



UNIVERSITY *of* MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

2026

Admissions Information

INTRODUCTION.....	4
MSW PROGRAM OPTIONS	5
Advanced Standing Hybrid MSW Program - 36 Credits	5
Hybrid MSW Program - 60 Credits	6
Online MSW Program - 60 Credits	7
Concentrations	8
Practicum	8
Foundation Practicum	8
Advanced Practicum.....	8
Advanced Extended Practicum.....	9
SSW International Practicum Placement Program (Returning for the 2025-2026 AY).....	9
Employment-Based Practicum Opportunities	9
Dual Degree Programs	9
MSW and Juris Doctor.....	9
MSW and Leadership in Jewish Education and Communal Service.....	9
MSW and Master of Business Administration.....	10
MSW and Master of Public Health.....	10
MSW and Master of Public Policy	10
MSW and Medical Cannabis Science, Therapeutics, and Policy Certificate	10
CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION.....	11
60 Credit Hybrid and Online MSW Program Admission Requirements	11
36 Credit Hybrid Advanced Standing Program Admission Requirements.....	11
Additional Eligibility Notes	12
Transferring from Another MSW Program.....	12
Transfer Credit for Practicum Education	12
APPLICATION INFORMATION	13
Personal Statement Essays.....	14
Required MSW Program Statement.....	14
Optional Statement.....	15
Application Fees	15
Application Fee Waiver.....	16
Supplemental Application Items	16
Transcripts.....	16
References.....	16
• Applicants for the 60 credit MSW program	16

• Applicants for the 36 credit Advanced Standing program.....	17
Resume	17
Additional Application Requirements	23
Transfer Credit from Another Master's Program	23
Transfer Credit for Work Experience	24
Applicants with International Credentials	17
English Proficiency	17
English Proficiency Waiver	17
Applicants with Criminal Legal Systems Involvement.....	18
CL Involvement Questionnaire:	18
Documentation of CL involvement	18
Information Meeting.....	19
Readmission and Reinstatement after Dismissal.....	19
Dismissal from Another Program	15
Tuition and Financial Aid	19
Tuition Costs (2024-2025 Academic Year)*	19
Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA).....	20
Financial Aid Advice for Social Work Applicants	20
Scholarships	20
Want More Information?.....	26
<i>ADMISSION AND ENROLLMENT INFORMATION</i>	<i>21</i>
Notification of Admission Decision	21
Provisional Admits	21
Deferring Enrollment	22
Changing Enrollment Status	22
Campus Transfer Policy	22
Steps Once Accepted	22
Testing out of Foundation Coursework (Exemption Exams)	23
Incoming Student Pre-Requisite Course (SOWK 690)	23
Disability Accommodations.....	24
VA Educational Benefits	24
Student-Right-To Know	24
Rescinding an Offer of Admission.....	24
<i>ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SSW.....</i>	<i>25</i>
Accreditation	25
Nondiscrimination Policy	25
Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Statement and Guiding Principles ..Error!	

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the University of Maryland School of Social Work—a vibrant and inclusive community of passionate individuals dedicated to making a positive impact on society. As one of the top-ranked schools of social work in the nation, we offer a transformative educational experience that combines rigorous academic training with real-world practice. Whether you are a seasoned professional looking to advance your career or an aspiring changemaker eager to fight for social justice, our faculty, staff, and students are here to support and empower you every step of the way. We look forward to helping you navigate the path to becoming a compassionate and influential social work leader.

Applications for our Spring 2026 and Fall 2026 semesters open on September 1, 2025.

PROGRAM	TERM	APPLICATION DEADLINE	DECISION BY
60-credit Hybrid MSW	Spring (part-time only)	Nov 1	Dec 1
	Fall (full & part-time)	Priority - Jan 15 Final - Mar 15	Priority - Mar 1 Final - May 1
36-credit Hybrid Advanced Standing MSW	Spring (part-time only)	Nov 1	Dec 1
	Fall (full & part-time)	Feb 1	Mar 1
60-credit Online MSW	Fall (part-time only)	Priority - Jan 15 Final - Mar 15	Priority - Mar 1 Final - May 1
36-credit Online Advanced Standing MSW	Fall (full-time only)	Feb 1	Mar 1

MSW PROGRAM OPTIONS

We offer a range of flexible and specialized pathways to help you achieve your academic and career goals. Explore our program choices below and find the one that best suits your needs.

Advanced Standing Hybrid MSW Program - 36 Credits

Already earned a Bachelor of Social Work? Our 36 credit Hybrid Advanced Standing MSW program is tailored for you. Complete your MSW degree in just 11 months to 2 years and enhance your existing skills and knowledge.

	Baltimore	USG
Campus	Baltimore	Rockville
Entry Term	Spring (part time only) or Fall (full or part-time)	Spring (part time only) or Fall (full or part-time)
Time to Degree	Full Time 3 semesters Part Time 4 semesters	
Concentrations	Leadership, Policy, and Social Change (LPSC) or Clinical	Clinical
Course Format(s)	Mix of in-person, hybrid, & online	
In-Person Practicum* (<i>real-world social work experience</i>)	Full Time Year 1: *2 or 3 days/week	
	Part Time Year 2: *2 or 3 days/week	

*For students in their advanced practicum, an extended practicum option is available. Students attend practicum 2 days/week from August through mid-July.

Eligibility: Requires a Bachelor of Social Work degree (see below for additional information)

Program Length: [11 months to 2 years](#)

Learning Format: Majority of in-person or hybrid with some online asynchronous/synchronous classes

Campus: Available at both Baltimore and USG

Concentrations: Choose between the Clinical and the Leadership, Policy, & Social Change (LPSC) concentrations. The Clinical and LPSC concentrations are both available at the Baltimore campus, with an opportunity to have a sub-concentration. The Clinical concentration is available at the USG campus, with an opportunity to have an LPSC sub-concentration.

Program Start: Spring and Fall semester start

Hybrid MSW Program - 60 Credits

Join our 60 credit Hybrid MSW program, designed to provide a balanced blend of in-person and online learning experiences. This program offers you the flexibility to choose your completion timeline, spanning from 2 years up to 3 years. Whether you have a background in social work or not, our foundational courses will ensure you develop a strong understanding of social work theory and practice.

	Baltimore	USG
Campus	Baltimore	Rockville
Entry Term	Spring (part-time only) or Fall (full or part-time)	Spring (part-time only) or Fall (full or part-time)
Time to Degree	Full Time 4 semesters Part Time 5-8 semesters	
Concentrations	Leadership, Policy, and Social Change (LPSC) or Clinical	Clinical
Course Format(s)	Mix of in-person, hybrid, & online	
In-Person Practicum* (<i>real-world social work experience</i>)	Full Time Year 1: 2 days/week Year 2: *2 or 3 days/week	
	Part Time Year 2: 2 days/week Year 3 or 4: *2 or 3 days/week	

*For students in their advanced practicum, an extended practicum option is available. Students attend practicum 2 days/week from August through mid-July.

Learning Format: Majority in-person or hybrid, with some online asynchronous/synchronous classes

Program Length: [2 to 3 years](#)

Campus: Available at both Baltimore and The Universities at Shady Grove (USG) campus

Concentrations: Choose between the Clinical and the Leadership, Policy, & Social Change (LPSC) concentrations. The Clinical and LPSC concentrations are both available at the Baltimore campus, with an opportunity to have a sub-concentration. The Clinical concentration is available at the USG campus, with an opportunity to have an LPSC sub-concentration.

Program Start: Spring and Fall semester start

Online MSW Program – 36 and 60 Credits

Prefer the flexibility of online learning? Our 3-year, 36 or 60 credit Online MSW program allows you to complete your degree remotely while gaining the same comprehensive education as our hybrid programs. This program is ideal for students interested in the Clinical Concentration.

Program Type	Online Program (Part-Time Only)	Advanced Standing Online Program (Full-Time Only)
Campus	Fully Online	Fully Online
Entry Term	Fall	Fall
# of Credits	60	36
Time to Degree	9 semesters (3 Years w/ Summers)	4 semesters (16 months)
Concentration	Clinical	Clinical
Course Format(s)	Mix of Online Sync & Async	Mix of Online Sync & Async
In-Person Practicum* (real-world social work experience)	Year 2 2 days/week	Year 1 *2 or 3 days/week
	Year 3 *2 or 3 days/week	

*For students in their advanced practicum, an extended practicum option is available. Students attend practicum 2 days/week from August until mid-July the following year. Sync classes meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Learning Format: Fully online (majority synchronous courses), with an in-person practicum component

Program Length: 15 months-[3 years](#)

Concentration: Clinical only

Program Start: Fall semester start only

Concentrations

Your [concentration](#) will determine your advanced curriculum.

- **Clinical:** provides the skills for therapeutic work with individuals and families in a variety of settings.
- **Leadership, Policy, & Social Change (formerly Macro):** learn to improve organizations, communities, and society through policy advocacy, organizational leadership, and community organizing within a person-first and social justice framework.

Practicum

The Practicum requirement will be one of the most exciting and transformative components of your MSW program. You will get the opportunity to apply classroom knowledge in real-world internships at social work agencies, where you will directly impact individuals and communities. This hands-on experience is a valuable opportunity to develop and refine your professional skills in a supervised and supportive setting.

If you're enrolled in the **60-Credit Hybrid** or **Online MSW programs**, you'll complete both a foundation and an advanced practicum placement. If you're in the **Advanced Standing** program, you'll only need to complete the advanced placement.

The Office of Practicum Education (OPE) arranges the practicum placements, which typically take place during traditional workday hours throughout the academic year, from fall to spring. It's important to note that the OPE cannot arrange placements that only occur during evenings or weekends. Placements are generally within a 50-mile radius of your home throughout Maryland and nearby areas.

Foundation and advanced placements usually happen in different settings, providing you with varied experiences. More detailed information can be found in the [Practicum Education Manual](#)

Foundation Practicum

The foundation practicum is designed to build generalist skills by placing you in an agency that expands on your previous experience. Typically, you'll spend two full days a week (either Mondays/Wednesdays or Tuesdays/Thursdays) in your placement from September to April, totaling 55 days for the Foundation year. Each practicum day should last between four and eight hours. Foundation students also participate in a monthly, 90-minute online seminar providing you with an opportunity to discuss your practicum experience and bridge the application of theory in practice.

Advanced Practicum

In your advanced year, you'll spend three full days a week (usually Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays) in your practicum placement from September to April, totaling 85 days for the Advanced year. Each practicum day will also last between four and eight hours. Unlike foundation students, advanced students do not participate in practicum seminars.

Advanced Extended Practicum

If spending three days a week in your practicum is not feasible, Advanced students have the option to intern two days a week, essentially extending their practicum from September through July. If you choose this option, you'll need to apply for graduation for the summer term and your diploma will be awarded in August.

SSW International Placement Program (Returning for the 2025-2026 AY)

For the 2025-2026 academic year, we're offering international advanced practicum placements in London, UK, and Cochin, India. If you choose this option, you'll live on campus at a partner university, take MSW courses there, and complete your practicum in local agencies. These placements last five to six months, starting in the summer and continuing through the fall semester. You'll earn 18 credits towards your advanced curriculum, including your full advanced practicum. To participate, you'll need to apply, interview, and take part in preparation and team-building activities.

Employment-Based Practicum Opportunities

If you're already working in a social service setting, you may qualify for an employment-based practicum placement. When completing your Practicum Placement application, you'll need to declare your intention for an Employment-Based practicum placement and submit a proposal showing your job meets specific criteria. You will need approval from both your employer and the OPE. If you're interested in this option, find additional information on the Practicum Education website.

Dual Degree Programs

The SSW offers six [dual degree programs](#) in partnership with other schools on campus and universities in the region. Students accepted into the MSW program and one of the participating dual-degree programs must meet with the designated SSW faculty coordinator and the academic advisor to develop an individualized plan of study.

MSW and Juris Doctor

Offered through University of Maryland School of Social Work and University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and can be completed within four years, with study for one summer typically required. The MSW Advanced Curriculum accepts 6 credits from the law school, selected with the SSW Faculty Coordinator. The MSW-JD program is valuable preparation for careers in advocacy, as well as in the administration of human service organizations and in executive, legislative, or judicial arenas in all areas of social welfare and social policy including child welfare, family law, criminal justice, health, and well-being.

MSW and Leadership in Jewish Education and Communal Service

Offered through UMB's School of Social Work and Towson University and can be concurrently completed in two years with summer classes or a mini-semester enrollment; however, a three-year program is recommended. The School of Social Work accepts 6 credits to be transferred from TU to apply to the Advanced Curriculum requirements. Towson University accepts 6 credits in transfer. This program prepares students to be skilled in social work, be

knowledgeable about Judaism, and receive professional experience in the Jewish community. This program emphasizes the development of students' capacities for effective communication, critical analysis, and flexible thought.

MSW and Master of Business Administration

Offered through University of Maryland School of Social Work and University of Maryland College Park (UMCP) Robert H. Smith School of Business and can be completed within four years excluding summers. This program requires 90 credits, with 39 taken at UMCP and 51 taken at the SSW. Students typically complete year one in the MSW, years two and three in the MBA, and year four in the MSW. Financial and business expertise combined with social work practice, knowledge, and experience is invaluable in nonprofit, public, and for-profit human service organizations. The MSW and MBA degrees complement each other and provide graduates with the combination of knowledge, skills, experience, and values necessary in business and the human services to effectively deliver quality services.

MSW and Master of Public Health

The UMSSW offers two MSW/MPH dual-degree programs. The first is offered through University of Maryland School of Social Work and Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health and the second is a partnership with the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health. Both dual-degree options can be completed within three years. Students typically complete year one in the MSW, year two (including summer) in the MPH, and year three in the MSW. The School of Social Work allows 6 to 9 credits of its program to be completed in the MPH program; these may include 3 credits of research requirements and 6 credits of advanced policy or electives. This allows students to complete both the MSW and MPH programs with fewer courses than if they had to enroll in each program separately. The MSW/MPH dual degree program prepares graduates to assume leadership positions and program administration in health-related agencies and settings, to advance the science of health disparities research, and to deliver multi-level practice interventions for at-risk populations.

MSW and Master of Public Policy

Offered through University of Maryland School of Social Work and University of Maryland College Park (UMCP) School of Public Policy and can be completed in three years including summers. This program requires 90 credits, with 51 credits taken in the MSW program and 39 credits taken in the MPP program. Students can complete year one in either program, year two in the alternate program, and year three is spent split between both programs. Each program accepts 9 credits in transfer. This program prepares graduates for practice in public policy and social service agencies and settings in which a combined expertise in social work and public policy would enable them to assume policy and leadership positions.

MSW and Medical Cannabis Science, Therapeutics, and Policy Certificate

Offered through the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, the Graduate Certificate in Medical Cannabis Science, Therapeutics, and Policy is a two-semester, 12-credit program that

provides a foundation in cannabis pharmacology and clinical science, the history of medical cannabis, and the current political landscape for this rapidly expanding field. The MSW program accepts 6 credits of electives from the Certificate program, and both can be completed in two years if the student takes summer courses.

Applicants to any dual-degree program must apply separately to each program. Admission to one program does not guarantee admission to the other. Specific information on the dual-degree programs and faculty coordinators is available here: [Dual Degree Programs](#).

CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION

The Admissions Committee assembles the incoming class based on multiple qualitative (e.g., depth, breadth, and diversity of professional and academic experience) and quantitative (e.g., academic performance) factors. Admission standards are the same for all students; therefore, you should apply for admission to the semester that best meets your needs. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact us by e-mail at admissions@ssw.umaryland.edu.

Minimum requirements for admission consideration and enrollment in the Master of Social Work program are listed below.

60 Credit Hybrid and Online MSW Program Admission Requirements

Applicants to the 60 credit MSW program must have:

- earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- a preferred minimum cumulative 3.0 grade point average (GPA). Those with lower GPAs will be reviewed, but the overall score will be adjusted accordingly
- Earned a "C" or above in at least two (2) three-credit courses in the behavioral and/or social sciences. These classes may include psychology, cognitive science, human development, sociology, family studies, anthropology, political science, economics, criminal justice, etc.

Additional Eligibility Information:

- Fall Applicants must have their undergraduate degree conferred by May 31st. Any student required to take a summer course to complete their undergraduate degree is not eligible for fall admission.
- Spring Applicants must have their undergraduate degree conferred by October 31st
- The Online MSW program is not eligible for F-1 or J-1 student visa sponsorship by the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

36 Credit Hybrid and Online Advanced Standing Program Admission Requirements

Advanced standing is awarded only to graduates holding degrees from baccalaureate social work programs accredited by CSWE, recognized through its International Social Work Degree Recognition and Evaluation Services, or covered under a memorandum of understanding with international social work accreditors. Applicants to the 36 credit Advanced Standing MSW program must have:

- completed an undergraduate program in social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education within the five years preceding their enrollment at our School.
- earned a minimum cumulative 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Additionally, a 3.0 grade point average is required for the last 60 credits. Please note that grades for practicum, if assigned on a pass/fail basis by the applicant's undergraduate program, are not included in the grade point average calculation.
- **Course Grades:** Applicants with a grade lower than a "B" in a Practice and Practicum class are not eligible for Advanced Standing. Advanced Standing credit is granted only for courses in which applicants earned a "B" or higher grade. Those who meet the requirements receive up to 24 semester hours of credit toward the MSW degree (this is called our foundation curriculum).

Additional Eligibility Notes

- Spring Practicum Block-Placement: BSW applicants currently enrolled in a Spring practicum block-placement are **not** eligible to apply for Advanced Standing in the same academic year
- Advanced Standing students must earn the MSW within two years of their initial registration at the School of Social Work.

The Admissions Committee may accept Advanced Standing applicants into the 60 credit hybrid program. Applicants can speak with the [Associate Dean, Admissions and Enrollment](#) if they wish to understand the reason for this decision after receipt of an acceptance letter.

Transferring from Another MSW Program

If you are applying to transfer from another MSW program, you may transfer up to 30 credits. To be eligible, these courses must have been completed at a CSWE-accredited MSW program, must have been completed within five years of your first registration at UMB, and you must have earned a grade of a "B" or higher. Also, you must complete at least 30 credits at the University of Maryland School of Social Work to earn your degree, and all coursework, including transfer credits and UMB coursework, must be completed within five years.

Additional Application Requirements for Transfer Students:

- A brief written statement explaining your reasons for transferring.
- One recommendation letter from your current or former faculty advisor that addresses your academic standing in their program.

Transfer Credit for Practicum Education

Students who would like transfer credit for their previous Practicum Education experience at another MSW program will be asked for the following criteria:

1. Review of MSW practicum program requirements:
 - a. Program Practicum Manual

- b. Curriculum/assignment descriptions/syllabi for each completed semester of practicum
- c. Templates for Learning agreements for each semester, based on CSWE competencies
- 2. Review of student performance in practicum:
 - a. Completed learning agreement – fall semester
 - b. Completed final practicum assessment and grade – fall semester
 - c. A sample completed process recording
 - d. Record of attendance in practicum placement and/or seminar classes
 - e. Practicum Liaison Visit/Contact assessment or notes
 - f. Letter from current practicum instructor reflecting on student performance

APPLICATION INFORMATION

MSW Application Process	
Step 1	CREATE AN ACCOUNT (visit https://umaryland.elluciancrmrecruit.com/ApplySSW/Account/Login) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Click “Go to Application” • Select “CREATE AN ACCOUNT” • Enter legal first and last name, email, and phone, etc. • Create username and password
Step 2	COMPLETE ALL REQUIRED FIELDS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To start your application, select the semester you plan to begin classes, either Spring 2026 or Fall 2026 • Select the correct academic program (Social Work 36-Credit Hybrid or 36-Credit Online Advanced Standing or Social Work 60-Credit Hybrid or Social Work 60-Credit Online or Social Work Transfer), <u>campus</u> (Baltimore, Shady Grove, or Online), and enrollment status (full or part-time) • Enter personal <u>demographic information</u> and <u>address</u> • Complete all application sections • Enter <u>personal statement</u> essay answers into applicable text boxes
Step 3	VERIFY AND SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certify application and click ‘submit’ button • Request fee waiver or pay \$65 application fee
Step 4	BEGIN SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to ‘My Account’ & click ‘View’ to work on supplemental items • Upload a PDF or word version of <u>chronological resume</u> • Request official <u>transcripts</u> • Enter accurate information for recommenders (2 for hybrid and online MSW program applicants, 3 for advanced standing)
Step 5	COMPLETE SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign in to track application status and updates

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send reminders to recommenders • To complete application, verify all supplemental items have been received before the deadline
Step 6	REVIEW ADMISSION DECISION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check email for notification of an application decision • Sign in to view the application decision • To accept offer, pay \$300 confirmation deposit • Complete all steps on the 'Accepted Students' webpage

Applications are reviewed only when all required documents have been received.

Personal Statement Essays

The personal statements provide the Admissions Committee with insight into your commitment to the field of social work—and gives the Admissions Committee a sense of your ability to write and think critically. Please limit each answer to 300 words. Personal statements must be written in your own words, without the use of Artificial Intelligence or the work of others. Submissions that appear to be generated or significantly assisted by AI, or that raise concerns about authorship, may be subject to further review. We reserve the right to reject an applicant or rescind an offer of admission if we determine that the personal statement does not reflect the applicant's own original work.

Required MSW Program Statement

The School of Social Work seeks to enroll highly qualified students who will contribute to the profession of social work in the state of Maryland and surrounding region, nationally, and internationally. Please provide answers in essay format to the questions below.

1. What personal, academic, and/or professional experiences have motivated you to become a social worker? And specifically, why have you chosen to apply to UMB's MSW program? Please discuss any aspects of our curriculum, programs, faculty, research opportunities, or community partnerships that interest you. (Limit your response to 300 words)
2. Identify a specific social problem that you are passionate about addressing as a social worker. Drawing from reliable sources as well as your own experiences, discuss the scope of the problem and why it is important to you. (Limit your response to 300 words)
3. One of the core principles in Social Work Code of Ethics is honoring the dignity and worth of every person. Describe an experience where you engaged with someone whose life experience was unfamiliar to you. How did you honor the dignity and worth of that person to ensure that they felt respected? What challenges did you encounter, if any, and what did you learn from the experience? (Limit your response to 300 words)

Additional Advanced Standing Statement

Advanced Standing applicants must also submit a case plan with the following information:

Choose a direct practice example involving an individual, group, family, or organization. Organize your response using the following headings, and please ensure to disguise names and identifying information. If you do not have a direct practice example, please create your own to answer this question (Limit your full response to 300 words).

Brief Agency Description: Provide a concise overview of the agency, including its primary function and purpose.

Assessment: Summarize the essential case data, including:

- Age, ethnicity, and race of the individual(s)
- Presenting problem and history of the problem
- Coping abilities
- For groups or organizations: describe the type, membership makeup, and purpose.

Case Plan: Describe the case plan and explain how it is informed by the assessment.

Interventions: Detail and analyze your practice interventions, explaining their connection to the case plan and assessment.

Optional Statement

If there are any aspects of your academic record (e.g., grades) or personal history (e.g., personal or professional challenges) that you feel require further explanation, provide a brief account. How have these experiences prepared you for success in our MSW program? (Limit your response to 300 words)

Applicants who have an undergraduate GPA of 2.99 or below, please use this optional statement space to explain how your previous/current educational experience helped you develop strategies to successfully maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA in our MSW program.

Applicants reapplying after being dismissed from the MSW program or from another graduate program should follow the additional instructions under the section Readmission and Reinstatement after Dismissal. (page 19)

Dismissal from Another Program

Applicants who indicate on their application form that they have been dismissed from a graduate program must use the Optional Statement to describe their understanding of the grounds for dismissal and their plans for success if accepted.

Application Fees

All applicants must submit a \$65 nonrefundable application fee. This fee cannot be waived unless you meet certain criteria.

Application Fee Waiver

The application fee will be waived only for applicants who can verify their participation in one of the following programs as they have already demonstrated an interest in working with systemically disenfranchised and/or marginalized populations:

- Americorps (Teach for America, Public Allies, VISTA)
- Peace Corps (PC)
- Society Fellows
- Veteran/Active Military
- Fulbright
- National Guard
- Foreign Service

IMPORTANT: Do not pay the non-refundable application fee if you wish to receive a fee waiver.

To receive a fee waiver, you must submit the appropriate documentation to the admissions office:

- **For Americorps, Peace Corps, Society Fellows, and Fulbright participants:** Provide an acceptance letter, email, or proof of service completion.
- **For Veterans:** Submit a copy of your DD214 form.
- **For Active-Duty Military Members:** Provide written proof of your current service.

Supplemental Application Items

Transcripts

Applicants must submit official transcripts from each college and university attended. This includes every post-secondary institution attended (including study abroad), even if the credits appear on another institution's transcript. We require official transcripts to be sent electronically, if possible, to the admissions office at admissions@ssw.umaryland.edu directly from your academic institution or a third party vendor (ie. National Student Clearinghouse or Parchment). If your school does not offer an electronic transcript option, you must request that your transcript be mailed to our address at University of Maryland School of Social Work, c/o Office of Admissions, 525 W. Redwood St., Baltimore, MD 21201. Final transcript submissions deadline for new incoming students is July 15.

If you are applying for fall and are currently enrolled in an undergraduate program, no decision will be made until we receive fall semester grades. If you are attending an institution with a nontraditional academic calendar (e.g., trimester, yearlong courses), you must write to the School's [Associate Dean, Admissions and Enrollment](#) to request an adjustment to this requirement.

References

- **Applicants for the 60 credit MSW program** must provide two references, usually including professors, employers, supervisors, and professional colleagues. They will be asked to comment on your academic aptitude, ability to work with others, capacity for self-

development, and dependability. Do not ask friends or relatives for references. The application will include instructions on how to submit references.

- **Applicants for the 36 credit Advanced Standing program** must provide three references, two from the following:
 - **Recommendation by Department Chair:** Applicants must be recommended for Advanced Standing by their undergraduate social work department chair. The Advanced Standing recommendation form must be completed and signed by the department chairperson.
 - **Recommendation by Field Supervisor:** A reference letter and form must be completed and signed by the field supervisor. Those who graduated more than 1 year ago and are currently working in the social work profession can have their supervisor complete the form and letter instead.
 - **Professional or Academic Reference:** A recommendation letter and form must be completed and signed by the recommender.

Resume

All applicants must submit a chronological resume of two pages or less. Be sure to include paid or volunteer experience, internships, and/or field placements.

Applicants with International Credentials

An applicant with international educational credentials must provide the Office of Admissions with a document that translates the credentials into English, evaluates the degree for equivalency to degrees awarded in the United States, and provides information to enable the interpretation of grades. Respected sources for the required documentation include:

- [World Education Services](#)
- [The Knowledge Company](#)
- [Educational Credential Evaluators](#)

English Proficiency

International applicants must submit credentials for evaluation and take the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System) in time to have the results reach us by the application deadline. To demonstrate English proficiency, a minimum TOEFL score of 94 is required of applicants for whom English is not their native language. TOEFL scores must be sent directly from the Educational Testing Service to the School. Minimum IELTS score needed is 7. For more information contact:

- [Educational Testing Service](#) Institution code: 6592
- [IELTS USA](#)

An applicant with international educational credentials in social work may also provide the Office of Admissions an equivalency determination document from: [Foreign Equivalency Determination Service Council on Social Work Education](#)

English Proficiency Waiver

At the discretion of the [Associate Dean, Admissions and Enrollment](#), a TOEFL/ IELTS waiver can be given to students who have earned acceptable grades from another U.S. college or university or if their bachelor's degree was received from an international college/university with an approved English- based curriculum.

Part-Time Applicants

The Part-time MSW program is not eligible for F-1 or J-1 student visa sponsorship by the University of Maryland, Baltimore. This includes part-time plans within the 60-Credit and 36-Credit Hybrid MSW programs and the Online MSW program.

Applicants with Criminal Legal Systems Involvement

*Why do we ask about your criminal legal systems involvement**?*

We value the lived experiences of students with CL involvement and want our student body to include students with such experiences. We want to give you, like all other applicants, the best possible consideration for admission. In addition, we want to ensure you understand potential implications of CL involvement (such as limited options in field practicum and job options, and requirement to complete a criminal history records check for social work licensure).

What is required for consideration of admission to the MSW program for applicants with CL involvement?

- 1) Completed MSW Application
- 2) Submit answers to CL involvement questionnaire to the Associate Dean, Admissions and Enrollment
- 3) Documentation of CL involvement

An information meeting may be required.

CL Involvement Questionnaire:

Please answer each applicable question in no more than 3-5 sentences:

- What are the ways in which your CL involvement is an asset to the school and social work field?
- What are the ways in which your CL involvement can impact MSW field placement opportunities?
- If you are currently under community supervision (such as probation or parole), do you have any restrictions that might impact field? (license, required meetings, etc) (Skip if not applicable)
- Are there any restrictions on your driver's license due to CL involvement? If so, what other modes of transportation will you use?
- What are the ways in which your CL involvement may impact MSW licensure in the state you are intending to practice?
- What type of support system will you have in Maryland (e.g. friends, family, religious organizations, other)?
- Since the time of your last involvement with the CL, please describe any changes you have observed within your personal and/or professional life.
- Optional: Is there anything else you would like us to know about your CL involvement?

Documentation of CL involvement

Upon receipt of your MSW application, the Dean of Admissions will follow up with a request for documentation of criminal convictions, completion of community supervision (if applicable) and/or pending criminal charges. In lieu of court documentation, applicants

may submit an official Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) report. Note: A CJIS report may include additional information that is not required (for example, arrests without conviction, or probation before judgment).

Information Meeting

After review of all required documentation, students may be asked to attend an information meeting to clarify information the applicant provided; answer any questions the applicant may have; discuss potential challenges to field placement and social work licensure and any concerns the student may have related to how CL involvement may impact the MSW experience or ability to practice as a social worker; and discuss how the school can support the student in their MSW education. After the information meeting, applicants will be contacted by the Dean of Admissions and informed of their admission status.

Readmission and Reinstatement after Dismissal

Following the required 2-year waiting period, students may be eligible for a one-time request for reinstatement via the process below:

1. Complete an application for admission to the School
2. Communicate their intention to apply for reinstatement in writing to the Associate Dean for Admissions and Enrollment
3. Submit a one-time request for reinstatement by completing the Reinstatement Request Form. As part of the reinstatement request, students are expected to describe the changes they have or will make in their academic preparation and strategies that will improve their potential for successfully completing their program.

The Reinstatement Review Committee, a subcommittee of the UMSSW Admissions Committee, reviews requests for readmission and reinstatement and may request the student participate in an interview. Decisions are communicated to the student directly. Decisions are binding and not eligible for appeal.

Students who are readmitted will work with a representative from Student Affairs to create a customized plan to support academic success. The readmitted student must also meet with the academic advisor prior to the start of their returning semester.

Students who are approved for reinstatement will be readmitted on academic probation status and must be in good academic standing, with a GPA of at least 3.0 within one semester. Reinstated students who do not achieve good academic standing will be dismissed without possibility of future reinstatement.

Tuition and Financial Aid

Tuition Costs (2025-2026 Academic Year)*

Residency Status	Per Credit Hour
MD and DC Residents	\$729
Non-MD Residents	\$1,372

Tuition for MSW students is structured on a per-credit basis, offering the flexibility to adjust the course load each semester and even take summer courses without incurring extra costs. For a comprehensive understanding of tuition and associated fees based on your chosen campus, please refer to the detailed breakdown available on the [UMB website](#).

Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA)

Do not wait until you have been offered admission to apply for FAFSA. Upon submitting your application to the program, you should also submit the [Federal Application for Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) online and list the University of Maryland Baltimore (School Code: **002104**). The Financial Aid Office will review your FAFSA and send you an email with your aid package. Students have a certain amount of time during which to accept any amount of aid and should contact the [financial aid office](#) with any questions or concerns.

Financial Aid Advice for Social Work Applicants

To apply for federal or state aid or be eligible for scholarship funding, you must file a [FAFSA](#) online beginning in December. March 1 is the priority deadline. Filing after March 1 may reduce the type of aid you are awarded as well as affect receiving living expenses by the first day of instruction. Spring applicants should complete the FAFSA at the time they apply.

- You will be notified of your eligibility for financial aid only after you receive an offer of admission and submit the confirmation fee.
- Graduate students who meet federal need standards may be eligible for subsidized Stafford loans, which are interest-free during the time a student is enrolled at least half time.
- Graduate students who file early and demonstrate substantial need may also be eligible for Perkins loans, federal work study, and limited grant or scholarship dollars. Students enrolled for 6 to 8 credits may be eligible to receive federal loans.

Scholarships

The school offers a variety of merit and other scholarships each year for incoming and continuing students. To be considered for a scholarship, applicants must submit a separate scholarship application. Only applicants who have submitted a complete application for the MSW program are eligible to apply for scholarships. Scholarship awards typically range from \$2,000 to \$4,000 and are intended to help offset educational expenses. While these awards provide meaningful support, most do not cover full tuition or fees, and students should plan accordingly when considering the overall cost of attendance. The deadlines for scholarships for incoming and foundation students are:

SCHOLARSHIPS	
<i>PRIORITY SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE</i> Scholarships for incoming 60-credit students	January 15
Priority Scholarships for incoming 36-credit students	February 1
<i>FINAL SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE</i> Scholarships for all incoming students	March 15

If you do not apply for scholarships by this deadline, you will not be considered.

For more information, visit the [scholarship webpage](#).

ADMISSION AND ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Notification of Admission Decision

Applicants will be notified of the Admissions Committee's decision via email and can view the decision through the online application portal.

PROGRAM	TERM	APPLICATION DEADLINE	DECISION BY
60-credit Hybrid MSW	Spring (part-time only)	Nov 1	Dec 1
	Fall (full & part-time)	Priority - Jan 15 Final - Mar 15	Priority - Mar 1 Final - May 1
36-credit Hybrid Advanced Standing MSW	Spring (part-time only)	Nov 1	Dec 1
	Fall (full & part-time)	Feb 1	Mar 1
60-credit Online MSW	Fall (part-time only)	Priority - Jan 15 Final - Mar 15	Priority - Mar 1 Final - May 1
36-credit Online Advanced Standing MSW	Fall (full-time only)	Feb 1	Mar 1

To reserve your space in the program, pay the \$300 non-refundable confirmation deposit no later than June 1st for Fall enrollment or December 15th for Spring enrollment. To accept or decline the offer of admission, log in to the application portal, indicate your decision, and pay the confirmation deposit if you intend to enroll or defer admission. Failure to complete these steps may result in the cancellation of your admission.

Provisional Admits

Offers of admission to currently enrolled undergraduates are provisional, pending receipt of final transcripts showing the award of a bachelor's degree. Similarly, all official awards of Advanced Standing are provisional until we receive the final transcript showing the award of the Bachelor of Social Work degree, continued recommendation from the undergraduate program, and evidence that all other criteria have been met.

Deferring Enrollment

Accepted students who have paid their confirmation deposit can defer their enrollment to the following semester or year. Accepted students can request a deferral only once. Send a request to the [Associate Dean, Admissions and Enrollment](#) (include deferral reason, deferral term, and deferral status (full or part-time). The deferral deadline for new incoming fall students is August 1. Incoming spring students must defer by January 5.

Changing Enrollment Status

Full-Time and Part-Time Status

Admitted students may not change from full-time to part-time status, or vice versa, without the approval of the [Associate Dean, Admissions and Enrollment](#). If the confirmation deposit has been paid, a request for a change in status will not jeopardize the original offer of admission; availability is not guaranteed.

Campus Transfer Policy

Transferring between campuses once admitted is a rare occurrence. Because of specific curriculum offerings and limits on the number of admitted students, both the USG and Online program are often not able to accept students who wish to transfer to another campus. Transferring to the Baltimore campus can often be approved because of the larger size of the campus. If approved, students may only switch between campuses once during their academic program.

Important Note: Changing your campus will result in adjustments to campus-related fees.

Steps Once Accepted

In the notification of acceptance, students are directed to a [webpage for accepted students](#). Students must follow all the important steps to ensure admission and proper enrollment into the MSW Program. Steps include:

1. Pay the \$300 [confirmation deposit](#) to reserve your space in the program
2. Complete Tuition and Fees-Related Forms
 - a. [FAFSA application](#) opens October 1 (School code 002104)
 - b. [Tuition Classification Form](#) (In-State Residency)
3. Submit [field placement application](#) (no later than the June 1st deadline.)
4. Fulfill Immunization Requirements and Health Insurance Plan
 - a. [Health Insurance or Waiver](#)
 - b. [Health Immunization Forms](#)
5. Begin mandatory Incoming Student Pre-Requisite course (see below)
6. [Register](#) for classes, note [Important Dates](#), and take any applicable [Exemption Exams](#) test out of certain Foundation courses (see below)
7. Apply for Student ID—[One Card](#)
8. Attend mandatory [orientation](#)

Testing out of Foundation Coursework (Exemption Exams)

Newly admitted and confirmed foundation students can take [exemption examinations](#) for three foundation courses:

SOWK 600—Social Welfare and Social Policy [3 credits]

SOWK 645—Human Behavior and the Social Environment [3 credits]

SOWK 670—Social Work Research [3 credits]

These exemption exams let you test out of courses if you believe you've already covered the material. If you pass an exam, you'll be exempt from that course, but you'll need to replace it with another elective. Keep in mind that even with exemptions, you must complete a total of 60 credits to earn your MSW degree. Passing an exemption exam gives you more flexibility with elective credits, allowing you to tailor your program more to your interests. If you receive exemptions, it's important to consult your academic advisor to help plan your program.

Incoming Student Pre-Requisite Course (SOWK 690)

This set of self-paced online prerequisite courses will help prepare you for the journey toward earning your MSW. All newly admitted MSW students are required to complete these prerequisites before the first day of classes.

Please note that it will take up to 35 hours to complete all THREE prerequisite modules in total.

1. Blackboard Orientation (2 hours)

- The Blackboard technology orientation will help familiarize you with the best way to get support, get connected, view Blackboard content, upload assignments, participate in discussions, take quizzes, and all other primary functions.

2. A Brief History of Oppression and Resistance (15-30 hours*)

- A Brief History of Oppression and Resistance provides important context and foundational knowledge for social work students who will be learning and practicing in Maryland. Completing this course is an assignment for SOWK 610 (Structural Oppression and Its Implications for Social Work) and will help prepare you for your coursework here at the School of Social Work. It should be completed prior to beginning your semester.
- Journal assignments integrated into the prerequisite must be submitted in SOWK 610.

3. UMB Academic Integrity & Anti-Plagiarism Tutorial (2 hours)

- This tutorial reviews important concepts related to Academic Integrity, including what it is, various forms of plagiarism, avoiding plagiarism, and rules for citing research and others' work.

Additional Application Requirements

Transfer Credit from Another Master's Program

You may request up to 6 elective transfer credits for graduate-level courses in a related discipline in which you earned a grade of "A" or "B" within four years before starting the MSW

program. Each course will be assessed for social work relevancy and the final determination will be made at the time of admission. If a course has similar content to a required course but is worth fewer credits (e.g., 2 credits), you will be exempt from that course but must complete the additional credits needed. If transferring from a quarterly system, you must also make up any credit differences.

Transfer Credit for Work Experience

The Council on Social Work Education **does not allow** accredited MSW programs to provide credit for work experience. However, experience does make for a stronger applicant in the admissions process and a more successful student.

Disability Accommodations

If you would like to request classroom and/or field accommodations for a disability, please contact the University's Office of Educational Support and Disability Services at 410-706-5889 or disabilityservices@umaryland.edu. More information is available at www.umaryland.edu/disabilityservices.

Pregnant and parenting students may also connect with the [Title IX Coordinator](#) for additional support. The Title IX Coordinator can coordinate specific actions to prevent sex discrimination and ensure the student's equal access to UMB's education program or activity.

VA Educational Benefits

Students attending the School of Social Work using [Veterans Education and Training Benefits](#) may receive assistance with enrollment certification at the SSW Office of Records and Registration.

Student-Right-To Know

Any student using Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill or Chapter 32 Voc Rehab benefits, (even if the VA has not yet paid tuition and fees), the University of Maryland Baltimore policy will allow the following: enrollment, no assessment of late fees or penalties, no requirement to secure additional funding, and access to the same school resources as other students who have paid.

These students will be required to produce the VA's Certificate of Eligibility by the first day of class, provide a written request to be certified, and provide any additional information needed to be properly certified with the VA.

Rescinding an Offer of Admission

The University of Maryland School of Social Work (UMSSW) reserves the right to withdraw or rescind an offer of admission for reasons including, but not limited to, the following:

- **Misrepresentation:** Any part of the application contains misrepresentations.
- **Failure to Graduate:** The applicant fails to graduate, does not receive an undergraduate diploma (or its equivalent) by the end of the current school year, or otherwise will not hold the academic credentials presented as part of the application.
- **Academic Performance:** The applicant, if currently enrolled in a degree program, shows a significant drop in academic performance between application and graduation, as determined by the SSW.
- **Behavioral Concerns:** The applicant engages in behavior that brings into question their professional suitability based on the NASW Code of Ethics.
- **Violation of Policy:** The applicant engages in conduct that violates the UMB Code of Ethics and Conduct Policy, SSW Technical Standards and Conduct Policy, and/or the SSW Academic Integrity Policy.

Procedures for Rescinding Offers of Admission

The decision to rescind an offer of admission is made jointly by the Associate Dean of Admissions and Enrollment and the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and the student will be notified via email. An appeal of a rescinded offer of admission, if any, is heard by the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, whose decision in such matters is final.

Once an admitted applicant has enrolled as an official student through the creation of the UMID, all policies and procedures for enrolled students are followed.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SSW

Accreditation

The University of Maryland, Baltimore is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104 (267-284-5000)). Both the baccalaureate program (offered at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County campus) and Master of Social Work program (offered at the School of Social Work, University of Maryland, Baltimore) are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, the authorized professional accrediting body for social work in the United States.

Nondiscrimination Policy

The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX and its regulations, including in admission and employment.

Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to UMB's Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both. UMB's Title IX Coordinator is Stephanie Suerth, Acting, 410-706-5212, titleix@umaryland.edu.

UMB's Title IX nondiscrimination policy and grievance procedures are located at www.umaryland.edu/titleix/policies-and-procedures or in the UMB Policy Library located at <https://www.umaryland.edu/policies-and-procedures/library/>.

To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or make a complaint of sex discrimination under Title IX, please refer to www.umaryland.edu/titleix/, which includes links to the UMB Hotline.

Pregnant and parenting students may also connect with the [Title IX Coordinator](#). The Title IX Coordinator can coordinate specific actions to prevent sex discrimination and ensure the student's equal access to UMB's education program or activity.

Want More Information?

For more information about our MSW program or to learn about timelines, requirements or processes for admission, please reach out to the admissions office at admissions@ssw.umaryland.edu.

Attending an information session is another great way to learn about our MSW program at Baltimore, USG or Online. Explore the options and reserve your space and review our FAQ page.

Last Updated: 08/26/2025