

The following admission information was updated 1/09. Please feel free to contact the School of Social Work if you have questions. (616)331-6550.

SOME FACTS ABOUT GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

- Established in 1960.
- Enrollment - Over 23,000 students, including 3,500 graduate students.
- Library Facilities - Full library facilities are located at our Allendale campus (14 miles by free university bus). A complete graduate library is available at the DeVos Center in downtown Grand Rapids.
- Tuition - Graduate tuition is \$425. per credit hour for Michigan residents and \$600. for non-residents.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

- Graduate social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education since 1984.
- Enrollment - Approximately 500 MSW students.
- Faculty - 21 full time MSW/BSW faculty.
- Class Locations - All classes are held at the DeVos Center in downtown Grand Rapids or at various off-site locations, including Muskegon, Traverse City, Sault Ste. Marie, Battle Creek, Big Rapids, and Roscommon and VanBuren counties.
- Class Size - Average size is 12-30 students.

Class Schedules - We offer daytime and evening (3-10 pm) classes; however, field education is available only during the day.

Advanced Generalist - Our program does not offer specializations. We do however, offer certification of school social work and a child welfare emphasis.

Field Practicum - In addition to the requirements of participating agencies, student placements are assigned based upon student interests and experience and recommendations from advisors and instructors. For students matriculating at the Grand Rapids campus, most placements are primarily within a 60 mile radius of the campus. However, field placements may extend beyond a 60 mile radius for any student enrolled in the social work program at any of its locations. Twenty-one hours per week must be reserved for field practicum in the last three semesters of the program. Students who would like a school practicum placement must take SW 601 Foundations of Social Work Practice, during the Fall semester, and take SW 650 Field Education I and SW 651 Field Education Seminar I during the winter semester. **All students are required to attend a three hour field orientation seminar prior to entering field practicum.**

Educational Climate - Students have opportunities to participate in student governance, attend forums, lectures (on and off campus), work collaboratively with other students and/or faculty in a variety of challenging situations. Small classes and participatory/interactive teaching models contribute to a stimulating academic environment.

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK**MISSION**

The mission of the School of Social Work at Grand Valley State University is to prepare students for advanced-level professional practice and leadership roles in the development and implementation of social welfare policies, programs, and services.

The program is built on a humanistic and democratic philosophy which promotes the values of social justice and responsibility, respect for human rights, dignity, diversity, and a commitment to an egalitarian and humane social order.

The curriculum is predicated upon the assumption that social workers should operate from a common base of knowledge, values, skills, and philosophy. These components are transmitted through a core of foundation and advanced-level courses.

The first year introduces students to the generic base of professional practice; those elements characteristic of, and common to all social work practice (i.e. values, ethics, processes, etc.). The second year builds upon the student's foundation knowledge, values and skills by developing their competence in multi-level assessment, intervention and evaluation modalities.

The Advanced Generalist perspective is the principal model or organizing framework for the MSW curriculum. This perspective, anchored in the "ecological systems" model of practice, is based on the fundamental premise that human problems derive from a complex interplay of psychological, social, economic, political, and physical forces. Such a framework accords due recognition to the reciprocal effects of environmental conditions on the human condition. The curriculum is therefore designed to produce professional practitioners who are knowledgeable of problems and needs at various systemic levels and who are capable of utilizing a range of intervention theories, methods, and skills for competent clinical and macro-social work practice.

OBJECTIVES

The School's Advanced Generalist curriculum is designed to foster an integration of theory and practice and to inculcate in students practice-relevant knowledge and skills. This is derived from carefully devised and systematically structured courses in methods of social work practice, human behavior and the social environment, social welfare policy and services, social research and field education. By means of its graduate curriculum, the School of Social Work seeks to produce knowledgeable and competent professionals who can:

1. Attain a level of analytical, interactional and technical competence essential for qualitative, effective, and self-directed professional practice and successful careers in human service.
2. Contribute to the development and improvement of the profession through participation in research, education, practice, and professional organizations.
3. Meet the needs, responsibilities, and professional personnel requirements of human service and social service organizations and programs within the Western Michigan region, the State of Michigan, and throughout the USA. Opportunities for participation in several international experiences are also available.
4. Pursue post-graduate training in a doctoral program in Social Work or other related fields.

ADMISSION CATEGORIES and ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**Admissions**

Director of Recruitment and Admissions: Lois Smith Owens, MSW

Students are admitted to one of two MSW programs.

1. Regular program degree seeking status (60 credit hours) program or
2. Advanced Standing degree seeking status (45 credit hours) program

Students who meet the following university requirements and the additional requirements of their chosen program are granted degree seeking status:

- Possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education.
- Meet all admission requirements of the University. The University requires that all students admitted on a non-conditional basis have a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or above. The University calculates the GPA based on the last 60 semester credit hours of letter-graded coursework. A small percentage of students with a GPA between 2.75 and 2.99 may be considered for conditional admission by the School of Social Work. These students must meet additional requirements specified by the School of Social Work. Students with GPA's below 2.75 are, generally, not considered for admission. Students may remediate low GPA's by completing (subsequent to their bachelors degree) 12 or more hours of upper division undergraduate work. Students considering doing so are encouraged to contact the School of Social Work Director of Recruitment and Admissions. An exception to the just-described admissions policy is presented below.
- Conditional admission: An exception may apply to applicants who have, subsequent to their bachelor's degree, completed three successful years of paid, full-time work (or the equivalent thereof) in social work or a closely related human services field. Such applicants may be considered for conditional admission if their GPA, as calculated by the University is 2.50 or higher.
- In addition to the requirements for admission to the university set forth above, admission to the School of Social Work is based on an assessment of prior academic preparation, personal maturity, conceptual abilities, work experience, and personal commitment to the profession of social work, its values and ethics. Applicants may be invited for a personal interview prior to admission to discuss admission and further explore the program. Admissions decisions are promptly communicated in writing to each applicant. All applicants for admission to the Master of Social Work Program must have a broad liberal arts background with a minimum of 18 hours of social, human biological, behavioral science courses, with a good representation in sociology, psychology, and/or social work. Students with specific academic deficiencies may be asked to complete compensatory undergraduate work prior to admission.
- The successful applicant is expected to meet the following requirements for Ethics, Physical and Emotional Well-being, and Criminal Offenses.

Ethics

The School of Social Work fully subscribes to and is guided by the NASW Code of Ethics, (<http://www.socialworkers.org>). Social work program students are expected to demonstrate professional behavior which reflects a commitment to the ethics of the social work profession as exemplified in the NASW Code of Ethics. Behavior and statements contrary to these ethics may be cause for denial of the student's admission to or the student's continuance in the School of Social Work's programs. Examples of behavior which would warrant review include, but are not limited to, derogatory oral or written statements towards students, staff, faculty, agency representatives or clients. Derogatory statements concerning racial, ethnic or cultural background, handicap status, religion, socio-economic background, gender, sexual orientation or other status may also warrant review.

Physical and Emotional Well-being

The role of a social worker involves working with people from a variety of backgrounds who may manifest a wide range of issues and concerns. It is important that personal issues and/or conditions not interfere with the social worker's work, and that the social worker has the emotional, psychological, and physical resources to render effective assistance to clients. Where applicants/students demonstrate behaviors that suggest that their own personal difficulties are interfering with their ability to carry out the social work role, they may be denied admission or, once admitted, they may be required to withdraw. Students/applicants may be required to submit evidence of their physical and emotional well-being from qualified professionals for consideration of their application, re-admission, or continuance in the MSW program.

Criminal Offenses

Though the School of Social Work does not require that applicants submit to a background check for possible criminal offenses in addition to that which is a part of the University's application for admission, applicants should realize that practicum agencies may require such a check. Further, applicants should realize that future employers may request a background check and that a criminal record may disqualify applicants from some social work positions. In addition, the School of Social Work, as part of its process of practicum assignments, asks students whether they have a felony conviction (or non-contested felony) in their background. The School of Social Work may change its procedure regarding background checks in the future.

Admission Process

Completed applications are reviewed by the School of Social Work Admissions Office in the order received. However, to ensure full consideration for fall admissions, applications must be received before May 1. Early application is strongly encouraged. All admission materials must be submitted in one envelope. The applicant's file is reviewed by the School's Admissions Office, which makes a disposition of each completed application on a first-come, first-served basis. (Late applicants will be admitted on the basis of remaining vacancies). The Director reserves the right to require an interview and/or any additional information deemed appropriate and necessary. The majority of students admitted to the School of Social Work will begin their studies in the fall semester. Limited spaces are available for winter enrollment in the part-time program. Winter applications must be received by October 1.

Students who do not meet all the requirements but whose experience, achievement, etc., may warrant an exception may be invited for an in-person interview to discuss admission and further explore the program. Because of limited class size we are not able to accept all qualified applicants.

Advanced Standing Degree Seeking Status

The School of Social Work recognizes superior academic performance by students who have graduated from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited undergraduate social work or social welfare department or program within five years prior to enrollment in the GVSU MSW program. A minimum grade point average of 3.5 in social work courses from a CSWE accredited baccalaureate program within five years of applying to the M.S.W. program may qualify perspective students for advanced standing.

Full time advanced standing students are exempt from 15 hours of first-year core or foundation courses and may therefore accelerate their graduate study by completing the remaining 45 hours of degree requirements in one calendar year. All advanced standing students may take a 100-item diagnostic proficiency examination in research methods. A score of 75 or higher will qualify the student for exemption from SW 690 Research Methods I. This reduces to 42 hours the degree requirements remaining for completion.

- Students admitted to the **full time advanced standing** program must begin their studies during the summer session and continue full time during the subsequent fall and winter semesters. All advanced standing applicants attend a mandatory orientation, prior to commencement of their studies.
- Students admitted to the **part time advanced standing** program may begin their studies any semester and must complete their studies within two years.

Non-degree Seeking

A maximum of six credits earned at Grand Valley State University as a non-degree seeking student may be considered for transfer to degree seeking status. Enrollment as a non-degree seeking student does *not* guarantee formal admission to the M.S.W. program. Only two of the following courses only may be taken by non-degree seeking students, SW 600, SW 601, SW 610, or SW 620. The credits of two of the four courses will be considered for transfer into the degree program.

Field Education

Director: Jim Edwards, M.S.W., A.B.D.

The field work component of the M.S.W. program is an integral part of the student's overall educational experience. It provides opportunities for the development, integration, and application of professional knowledge, skills, and values. Placements are made in a wide variety of human service settings, in the public and private sectors.

Fifteen of the 60 credit hours required for the M.S.W. degree are granted for field education. The School's practicum program is organized on the basis of a "concurrent model" of field education. Under this model students will complete a minimum of four foundation courses prior to three academic semesters of supervised, agency-based field instruction, for a minimum of 21 hours per week. Field instruction is done concurrently with classroom courses. Placements are made in affiliated agencies selected on the basis of their commitment to social work education and their willingness to provide a professional learning environment, meaningful experiences, and supportive guidance consistent with the general objectives of the School and the particular needs and interests of individual students.

Transfer Credit

The School of Social Work may accept a maximum of 30 semester hours of transfer credit for graduate courses completed with a grade of B or better at another CSWE accredited M.S.W. program. Courses completed more than five years before enrolling at GVSU will not be approved for credit. Transfer credit will not be given for course work taken toward completion of another degree. Grades received in courses for which transfer credit is granted will not be included in the computation of a student's grade point average while enrolled at Grand Valley. No credit is granted for previous work or life experiences.

School Social Work Certification

The School of Social Work at GVSU is authorized by the State Board of Education in Michigan to provide training and make recommendations concerning practitioner certification for school social work as provided in the *Administrative Rules for School Social Work* (Rule 340.1013) of the Michigan Department of Education. All students seeking certification for school social work are required to follow the approved curriculum for school social work certification and take SW 664, Social Work Practice in Schools, in addition to the 60 credit hours required for the M.S.W. degree. **Students must consult with the school social work advisor for the approved curriculum.**

Decision Deadlines

Applications for Fall semester admission (both full time and part time programs) must be submitted by May 1. All applications meeting the May 1 deadline will be reviewed and considered. Late applications will not be guaranteed review for Fall semester. A small number of applications will be reviewed and considered for part time admission for Winter semester. The Winter semester deadline is October 1.

Advanced Standing Applications must be submitted by February 1 for the following Spring/Summer semester. Late applications **will not** be considered for full time Advanced Standing status. Students wishing to be considered for part time Advanced Standing status may apply for admission to Fall, Winter, or Spring/Summer semesters.

Appeals Procedures

The following procedures are in place for students wishing to appeal the decision of the School of Social Work Admissions Office.

1. Applicants who disagree with the admissions decision may contact the Director of Recruitment and Admissions by telephone if they wish, or be offered an appointment in person, if they prefer.
2. Following discussion with the Director of Recruitment and Admissions, the applicant may send a written appeal to the Director of Recruitment and Admissions who in consultation with the MSW Director will form a committee to review the appeal. If the applicant wishes to share information that was not available at the time of application, it should be attached to the written appeal.
3. The Admissions Appeal Committee will meet within thirty days of the written appeal's submission to examine the applicant's appeal materials and application folder.
4. The Director of Recruitment and Admissions will communicate in writing the decision of the Committee to the applicant in a timely manner to the applicant within seven (7) business days of its receipt.
5. Should the applicant be dissatisfied with the Admissions Appeal Committee's decision, an appeal to the School of Social Work MSW Program Director can be made. This must be done within thirty days of the date of the written communication from the Director of Recruitment and Admissions.

MSW STUDENT STUDY PLAN

NAME _____ ADMISSION DATE _____ ADVISOR _____ FULL TIME _____
 PART TIME _____

REQUIRED COURSES	Semester	Grade	Credits
SW 600 Cultural Competency for Social Work (3).....	_____	_____	_____
*SW 601 Foundations of Social Work Practice (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 603 Integrated Methods (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 610 Social Welfare Policy and Services I (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 620 Human Behavior & Social Environment (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 622 Psychopathology & Social Deviance (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 690 Social Research I (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 693 Social Research II (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 650 Field Education I (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 651 Seminar I (1).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 652 Field Education II (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 653 Seminar II (1).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 654 Field Education III (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 655 Seminar III (1).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 640 Advanced Generalist Seminar (3).....	_____	_____	_____

**See your Advisor - not required for students with CSWE accredited BSW undergraduate degrees or Child Welfare Grantees.*

AND (1 Required)

SW 612 Social Policy: Families & Children (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 613 Human Rights and Social Work (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 614 Social Policy and Mental Health (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 616 Law, Ethics, and Social Welfare (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 618 Contemporary Social Policy for Elders (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 619 Comparative Social Welfare Policy (3).....	_____	_____	_____

Students must take 18 hours, as follows: (check as completed)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| _____ One course from Group A | _____ One course from Group C or D |
| _____ One course from Group A or B | _____ One course from Group A, B, C, or D |
| _____ One course from Group C | _____ One course from Group A, B, C, or D |

AND Group A - (Micro-Core)

SW 670 SW Practice: Individuals (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 672 SW Practice: Groups (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 674 SW Practice: Families/Children (3).....	_____	_____	_____

AND Group B - (Micro-Electives)

SW 662 Substance Abuse & Social Work Practice(3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 665 Aging in Contemporary Society (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 667 Holistic Practice in Social Work (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 671 Social Work Practice in Health Care (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 673 SW Practice: Children and Adolescents (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 675 Child Welfare and Family Services (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 680 Special Topics in Social Work (3).....	_____	_____	_____

AND Group C - (Macro-Core)

SW 676 Community and Social Planning (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 677 Principles of Supervision (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 678 Human Services Administration (3).....	_____	_____	_____

AND Group D - (Macro-Electives)

SW 630 Social Work: Global Service Learning (3 or 4).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 631 Cross Cultural Service Learning (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 660 Grantwriting & Resource Development(3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 679 Program Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation (3).....	_____	_____	_____
SW 694/695 Master=s Thesis (6).....	_____	_____	_____

MSW = 60 credits

SW 664 School Social Work (4).....

This course is taken over and above the required 60 credits

SAMPLE CURRICULUM

The School of Social Work offers a 60-credit hour Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) degree program on both a full time and part time basis. Students pursuing part time study may choose either a three or four academic year model. **All requirements for graduation must be completed within four years after course work has started.** A *sample* distribution of course requirements for both programs of study, as well as Advanced Standing, are outlined below. Student's admitted in winter or entering field (SW 650) in winter will have a somewhat different distribution of classes. SW 601 - Foundations of Social Work Practice is required for students who do not have a B.S.W. or are Child Welfare Grantees. Students who meet this requirement will take an elective in place of the foundations course.

The following curriculum plans are samples. Admitted students will be assigned a faculty advisor to help them determine the best study plan to meet their educational goals.

Full Time Sample Curriculum

First Semester (Fall) 12 hours

SW 600 Cultural Competency in Social Work
SW 601 Foundations in Social Work Practice*
*(see your advisor)
SW 603 Integrated Methods
SW 620 Human Behavior and the Social Environment

Second Semester (Winter) 12 hours

SW 610 Social Welfare Policy and Services I
SW 622 Psychopathology and Social Deviance
SW 690 Social Research I
(Choose one)
Group A, B, C, or D

**Third Semester (Summer) 10 hours

SW 693 Social Research II
SW 650 Field Education I
SW 651 Field Education Seminar I
(Choice of 1)
SW 612 Social Policy: Families/Children
SW 613 Human Rights and Social Work
SW 614 Social Policy: Mental Health
SW 616 Law, Ethics, and Social Welfare
SW 618 Contemporary Social Policy for Elders
SW 619 Comparative Social Welfare Policy

Fourth Semester (Fall) 13 hours

SW 652 Field Education II
SW 653 Field Education Seminar II
(Choose 2)
Group A and/or Group A & B
(Choose 1)
Group C

Fifth Semester (Winter) 13 hours

SW 640 Advanced Generalist Seminar
SW 654 Field Education III
SW 655 Field Education Seminar III
(Choose 1)
Group C or D
(Choose 1)
Group A, B, C, or D

Total 60 hours

Prior to entering Field Practicum all students **must take a three hour field orientation seminar. Call the Social Work office for offered times, 616-331-6550.

Part Time Sample Curriculum

First Semester (Fall) 6 hours

SW 610 Social Welfare Policy and Services I
SW 620 Human Behavior and the Social Environment

Second Semester (Winter) 6 hours

SW 600 Cultural Competency in Social Work
SW 690 Social Research I

Third Semester (Summer) 6 hours

SW 622 Psychopathology and Social Deviance
SW 693 Social Research II

Fourth Semester (Fall) 6 hours

SW 601 Foundations of Social Work Practice*
*(see your advisor)
SW 603 Integrated Methods

**Fifth Semester (Winter) 10 hours

SW 650 Field Education I
SW 651 Field Education Seminar I
(Choose 2)
Group A, B, C, or D

Sixth Semester (Summer) 6 hours

(Choose 1)
SW 612 Social Policy: Families and Children
SW 613 Human Rights and Social Work
SW 614 Social Policy and Mental Health
SW 616 Law, Ethics, and Social Welfare
SW 618 Contemporary Social Policy for Elders
SW 619 Comparative Social Welfare Policy
(Choose 1)
Group C

Seventh Semester (Fall) 10 hours

SW 652 Field Education II
SW 653 Field Education Seminar II
(Choose 2)
Group A and/or Group A & B

Eighth Semester (Winter) 10 hours

SW 640 Advanced Generalist Seminar
SW 654 Field Education III
SW 655 Field Education Seminar III
(Choose 1)
Group C or D

Total 60 hours

Advanced Standing Sample Program Model

**First Semester (Summer) 16 hours

SW 650 Field Education I
SW 651 Field Education Seminar I
SW 622 Psychopathology and Social Deviance
SW 690 Social Research I (test-out exam available)
SW 693 Social Research II
(Choose 1)
SW 612 Social Policy: Families/Children
SW 613 Human Rights and Social Work
SW 614 Social Policy: Mental Health
SW 616 Law, Ethics, and Social Welfare
SW 618 Contemporary Social Policy for Elders
SW 619 Comparative Social Welfare Policy

Second Semester (Fall) 13 hours

SW 652 Field Education II
SW 653 Field Education Seminar II
(Choose 2)
Group A and/or Group A & B
(Choose 1)
Group C

Third Semester (Winter) 16 hours

SW 640 Advanced Generalist Practice
SW 654 Field Education III
SW 655 Field Education Seminar III
(Choose 1)
Group C or D
(Choose 2)
Group A, B, C, or D

Total 45 hours

Prior to entering Field Practicum all students **must take a three hour field orientation seminar. Call the Social Work office for offered times, 616-331-6550.

Part Time Advanced Standing Curriculum Sample

First Semester (Summer) 6 hours

SW 690 Social Research I
(Choose 1)
SW 612 Social Policy: Families/Children
SW 613 Human Rights and Social Work SW
SW 614 Social Policy: Mental Health
SW 616 Law, Ethics, and Social Welfare
SW 618 Contemporary Social Policy for Elders
SW 619 Comparative Social Welfare Policy

Second Semester (Fall) 6 hours

SW 693 Social Research II
(Choose 1)
Group C

Third Semester (Winter) 9 hours

SW 622 Psychopathology and Social Deviance
(Choose 2)
Group A, B, C, or D

**Fourth Semester (Summer) 7 hours

SW 650 Field Education I
SW 651 Field Education Seminar I
(Choose 1)
Group C or D

Fifth Semester (Fall) 10 hours

SW 652 Field Education II
SW 653 Field Education Seminar II
(Choose 2)
Group A and/or Group A & B

Sixth Semester (Winter) 7 hours

SW 640 Advanced Generalist Seminar
SW 654 Field Education III
SW 655 Field Education Seminar III

Total 45 hours

Prior to entering Field Practicum all students **must take a three hour field orientation seminar. Call the Social Work office for offered times, 616-331-6550.

Graduate Courses of Instruction

Note: Prerequisites must be satisfied as prescribed prior to enrollment in indicated courses.

SW 600 Cultural Competency for Social Work. Prerequisite for SW 622. Examines cross-cultural practices and values, with emphasis on the commonalities and differences among individuals, groups, organizations, and communities in American society. Critical analyses of people based on age, ethnicity, race, gender, religion, spirituality, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, veteran, and/or disability status. Three credits.

SW 601 Social Work Foundations. Examined are the development of Social Welfare as an institution and Social Work as a profession in American society. Included are basic knowledge, values, and skills required for Advanced Generalist practice. Emphasis is on values and ethics, populations-at-risk, social and economic justice, and intervention with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Three credits. Offered fall and winter semester.

SW 603 Integrated Methods. Prerequisite for advanced practice course enrollment. Examines theories, goals, and processes relevant to Advanced Generalist social work practice. Focus is on social systems theory, social work roles, theories, and skills necessary to implement processes for achieving desired outcomes in practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Three credits. Offered fall and winter semesters.

SW 610 Social Welfare Policy and Services I. An examination of the social services delivery systems in the United States, including the profession of social work; an analysis of the historical development of economic, political, and social contexts. Three credits. Offered fall and winter semesters.

SW 612 Social Policy: Families and Children. An examination of the historical and contemporary impact of major public policies and programs on the welfare of children and families. Emerging trends and issues and their implications for future social policy, programs and services. **Prerequisite:** SW 610. Three credits. Offered spring/summer semester.

SW 613 Human Rights and Social Work. This course provides students with a basis for literacy about modern human rights, including core principles, key documents, institutions and practices. A framework for the analysis of social work/human rights interactions is utilized and systematically applied, including the effect of social, political and economic policies and programs on human rights. **Prerequisite:** SW 610. Three credits.

SW 614 Social Policy and Mental Health. Examines the development of mental health policies and services in the United States and in Michigan. Public policies and organizations are analyzed and evaluated in relation to trends, impacts, and outcomes on the problem of mental illness in society. **Prerequisite:** SW 610. Three credits. Offered spring/summer semester.

SW 616 Law, Ethics, and Social Work. Examines the relationship between law and social welfare as it impacts on human rights and social work practice. Evaluates major value positions in social work practice from personal, philosophical, historical, and political perspectives. Major ethical dilemmas in the practice of social work are outlined and models for ethical decision making will be presented. **Prerequisite:** SW 610. Three credits. Offered spring/summer.

SW 618 Contemporary Social Policy for Elders. Students will build on past knowledge, investigate and evaluate current policy, services, and ideology for older Americans in this pluralistic society. Policy issues and trends that may challenge conventional standards and thinking are explored for utility and appropriateness in the context of the rapidly changing demographics of aging. Some cross-national policy and service comparisons are included. **Prerequisite:** SW 610. Three credits. Offered summer semester.

SW 619 Comparative Social Welfare Policy. Analysis of U.S. and Host Country's Welfare Policy/Practice. **Prerequisite:** SW 610. Three credits. Offered summer semester.

SW 620 Human Behavior and the Social Environment. Focuses on the interactions between the person and the social system in which human development and maturation take place. The differential effects of life-cycle, life-style, and culturally diverse perspectives are considered in relation to several major theories for assessing human behavior and their relationship to the generalist orientation in social work. Three credits. Offered fall and winter semesters.

SW 622 Psychopathology and Social Deviance. Provides students with a comprehensive body of knowledge organized and integrated in both theoretical and practical terms. Includes an awareness of the dimensions of deviant or abnormal behavior. Helps students understand the individual in his or her complexities and the process and outcome of human development and forces (internal and external) which enter into the psychodynamics of deviant and/or abnormal human behavior. **Prerequisite:** SW 620. Three credits. Offered winter and spring/summer semesters.

SW 630 Social Work: Global Service Learning. Focus is international and uses a service-learning approach. Explores the theme of social welfare development. Includes a two- or three-week experiential learning component in an international location. Demonstrates the inter-connectedness between social work, social justice, and civic/global responsibility. Offered spring/summer semester. **Prerequisites:** SW 600, SW 603, SW 610, and SW 620. Three to four credits.

SW 631 Cross Cultural Service Learning. This course enhances students' preparation as competent social work practitioners in global social welfare. Using a service learning approach, this course explores the theme of cross-cultural social work in an off campus location using experiential learning. It demonstrates the relationships between social work, social justice, and civic/global responsibility. Throughout this course students will develop a global perspective of social work practice and enrich their multicultural experiences. Offered spring/summer semester. **Prerequisites:** SW 600, SW 603, SW 610, and SW 620. Three credits.

SW 640 Seminar in Advanced Generalist Practice. A broadening of student knowledge of the professional foundation for practice across populations-at-risk. Students will identify and develop individual topics. (May be taken only once.) **Prerequisite:** This is the Capstone course, taken winter semester prior to graduation, concurrent with SW 654 and SW 655. Three credits. Offered winter semester.

SW 650 Field Education I. The first in a series of applied field education courses involving 315-clock-hours. Emphasis is on the advanced application of assessment, interaction, and evaluation skills within a generalist framework. **Prerequisites:** SW 600, SW 601 (if required), SW 603, SW 620, and a three hour field orientation seminar. Offered on a credit/no credit basis. Three credits. Offered spring/summer and winter semesters.

SW 651 Field Education Seminar I. Focus on the integration of knowledge, skills, and values with advanced generalist practice for students in field education placements. Illustrations from students' work in agency setting included. **Concurrent** with SW 650. Offered on a credit/no credit basis. One credit. Offered spring/summer and winter semesters.

SW 652 Field Education II. A continuation of SW 650. A 315-clock-hour applied field practicum which has been contracted for by students. Emphasis on the advanced application of assessment, intervention and evaluation skills within generalist framework. **Prerequisites:** SW 650 and SW 651. Three credits. Offered on a credit/no credit basis. Offered fall semester.

SW 653 Field Education Seminar II. Continuation of SW 651 with focus on the advanced application of assessment, intervention, evaluation, knowledge, and skills required of students in field education agency settings as generalist practitioners. **Prerequisites:** SW 650 and SW 651 and concurrent with SW 652. Offered on a credit/no credit basis. One credit. Offered fall semester.

SW 654 Field Education III. A continuation of SW 652. A 315-clock-hour applied field practicum which has been contracted by students. Emphasis on the advanced application of assessment, intervention, and evaluation skills within the generalist framework. **Prerequisites:** SW 652 and SW 653 and concurrent with SW 655, and SW 640. Three credits. Offered on a credit/no credit basis. Offered winter semester.

SW 655 Field Education Seminar III. A continuation of SW 653 with emphasis on evaluation skills and demonstration of knowledge, values, and skills required of advanced generalist practitioners in field education placements. **Prerequisites:** SW 652 and SW 653 and concurrent with SW 654 and SW 640. Offered on a credit/no credit basis. One credit. Offered winter semester.

SW 660 Grantwriting and Resource Development. Instruction in finding grant sources, writing grants, developing grant budgets, and evaluating grant proposals and programs. Students will be expected to write one actual grant proposal. **Prerequisites:** SW 600, SW 601 (if required), SW 603, SW 620. Three credits. Offered winter semester.

SW 662 Substance Abuse and Social Work Practice. Examines the impact of the social work profession on substance abuse problems. Considers etiology, epidemiology, prevention, methods of treatment and policy issues, as well as the relationship between race, gender, age, social class, and substance abuse. **Prerequisites:** SW 600, SW 601 (if required), SW 603, SW 620. Three credits. Offered winter semester.

SW 664 Social Work Practice in Schools. Required for social work practitioners in Michigan public schools. Provides an overview of social work practice in a 'host' (public school) setting. The school as an institution, its staff, students, community, and laws that affect education and social work practice, as well as methods of practice. **Prerequisites:** SW 600, SW 601 (if required), SW 603, SW 620 or permission of instructor. Four credits. Offered summer and winter semesters. (Credits are over and above required 60 for M.S.W.)

SW 665 Aging in Contemporary Society. Students gain a specialized knowledge of social work practice with older adults, their families, caregivers and professionals. The theories of aging and social work practice principles are applied to address contemporary issues which impact the citizens' goals for individual autonomy, appropriate health care, income security and dignified social supports. **Prerequisites:** SW 600, SW 601 (if required), SW 603, SW 620. Three credits.

SW 667 Holistic Practices in Social Work. This course introduces energy management for behavioral transformation and explores a range of energy management approaches, i.e. acupuncture, biofeedback, massage, qigong, and yoga, etc. as social work holistic practice. It focuses on stress management, energy and capacity development through mind, body, and spirit dynamic application for holistic health and self actualization. **Prerequisites:** SW 600, SW 601 (if required), SW 603, SW 620. Three credits.

SW 670 Social Work Practice: Individuals. Focuses on selected knowledge and skills from the cognitive/behavioral and psychosocial models and their application to social work practice with individuals. Perspectives on differential assessments and interventions drawn from these approaches will be studied. Factors of minority group status and gender are examined. **Prerequisites:** SW 600, SW 601 (if required), SW 603, SW 620 and concurrent practicum. Three credits. Offered fall and winter semester.

SW 671 Social Work Practice in Health Care. Development of social work skills pertinent to health care settings. Assessment of the impact of illness, treatment, and hospitalization on patients and families. Models of the helping process and health care theories will be examined and applied to practice. **Prerequisites:** SW 600, SW 601 (if required), SW 603, SW 620. Three credits.

SW 672 Social Work Practice: Groups. Focuses on concepts, values, skills, and techniques germane to the practice of social group work. Examines the history, roles, theoretical underpinnings, interventive strategies, and modes of group work practice. **Prerequisites:** SW 600, SW 601 (if required), SW 603, SW 620 and concurrent practicum. Three credits. Offered fall and spring semester.

SW 673 Social Work Practice: Children and Adolescents. Prepares students for direct practice with children and adolescents who are experiencing separations, trauma, and other life crises. Encompasses a variety of methods and models, including play therapy and group work. Offers didactic and experiential learning. **Prerequisites:** SW 600, SW 601 (if required), SW 603, SW 620. Three credits. Offered fall semester.

SW 674 Social Work Practice: Families and Children. Examines an integrated model of family practice focusing on family development and dysfunction at various stages in the family life cycle. Using a family system and ecological systems perspective, students are taught specific assessment and intervention knowledge and skill.

Concepts from several current models of family practice are studied and drawn upon. **Prerequisites:** SW 600, SW 601 (if required), SW 603, SW 620 and concurrent practicum. Three credits. Offered fall and winter semesters.

SW 675 Child Welfare and Family Services. Prepares students for practice in child welfare and family services in the public or private sector. Addresses social work's historic mission to serve poor and vulnerable families with a variety of direct practice methods in the advanced generalist perspective. **Prerequisites:** SW 600, SW 601 (if required), SW 603, SW 620. Three credits. Offered winter semester.

SW 676 Community and Social Planning. Prepares students for professional practice in social planning and community organization. Focuses on a range of theories, concepts, and their application in practice situation. Includes theories of community power and influence, inter-organizational relationships and action strategies for problem solution. Attention will also be given to the development and use of structure and leadership, community problem-solving models and roles, tasks and activities related to practice. **Prerequisites:** SW 600, SW 601 (if required), SW 603, SW 620. Three credits. Offered fall semester.

SW 677 Principles of Supervision. Examines the various tasks and techniques related to supervision in social service agencies. Supervision is introduced as an educational process, an administrative function and a development tool. Dimensions of the supervisor/worker relationship will be discussed, with particular attention to the impact of gender and race on the process. **Prerequisites:** SW 600, SW 601 (if required), SW 603, SW 620. Three credits. Offered winter semester.

SW 678 Human Services Administration. Provides a conceptual, theoretical and methodological foundation in the organization and administration of human services. Inter and intra-organizational variables and characteristics are examined which undergird and impinge upon the effective delivery of human services. Issues and forces affecting the social welfare enterprise will be analyzed along with those factors that differentiate human service organizations from other organizational species. **Prerequisites:** SW 600, SW 601 (if required), SW 603, SW 620. Three credits. Offered fall semester.

SW 679 Program Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation. Provides a comprehensive examination of all phases of program development, from the point when an idea is first generated through the process of determining the nature of the program, the steps taken to ensure the effort is proceeding as planned and finally, the assessment of outcomes and impact. **Prerequisites:** SW 600, SW 601 (if required), SW 603, SW 620. Three credits.

SW 680 Special Topics in Social Work. Students study issues and concerns important to the social work profession not ordinarily covered in other courses. Offered in response to the special interests of faculty and students. Topic(s) to be announced in advance of registration. One to four credits.

SW 690 Social Research I. The first of two courses in social work research. Foundation concepts and methodology used for scientific practice, including the investigation and evaluation of social work practice problems, an understanding of techniques and issues in measurements, options in research designs, data collection and analysis, and the development of new knowledge in agencies and programs with particular reference to the generalist orientation. Three credits. Offered winter and spring/summer semesters.

SW 693 Social Research II. The second course in social research. Evaluation of social work practice and development of new knowledge with particular reference to the generalist orientation. Emphasis on demonstrating ways to incorporate research skills as an integral part of social group interventions with individuals, families, and larger systems. Includes both small group research and single-system designs. Particular attention given to the rationale for doing single-system research for evaluating social work practice; procedures for developing single-system designs, recording and assessing data for reliability and validity, and using the results for planning effective intervention and follow-up. Also included is content on research ethics for generalist practitioners. **Prerequisite:** SW 690. Three credits. Offered spring/summer and fall semesters.

SW 694 Master's Thesis. Faculty-supervised study and research on a subject approved by the student's advisor and committee. **Prerequisites:** SW 690 and SW 693 and consent of thesis advisor. Three credits. Offered fall, winter, and spring/summer semesters.

SW 695 Master's Thesis. Continuation of faculty-supervised research on a subject approved by the student's advisor and committee. **Prerequisites:** SW 694 and consent of thesis committee. Three credits. Offered fall, winter, spring/summer semesters.

SW 699 Independent Study. Independent study of an issue related to social welfare or social work theory or practice. **Prerequisite:** Approval of advisor and faculty member directing the study. One, two, or three credits.

GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

The following materials must be collected and submitted in ONE envelope:

- A \$30 non-refundable application fee (unless you have previously applied to Grand Valley and paid this fee).
- Your completed GVSU application for graduate study, typed or neatly printed.
- An official transcript from each undergraduate and graduate institution you have attended.
- Graduate Admission statement. Instructions on page 15.
- Social Justice Statement. A one page, double-spaced essay that addresses the way in which social justice is or is not manifested in a contemporary social problem of your choice/selection. Indicate possible causes and solutions. Be creative.
- A resume, detailing work and volunteer experiences.
- A minimum of three recommendations (recommenders must use our forms), in sealed envelopes, from professional individuals who can respond to the questions on the **enclosed form**. At least one academic reference is preferred in addition to individuals who have supervised your work or volunteer experience. **Note** - Applicants for advanced standing must include a recommendation from their B.S.W. field work experience.
 - Recommendation 1
 - Recommendation 2
 - Recommendation 3
- Coursework Requirement Form
- Collect and submit ALL components for graduate application in one envelope.

SUBMIT ALL MATERIALS IN ONE ENVELOPE TO:

**GVSU - Admissions
1 Campus Dr.
Allendale, MI. 49401**

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING GRADUATE ADMISSION STATEMENT

This statement MUST accompany your application materials submitted to The School of Social Work.

As part of your application for admission to The School of Social Work, you are to write a statement that addresses the five areas listed below. This statement will be used both to assess your writing and critical thinking skills and to aid the Graduate Admissions Office in making a decision about your application. Please adhere to the following guidelines.

- The statement should not exceed five typewritten pages.
 - The statement should be double spaced and use a readable font (Arial, Times New Roman) and size (no smaller than 12 point).
 - Please include a coversheet with your name and identification of the program to which you are applying (Full time program, part time program, full time Advanced Standing or part time Advanced Standing)
 - Please address the following questions in your statement. **Some of the questions contain multiple parts so be sure to read and answer the questions fully.**
1. What motivates you to pursue a master's degree in social work at this time?
 2. The profession of social work is committed to social, political, and economic justice, the alleviation of poverty and oppression, and the reduction of social problems. Address a social problem about which you are particularly concerned. Concisely discuss your understanding of social, political, and economic justice. How do you think that you can advance the aforementioned? What experiences or factors have shaped your interest in advancing justice?
 3. Describe some of your experiences and achievements in school, work (volunteering or employment), and in your personal life. Include a description of any barriers you have encountered in pursuing your education, work, or personal goals. Indicate the steps and strategies you have used, or are using, to overcome these barriers.
 4. Describe examples and experiences that demonstrate you can work effectively with individuals and communities that represent diverse populations (for example but not limited to, people and communities reflecting diverse ethnicities, racial identities, abilities, socio-economic class, gender, or sexual orientations.) Describe any difficulties you have encountered or that you think that you might encounter when working with any of the diverse groups mentioned above.
 5. Please describe your plans for completing the MSW program if you are admitted. For example, how do you plan to balance your work, education, and personal life? What supports are in place for you when you enter field placement?

Required Guidelines for Submitting Recommendation Forms

Forms should be submitted from references with whom you have had a professional work, academic, and/or volunteer experience. For example, you may use teachers, supervisors, and/or social / human services professionals as references.

The School of Social Work will **not** accept recommendation forms from relatives or from those whose primary relationship to the applicant is as a friend.

Reference forms must be submitted in a sealed envelope, with the reference writer's signature written across the sealed edge.

Deadlines:

Applications for Fall semester admission (both full time and part time programs) must be submitted by May 1. All applications meeting the May 1 deadline will be reviewed and considered. Late applications will not be guaranteed review for Fall semester. A small number of applications will be reviewed and considered for part time admission for Winter semester. The Winter semester deadline is October 1.

Advanced Standing Applications must be submitted by February 1 for the following Spring/Summer semester. Late applications **will not** be considered for full time Advanced Standing status. Students wishing to be considered for part time Advanced Standing status may apply for admission to Fall, Winter, or Spring/Summer semesters.

Application Deadlines:

Full time program - Begins Fall semester **only**: May 1 deadline

Part time program - Fall semester start: May 1 deadline
Winter semester start: Oct 1 deadline

Advanced Standing -

Full time program - Begins Spring/Summer semester **only**: Feb 1 deadline

Part time program - Begins any semester, follow semester deadlines above

**GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
RECOMMENDATION FORM**

APPLICANT MUST COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY

NAME OF APPLICANT: _____
(PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY OR TYPE)

Under the provisions of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, applicants who are admitted and enrolled have the right of access to the information provided, unless the applicant waives such access. The applicant's signature below constitutes a waiver signifying that the recommendation will remain CONFIDENTIAL. If there is no signature, the student will have the right to read this reference.

Date: _____ **Signature:** _____

To the evaluator: The student listed above has chosen you to provide a recommendation for them that will be included in the student's application for admission to the Master of Social Work degree program at Grand Valley State University. Please provide your professional review of the student in the spaces provided. Return this form to the student in a sealed, signed envelope.

KNOWLEDGE OF THE APPLICANT

How long have you known the applicant?

What is your relationship to the applicant?

Instructor Supervisor Other (specify)

EVALUATION OF THE APPLICANT

1. What are the applicant's major strengths as a candidate of graduate/professional education in social work?
(Please use an additional sheet as needed)

2. In what areas and to what degree does the applicant need to be strengthened as a potential professional social worker? (Please use an additional sheet as needed)

3. Please rate the applicant in each of the areas listed on the following scale:
 1=Exceptional 2=Good 3=Average 4=Below Average N/A=Unable to Judge

CATEGORY	1	2	3	4	N/A	COMMENTS	Please feel free to comment
INTELLECTUAL ABILITIES:							
Reasoning / Critical Thinking							
Writing Skills							
Open-Mindedness							
Flexibility							
Creativity / Problem Solving							
INTERPERSONAL SKILLS:							
Leadership							
Emotional Stability							
Ability to Work with Others							
Self-Awareness and ability to express ideas and feelings							
Ability to Accept Constructive Feedback							
Communication Skills							
PROFESSIONAL READINESS:							
Maturity and Stability							
Integrity							
Concern for Social Justice							
Capacity to Accept Differences in Ethnicity, Class Structure, etc.							
Motivation of Professional Career in Social Work							
Capacity to Accept Constructive Criticism							

RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING ADMISSION:

_____ **Strongest possible recommendation**
 (Reserve for exceptional applicant, one in upper 10% of peers)

_____ **Recommend but with reservations**
 (Please specify in Question #2 your reservations)

_____ **Recommend very highly**

_____ **Do not recommend**

_____ **Recommend**

Name of Evaluator _____ Title _____

University / Agency / Company _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Email address _____

Signature of Evaluator _____ Date: _____

Reference forms, in sealed signed envelopes, must be included and submitted with your complete application package to: GVSU Admissions, 1 Campus Dr. Allendale, MI. 49401