

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

*The following admission information was updated **November, 2017**. 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, with Enrollment of over 25,000 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 \$627. per credit hour.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Director: Dr. Scott Berlin

- Graduate social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education since 1984.
- Enrollment - Approximately 400 MSW students.
- Faculty - 20 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 Traverse City.
- Class Size - Average size is 12-35 students.

Class Schedules - We offer daytime and evening (12noon -10 pm) classes; however, field education is available only during the day.

Advanced Generalist - Our program specialization is the Advanced Generalist perspective. Additionally, we offer certification of school social work.

Field Education Placement- All MSW students are required to complete field education. Field education placements are assigned to students based upon student interests and experience, requirements of the organizations in which students are placed, and recommendations from advisors and instructors. No credit for work/life experience is allowed for field education in accordance with the Council on Social Work Education standards. Students can request a geographic region for their field placement; the school has the option to place a student within a 50 mile radius. A student completes 315 hours per semester averaging 21-26 hours per week and day time availability is required. Regular Status students complete three semesters and Advanced Standing students complete a two semester placement. Field education occurs during the last 2-3 semesters of the program and is very structured as to when students enter and complete field education. Please reference the Field Education Manual (2013) for specific semesters in which field education is completed. All students are required to attend a three hour field education orientation seminar prior to applying for and entering a field placement. All prerequisites must be met prior to beginning a field education placement.

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.

Teaching and Learning Goals

CSWE Accreditation Standards/Competencies

Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior

Competency 2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice

Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice

Competency 4: Engage in Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice

Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice

Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Competency 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Competency 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

MSW Program Director: Dr. Cray Mulder

GVSU School of Social Work Mission

The School of Social Work derives its mission from Grand Valley State University's mission of liberally educating students to shape their lives, their professions, and their societies. Toward that end, the School prepares its students to attain social work practice and professional leadership; advance the field's knowledge of effective professional practice and education through research and evaluation; enhance and sustain the welfare and well-being of the citizens, organizations and communities of West Michigan, the state, the nation, and the world; and further the goals of the University and of the social work profession in this region and beyond.

All of the School's programs are grounded in the profession's body of knowledge, values and skills that support and enhance the opportunities, resources, and capacities of people to achieve their full potential; prevent and alleviate personal, interpersonal, organizational and societal problems; and improve the conditions that limit human development and adversely impact the quality of human life. The School celebrates and affirms the importance of diversity in all of its forms, and it supports the expansion of human rights, cultural competence, empowerment, social and political justice, civic participation and equality in West Michigan and around the world.

The School's legacy emphases on social justice and on meeting the significant professional workforce needs of an expansive West Michigan social services sector remain strong. A third

distinctive feature of the School is its integration and promotion of domestic and international service learning opportunities that prepare our students for 21st century practice in increasingly global economic and social contexts.

A. School of Social Work Goals

The School of Social Work's goals are derived from its mission to serve Western Michigan and the broader world through effective teaching, the provision of a professional curriculum rooted in the tenets of a liberal education, focused scholarship; an emphasis on diversity and social justice, and a commitment to serve individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities in need.

The goals of the School also reflect and help operationalize Grand Valley State University's mission to educate students to shape their lives, their professions, and their societies. Acknowledging the unique geographic position of the School within West Michigan, which has many impoverished rural, suburban and urban communities as well as with a thriving core of philanthropic family foundations; these goals also reflect the School's longstanding commitment to promoting, achieving and sustaining social and economic justice, multiculturalism, and diversity through the efforts of its faculty, students and professional staff.

The School's goals further reflect its commitment to prepare competent and effective professionals, develop and promulgate social work knowledge, and provide leadership to human service delivery systems and the social work profession as a means of achieving its mission. Echoing the profession's history, purposes, and philosophy, these goals are based on a shared commitment to educate social workers for effective practice in the 21st century; contribute to the ongoing development and improvement of the profession's knowledge, value, and skill bases; and, provide leadership and other key supports to the social services communities and the social work profession in West Michigan and beyond.

The **School's** overarching goals are:

1. The School of Social Work provides a generalist social work curriculum in a high quality learning environment that prepares BSW graduates for entry level social work practice that promotes social and economic justice and endeavors to address poverty and other social problems within organizational, individual, and community contexts within, but not limited to, West Michigan and the state of Michigan.
2. The School of Social Work provides an MSW foundation curriculum in a high quality learning environment that prepares students for success in the advanced generalist community social work concentration.
3. The School of Social Work provides an advanced generalist social work curriculum that prepares MSW graduates for autonomous social work practice that promotes social and economic justice and endeavors to address poverty and other social problems within organizational, individual, and community contexts within, but not limited to, West Michigan and the state of Michigan.
4. Graduates of all programs of the School of Social work exhibit a professional commitment to enhancing social justice, promoting human rights, ensuring the dignity and worth of all individuals, practicing with integrity, upholding one or more of the profession's *Code of Ethics*, incorporating diversity into their practice, and advancing the profession's reputation and knowledge base.
5. Graduates of all programs of the School have the knowledge, skills and values they need to create and/or identify and acquire new information about professional social work practice as such information becomes available throughout the course of their careers.

6. Graduates of all programs of the School are competent users of technologies and proficient consumers of training opportunities that support their lifelong professional development, and they are committed to remaining professionally and technologically proficient throughout the course of their careers in the social work profession.

ADMISSION CATEGORIES and ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Students are admitted to one of two MSW programs.

1. Regular degree seeking status (60 credit hours) program or
2. Advanced Standing degree seeking status (41 credit hours) program

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

Basic Requirements

- 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 degree seeking 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.
- Conditional admission: 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 bachelor's degree) 12 or more hours of upper division undergraduate work. Students considering doing so are encouraged to contact the School of Social Work. 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 between 2.74 and 2.50. Applicants not meeting the basic requirements set forth must include a letter of appeal with explanations clearly defining their academic deficiencies. Applicants who do not include a letter of appeal will not be considered for admission.
- 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 credit hours of social and 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 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 March 15 for regular standing and advanced standing part time status. The deadline for advanced standing full time status is February 1. The deadline for winter admissions for regular status part time applicants is October 1. **Early application is strongly encouraged.** If using the paper application and forms, all admission materials must be submitted in one envelope. If applying online, follow the online instructions. The applicant's file is reviewed by the School's Admissions committee, which makes a disposition of each completed application on a first-come, first-served basis. We do not guarantee the review of late applications for the requested admission period. Late applicants will be admitted on the basis of remaining vacancies or the next available semester. The Director reserves the right to require an interview and/or any additional information deemed appropriate and necessary. All students admitted to the regular full time MSW program begin in the Fall semester only.

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 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 of 3.0 in all social work courses; or a 3.5 or above **cumulative** GPA in all 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. Applicants for advanced standing status must include a recommendation form completed by their B.S.W. field instructor or faculty field liaison.

Advanced Standing admissions are NOT guaranteed on the basis of GPA or course grades alone. Decisions on Advanced Standing admissions are based upon those scores as a baseline, but final decisions also include the essay response and professional recommendations. The University, College or School may, additionally, impose limitations in the number of available seats for incoming Advanced Standing students, or higher eligibility standards for Advanced Standing based upon a need to balance enrollment or other external factors.

Full time advanced standing students are exempt from 15 hours of first-year core or foundation courses and the first semester of field education and may therefore accelerate their graduate study by completing the remaining 41 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 38 hours the degree requirements remaining for completion.

- Students admitted to the **full time advanced standing** program must begin their classroom studies during the spring/summer semester and continue full time during the subsequent **fall and winter semesters, which includes the two semester field education placement.** All advanced standing applicants **MUST** attend a mandatory Field Education orientation, prior to commencement of their studies.
- Students admitted to the **part time advanced standing** program **begin their classroom studies fall semester.** The part time advanced standing program is a five semester program, with a two year (six semester maximum) limit for completion. All part time advanced standing applicants **MUST** attend a mandatory Field Education orientation, prior to commencement of their studies.
- Advanced standing students must maintain a 3.0 or better cumulative GPA in order to remain in the advanced standing program. Students with a cumulative GPA that goes below a 3.0 will lose the advanced standing status and will be required to take the exempted foundation courses.

Application Deadlines:

Advanced Standing – Full time	Feb. 1	Begin Spring/Summer semester only
Advanced Standing – Part time	Mar. 15	Begin Fall semester only

Decision Deadlines Information:

Full time 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.

Regular Standing Degree Status

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.**

Application Deadlines:

Regular program – Full time	Mar. 15	Begin Fall semester only
Regular program – Part time	Mar. 15	Begin Fall semester
Regular program – Part time	Oct. 1	Begin Winter semester

All applications meeting the March 15 or October 1 deadline will be reviewed and considered. Late applications will not be guaranteed review.

Field Education

MSW Field Education Coordinator: Deborah Ronk, LMSW

The MSW Field Education internship 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. Field Education placements are made in a wide variety of human service settings, in the public and private sectors **during regular business hours.**

The School's Field Education 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 approximately 20 - 26 hours per week, Monday through Friday between 8AM and 5PM or in keeping with agency requirements. Field Education placement is done concurrently with classroom courses. Field Education 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 of Social Work and the particular needs and interests of individual students.

Prior to entering Field Practice all students must take a three hour Field Education orientation seminar. Call the Social Work Field Education office for offered times, 616-331-6563. The Orientation Seminar schedule will be sent out on the Listserv and be posted on our SSW website.

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 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. A grade of "B" or better (3.0 GPA) is required for transfer credit.

Transfer Credit

The School of Social Work may accept a maximum of 18 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

School Social Work Advisor: Dr. Elaine Ragsdale Schott

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.**

Appeal of Graduate Admissions Decisions

Admissions decisions may be appealed to the Graduate Program Director and then to the dean of the College of Community and Public Service.

Students who are non-degree seeking may appeal an admissions decision to the dean of The Graduate School.

MSW STUDENT STUDY PLAN - Regular Program Requirements

REQUIRED COURSES: 'Chalk and Wire' used in all required courses

Foundation core (all required):

	Credits	Competencies
SW 600 - Cultural Competency for Social Work	Credits: 3	2, 3
*SW 601 - Social Work Foundations	Credits: 3	1, 6
SW 603 - Integrated Methods	Credits: 3	7, 8, 9
SW 610 - Social Welfare Policy and Services I	Credits: 3	3, 5
SW 620 - Human Behavior and the Social Environment	Credits: 3	2, 7
SW 690 - Social Research I (Test-out exam available)	Credits: 3	4
<i>*See your Advisor – SW 601 not required for students with CSWE accredited BSW undergraduate degrees or Child Welfare Grantees. If waived, students take an elective in place of SW 601.</i>		

Advanced core (all required):

SW 622 - Clinical Diagnosis and Treatment Planning	Credits: 3	6, 7, 8
SW 662 - Substance Abuse and Social Work Practice	Credits: 3	6, 7, 8
SW 670 - Social Work Practice with Individuals	Credits: 3	8, 9
SW 691 - Social Research II	Credits: 3	4

Field Education (all required):

SW 650 - Field Education I	Credits: 3	1 - 9
SW 651 - Field Education Seminar I	Credits: 1	1 - 9
SW 652 - Field Education II	Credits: 3	1 - 9
SW 653 - Field Education Seminar II	Credits: 1	1 - 9
SW 654 - Field Education III	Credits: 3	1 - 9
SW 655 - Field Education Seminar III	Credits: 1	1 - 9

Capstone (required):

SW 640 - Seminar in Advanced Generalist Practice (capstone)	Credits: 3	1, 2
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SELECTED COURSES:

Advanced Policy (choose 1 of 4):

SW 612 - Social Policy: Families and Children	Credits: 3
SW 614 - Social Policy and Mental Health	Credits: 3
SW 630 - Social Work: Global Service-Learning	Credits: 3
SW 631 - Social Work: U.S. Community-Based Service Learning	Credits: 3

Advanced Micro-core (choose 1 of 2):

SW 672 - Social Work Practice with Groups	Credits: 3
SW 674 - Social Work Practice: Families and Children	Credits: 3

Advanced Macro-core (choose 2 of 4):

SW 660 - Grant Writing and Resource Development	Credits: 3
SW 676 - Community and Social Planning	Credits: 3
SW 677 - Principles of Supervision	Credits: 3
SW 678 - Human Services Administration	Credits: 3
SW 679 - Program Monitoring and Evaluation	Credits: 3

Electives (choose 1) Any course from above list not taken to satisfy requirements or:

SW 613 - Human Rights and Social Work	Credits: 3
SW 665 - Aging in Contemporary Society	Credits: 3
SW 667 - Holistic Practices in Social Work	Credits: 3
SW 668 - Child and Adolescent Trauma	Credits: 3
SW 669 - Responses to Loss and Death	Credits: 3
SW 671 - Social Work Practice in Health Care	Credits: 3
SW 673 - Social Work Practice with Children and Adolescents	Credits: 3
SW 675 - Child Welfare and Family Services	Credits: 3
SW 680 - Special Topics in Social Work	Credits: 1 to 4
SW 695 - Master's Thesis	Credits: 6
SW 699 - Independent Study	Credits: 1 to 3

----- 60 credits required

SW 664 – Social Work Practice in Schools Credits: 4

For State of Michigan Certification as a school social worker. This course does not apply to the 60 credits needed to earn the MSW degree. This course is taken over and above the required 60 credits.

Revised Nov. 2017

MSW STUDENT STUDY PLAN
Advanced Standing Program Requirements

REQUIRED COURSES:

'Chalk and Wire' used in all required courses

Foundation core (required):

*SW 690 - Social Research I
 * Test-out exam available.

Credits	Competencies
Credits: 3	4

Advanced core (all required):

SW 622 - Clinical Diagnosis and Treatment Planning
 SW 662 - Substance Abuse and Social Work Practice
 SW 670 - Social Work Practice with Individuals
 SW 691 - Social Research II

Credits: 3	6, 7, 8
Credits: 3	6, 7, 8
Credits: 3	8, 9
Credits: 3	4

Field Education (all required):

SW 652 - Field Education II
 SW 653 - Field Education Seminar II
 SW 654 - Field Education III
 SW 655 - Field Education Seminar III

Credits: 3	1 - 9
Credits: 1	1 - 9
Credits: 3	1 - 9
Credits: 1	1 - 9

Capstone (required):

SW 640 - Seminar in Advanced Generalist Practice (capstone)

Credits: 3	1, 2
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SELECTED COURSES:

Advanced policy (choose 1 of 4):

SW 612 - Social Policy: Families and Children
 SW 614 - Social Policy and Mental Health
 SW 630 - Social Work: Global Service-Learning
 SW 631 - Social Work: U.S. Community-Based Service Learning

Credits: 3
Credits: 3
Credits: 3
Credits: 3

Advanced Micro-core (choose 1 of 2):

SW 672 - Social Work Practice with Groups
 SW 674 - Social Work Practice: Families and Children

Credits: 3
Credits: 3

Advanced Macro-core (choose 2 of 4):

SW 660 - Grant Writing and Resource Development
 SW 676 - Community and Social Planning
 SW 677 - Principles of Supervision
 SW 678 - Human Services Administration
 SW 679 - Program Monitoring and Evaluation

Credits: 3
Credits: 3
Credits: 3
Credits: 3
Credits: 3

Electives (choose 1) Any course from above list not taken to satisfy requirements or:

SW 613 - Human Rights and Social Work
 SW 665 - Aging in Contemporary Society
 SW 667 - Holistic Practices in Social Work
 SW 668 - Child and Adolescent Trauma
 SW 669 - Responses to Loss and Death
 SW 671 - Social Work Practice in Health Care
 SW 673 - Social Work Practice with Children and Adolescents
 SW 675 - Child Welfare and Family Services
 SW 680 - Special Topics in Social Work
 SW 695 - Master's Thesis
 SW 699 - Independent Study

Credits: 3
Credits: 3
Credits: 3
Credits: 3
Credits: 3
Credits: 3
Credits: 3
Credits: 3
Credits: 1 to 4
Credits: 6
Credits: 1 to 3

----- 41 credits required

Students successfully testing out of SW 690----- 38 credits required

SW 664 - Social Work Practice in Schools

Credits: 4

For State of Michigan Certification as a school social worker. This course does not apply to the 41 credits needed to earn the MSW degree. This course is taken over and above the required 41 credits.

Revised Nov. 2017

MSW Courses of Instruction

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

SW 600 - Cultural Competency for Social Work.

This course examines cross-cultural practices and values, with emphasis on the commonalities and differences among individuals, groups, organizations, and communities. Emphasis is given to 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.

Examines 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 engagement with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Three credits.

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.

Prerequisite SW 601.

SW 610 - Social Welfare Policy and Services I.

This course examines social services delivery systems in the United States, including the profession of social work; an analysis of the historical development in economic, political, and social contexts. Three credits.

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.

SW 613 - Human Rights and Social Work.

This course will provide the theoretical, conceptual, and practical foundation for social workers to engage in a human rights-based approach to social work. Students will gain an understanding of how the international human rights principles can be applied to social work practice in domestic and international settings. Prerequisite: SW 610. Three credits.

SW 614 - Social Policy and Mental Health.

This course examines the development of health care, mental health, and substance abuse policies and services in the United States. Public policies and organizations are analyzed and evaluated in relationship to trends, impacts, and outcomes on the problems of physical and mental illness and substance abuse in society. Prerequisite: SW 610. Three credits.

SW 620 - Human Behavior and the Social Environment.

The course synthesizes and applies theories of human behavior and the social environment into social work practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities, based on the person-environment construct and biopsychosocial-spiritual assessment models. Special attention will be the effects of diversity and difference, and lifespan development. 3 credits.

SW 622 - Clinical Diagnosis and Treatment Planning.

Provides a comprehensive body of knowledge, organized and integrated in both theoretical and practical terms. Includes an awareness of the dimensions of mental health and mental disorders in adulthood. Provides a bio-psychosocial spiritual strength-based perspective on engagement with, assessment of, and intervention in normal and abnormal behavior. Prerequisites: SW 600 and SW 620. Three credits.

SW 630 - Social Work: Global Service-Learning.

Examines social work practice in a location outside the United States, using a service-learning approach. Students learn the social service system, politics, policies and history of the culture(s) in an experiential manner. The advanced social worker develops greater interconnectedness between social work, social justice, and civic/global responsibility. Prerequisites: SW 610 and instructor

permission. Three credits.

SW 631 - Social Work: U.S. Community-Based Service Learning.

Examines social work practice in a location with the U.S., using a service-learning approach. Students learn the social service system, politics, policies and history of the culture(s) or communities served in an experiential manner. The advanced social worker develops greater interconnectedness between social work, social justice, and civic responsibility. Prerequisites: SW 610 and instructor permission. Three credits.

SW 640 - Seminar in Advanced Generalist Practice. (Capstone)

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.) Must be taken concurrently with SW 654 and SW 655. Three credits.

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, SW 603, and SW 620. Concurrent with SW 651.

Offered on a credit/no credit basis. Three credits.

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. 15 clock hours.

SW 652 - Field Education II.

A continuation of SW 650. A 315-clock-hour applied field practicum that 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. Concurrent with SW 653. Three credits.

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 setting as generalist practitioners. Prerequisites: SW 650 and SW 651. Concurrent with SW 652. Offered on a credit/no credit basis. One credit. 15 clock hours.

SW 654 - Field Education III.

A continuation of SW 652. A 315-clock-hour applied field practicum that has been contracted by students. Emphasis on the advanced application of assessment, intervention, and evaluation skills within the generalist framework. Prerequisites: SW 650, SW 651, SW 652, and SW 653. Concurrent with SW 654 and SW 640. Three credits. Offered on a credit/no credit basis.

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 650, SW 651, SW 652 and SW 653. Concurrent with SW 654 and 640. Offered on a credit/no credit basis. One credit. 15 clock hours.

SW 660 - Grant Writing and Resource Development.

This course provides students with instruction in how to find grant resources, develop grant proposals and associated budgets and evaluate outside proposals. Students will learn to diversify agency financial resources through planned giving, corporate requests, endowment campaigns and special events. Prerequisite: SW 603. Three credits.

SW 662; Substance Abuse and Social Work Practice.

This course focuses on the social work impact on substance abuse issues. Examines the etiology(ies) of substance abuse and/or chemical dependency; epidemiology of substance use; methods of prevention, assessment, and treatment; and global policy related to substance use and abuse. Issues of economic and social justice will be emphasized. Issues of economic and social justice will be emphasized. Prerequisites: SW 600 and SW 620. Three credits.

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, SW 603, SW 610, and SW 620. Four credits.

SW 665 - Aging in Contemporary Society.

This course details specialized knowledge of social work practice with older adults, their families, caregivers, and professionals. Theories of aging and social work practice principles are applied to address contemporary issues that impact older adults' goals for individual autonomy, appropriate health care, income security, and social supports. Three credits.

SW 667; Holistic Practices in Social Work.

Explores health from a holistic/ integrative perspective. Introduces energy management for behavioral transformation. Interventions to address the physical, emotional, relational, spiritual/energetic, and nutritive are addressed, through mind, body, and spirit dynamic application for holistic health and self-actualization. Prerequisite: SW 603. Three credits.

SW 668 - Child and Adolescent Trauma.

This course explores intervention with traumatized children and adolescents. Assessment foci include the role of development, culture, and evidence based trauma-specific practice with children, adolescents and their families. Other topics include: trauma focused CBT, identification of risk and protective factors that foster resiliency, caregiver interventions, and strengths-based practice. Offered winter and spring/summer semesters. Prerequisite: SW 670. Three credits.

SW 669 - Responses to Loss and Death.

This course examines death, grief, and loss in America including theories, cultural rituals, social traditions, and taboos before and after death. Psychological and spiritual foundations of death, grief, and loss are explored from multiple perspectives and cultures including the experience of grief and bereavement for individuals, groups, and communities. Course offered winter semester. Prerequisite: Post baccalaureate status or permission of instructor. Three credits.

SW 670 - Social Work Practice with Individuals.

Focuses on selected knowledge and skills from a person-in-environment perspective and approaches working with individual clients, the cognitive/behavioral and psychosocial models and their application to social work practice. Emphases on approaches that enhance social function, strengthen problem-solving capacities, and support the coping capacities on individual adults. Prerequisite: SW 603. Three credits.

SW 671 - Social Work Practice in Health Care.

Social work skills pertinent to health care settings, including assessment of the impact of illness, treatments, and inter-professional health care work are examined. Students appraise the effects of illness on patients and families. Models of the intervention process and health care theories are compared and applied to practice. Prerequisite: SW 603. Three credits.

SW 672 - Social Work Practice with Groups.

This experiential course helps students increase their awareness of group dynamics and processes, and integrate underlying theories and concepts of both task and personal change group structures. Includes content on treatment groups with diverse populations, group planning in a variety of situations, task groups, educational groups, and crisis groups. Prerequisite: SW 603. Three credits.

SW 673 - Social Work Practice with Children and Adolescents.

The course prepares students for direct practice with children and adolescents who are experiencing developmental stress, disruptions and challenges, life crises, trauma, separations, and mental health risks. Content encompasses multiple perspectives in the advanced application of theories, models and skills utilized in various treatment models. Prerequisites: SW 603 and SW 622. Three credits.

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 skills. Concepts from several current models of family practice are studied and drawn upon. Prerequisite: SW 603. Three credits.

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. Prerequisite: SW 603. Three Credits.

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 situations. Includes theories of community power and influence, inter-organizational relationships and action strategies for problem solution. Prerequisite: SW 603. Three credits.

SW 677 - Principles of Supervision.

This course examines the various tasks and techniques related to supervision in social service agencies. Dimensions of the supervisor/worker relationship are discussed with an emphasis on the impact of race and gender, interactional processes and clinical skill development. Prerequisite: SW 603. Three credits.

SW 678 - Human Services Administration.

Provides a conceptual, theoretical, and methodological foundation in the organization and administration of human services. Inter and intra-organizational characteristics that impinge upon the effective delivery of human services are examined. Forces affecting the social welfare enterprise are analyzed along with factors that differentiate human service organizations from other organizational types. Prerequisite: SW 603. Three credits.

SW 679 - Program 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. Prerequisite: SW 603. 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. Prerequisites: SW 600, SW 601, SW 603, SW 610 and SW 620. 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. Three credits.

SW 691 - Social Research II. (formerly SW 693)

Examines qualitative research methods in a small scale project, including interviewing and observational data collection methods, with attention to research ethics and the protection of human subjects. Qualitative data analysis techniques, the generation of conclusions, and writing in-depth implications for social work will be addressed. Prerequisite: SW 690. Three credits.

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.

SW 695 - Master's Thesis.

Continuation of faculty-supervised research and writing on a subject approved by the student's advisor and committee. Prerequisites: SW 690, SW 693 and successful completion of SW 694 and consent of thesis committee. Three credits.

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.

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

The following materials must be collected and submitted in ONE envelope if using the paper application forms. If applying online, follow the online instructions:

- Your completed GVSU application for graduate study, typed or neatly printed. (This is a separate application form, available online or in the SSW application packet.)**
- A \$30 non-refundable application fee (unless you have previously applied to Grand Valley and paid this fee).
- An official transcript from each undergraduate and graduate institution you have attended.
- Graduate Admission statement. Instructions on page 16.
- A resume, detailing work and volunteer experiences.
- A minimum of three recommendations from **professional and/or academic** individuals who can speak first hand to your professional or academic work. Recommenders should use the online electronic form found on the online graduate school application or use the form found at the end of this packet. At least one academic reference is preferred in addition to individuals who have supervised your work or volunteer experience.
Note - Applicants for advanced standing status must include a recommendation form completed by their B.S.W. field instructor or faculty field liaison.

- Recommendation 1
- Recommendation 2
- Recommendation 3

- Coursework Requirement Form (found on Page 18).
- Letter of Appeal. Applicants not meeting the basic requirements such as: 3.0 grade point average, 18 credit hours in social sciences, etc. set forth must include a letter of appeal with explanations clearly defining their academic deficiencies.
- Collect and submit ALL components for the MSW program/graduate application in one envelope. Online electronic graduate school application, transcripts, and online electronic recommendation forms can be submitted separately, directly to GVSU Admissions.

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 you think 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 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. Relatives, friends, or individuals who cannot speak first hand to your professional or academic work may render non-acceptance of the application.

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

RECAP

Deadlines:

Applications for Fall semester admission (both full time and part time regular status programs) must be submitted by March 15. All applications meeting the March 15 deadline will be reviewed and considered. Late applications will not be guaranteed review.

Full time Advanced Standing applications must be submitted by February 1. Students wishing to be considered for full time Advanced Standing status will begin Spring/Summer semester only.

Part time Advanced Standing applications must be submitted by March 15. Students wishing to be considered for part time Advanced Standing status will begin Fall Semester only.

Application Deadlines:

Regular MSW program

Full time - Begins Fall semester only, March 15 deadline

Part time - Begins Fall semester, March 15 deadline

Part time - Begins Winter semester, October 1 deadline

Advanced Standing -

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

Part time - Begins Fall semester **only**: March 15 deadline

**GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
MSW ADMISSIONS**

**COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS FORM
IN HUMAN BIOLOGICAL, SOCIAL, AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**

As stated in the GVSU School of Social Work Admission requirements, all applicants must have a broad liberal arts perspective with a minimum of 18 credit hours in social and behavioral science courses, such as sociology, psychology, social work, anthropology, cultural studies, political science, religion, economics, history, philosophy and/or human services. Please list prior academic courses in these areas. This information will be used to determine whether you will need to take prerequisite courses prior to admission in the MSW program. **This form MUST be submitted with your application packet.**

Applicants Name: _____

Course number and name	Number of credits	Grade received	Year and semester taken

*******Complete and submit this form with your application packet. *******