the admissions decision, or the decision may be provided in-person.

**Notice of Admission:**
You will be sent a written admissions decision within (14) days of your Entrance Interview. Admission decisions are made by the faculty of the BSW Program.

**NOTE:** The Social Work Program does not give academic credit for previous life or work experience.

Admission to the Social Work Program is based upon:
- Academic ability to succeed in the BSW Program;
- Values that are consistent with social work professional values;
- Commitment to improving the quality of life of those facing individual challenges or social problems;
- Concern for issues of social justice and sensitivity toward groups that face significant social and/or economic barriers; and
- Capacity for self-awareness and self-evaluation.

The decision made by the Social Work faculty will clearly state the outcome of the application process. There are three possible decision outcomes:
1. Admission
2. Probationary Admission
3. Denial of Admission

Please consult the Social Work Program Handbook for further details on each decision outcome, the appeals process, and for information on maintaining good standing within the BSW Program.

**Questions:** If you have questions or concerns during the Social Work Program application process, please contact a Social Work faculty member.
BSW Program Application Checklist

This checklist is provided to help applicants ensure that their application files are complete.

☐ I am of sophomore standing or above

☐ I have successfully (grade of C- or better) completed SocWk 201 Principles of Social Work

☐ I have submitted a copy of my Site Supervisor Student Evaluation for SocWk 201

☐ I have submitted a complete Application for Admission form.

☐ I have submitted my Personal Statement.

☐ I have signed and submitted the NASW ethics statement

☐ I have read through the policies and procedures in the Social Work Program Handbook, which is available on the Pacific Social Work Program’s homepage.

☐ I have arranged for one letter of reference to be sent to the BSW Program Director

☐ I have scheduled my Entrance Interview
Application for Admission

Name: ______________________________________

Email address: __________________________________________

UC Box: ________________
Pacific University Student ID: ________________ Overall GPA: ______
Race/ethnicity: _____________________________________________________
Gender: ___________________ Age: _________________________________
Transfer Student: ____ No
               ____ Yes → if yes, please list your previous school(s):

Anticipated graduation date (month and year): ______________________________

Date enrolled in SOCWK 201:  Semester: Fall  Year: 20____  Course Grade: ____

1. Please list any other social work courses you have taken, at Pacific or elsewhere:
2. Have you ever been placed on academic probation?  Yes______  No ______
   If yes, please explain:

3. Do you have any physical or emotional differences that might affect (positively or negatively) your ability to practice social work?
   ___ No
   ___ Yes → if yes, please explain:

4. Have you ever been convicted of a felony?
   ___ No
   ___ Yes → if yes, please explain:

5. Please describe any employment experiences that you have had, if any, that relate to social work:

6. Please describe any volunteer or community experiences you have had, if any, that relate to social work:
7. Do you have any questions or concerns that you would like to have addressed at your Entrance Interview?

8. Please attach a Personal Statement.

The Personal Statement should be approximately 2-3 pages, double-spaced and should address the following questions:

- Why do you want to major in social work? What personal, academic, work, volunteer, or community experiences influenced this decision?

- What social problems are of particular concern to you? What do you see as a contribution that social work can make to alleviate these problems?

- What qualities, attributes, skills and strengths do you have that will help your work as a social worker? How will you build these strengths?

- In what areas do you feel most challenged as a beginning social worker? How do you plan to develop and improve in these areas?

I affirm that the information provided on this form is accurate and I understand that it is to be reviewed by the Director of the BSW program and, at the Director’s discretion, the faculty of Social Work.

Signature: _____________________________ Date: _________________

This form and all other application materials should be submitted to:

Jessica Ritter, PhD
BSW Program
Pacific University
2043 College Way
Forest Grove, OR 97116
**Affirmation of the NASW Code of Ethics**

I hereby affirm and agree that I have read and will abide by the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers and agree to submit to professional review proceedings for any alleged violation of the same in accordance with NASW bylaws.

Note: A copy of the NASW Code of Ethics is included in the Social Work Program Handbook and is available online at www.socialworkers.org.

Name: ________________________________

Signature: ________________________________

Date: ________________________________
Pacific University Social Work Program  
Letter of Reference

Student Name: ______________________________________

E-mail Address: _____________________________________

To the evaluator: The above named student has applied for admission to the Pacific University undergraduate Social Work Program. This is an academically challenging program with multiple field experiences and a rigorous 440-hour senior practicum. Therefore, students in the program need to be mature, motivated, self-aware, responsible, and committed to issues of social justice. Our goal is to admit students who are prepared at a beginning level to engage in social work education. With this in mind, please complete the following questions. Additional comments are welcome and can be attached to this form. Thank you for your time and thoughtful responses.

Evaluator Name: ________________________  Telephone Number: ________________

Employer: _________________________________

1. How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?

2. Please rate the applicant’s ability to express her/himself verbally.

   Poor 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  Excellent

   _unable to judge applicant’s ability to express her/himself verbally
3. Please rate the applicant’s ability to express her/himself in writing.

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent

unable to judge applicant’s ability express her/himself in writing

4. Please rate the applicant’s ability to work with diverse groups/individuals.

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent

unable to judge applicant’s ability to work with diverse groups

5. Please rate the applicant’s overall maturity relative to other college students.
(please circle one)

a. this student is less mature than other college students
b. this student is of average maturity for college students
c. this student is more mature than other college students

6. Please identify areas of particular strength for this applicant.

7. Please identify challenging areas for this applicant.
8. Overall, how well prepared is this student to enter an undergraduate social work program?

Signature: ___________________________________ Date: __________________

Mailing Address: ______________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Please place this completed form in an envelope and sign across the seal. The signed envelope should be mailed to:

Jessica Ritter, PhD
BSW Program
Pacific University
2043 College Way
Forest Grove, OR 97116