



ABOUT THE MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

Graduate credentials are becoming increasingly important in the social work profession. Social workers practice in many areas, including education, health, mental health, child welfare, substance abuse treatment, criminal justice, and veterans services. The specialization received with a master's degree is an asset to both the practitioner and the client in empowerment practice. Also, with this specialization comes the availability for increased choices for employment. Currently the employment outlook for social workers is projected to grow by 14 percent until 2029, well above the national average.

It is the mission of the St. Ambrose University School of Social Work to prepare competent and ethical social work professionals who advocate a just society.

Consistent with the purposes of social work and Catholic Social Teaching, the St. Ambrose University School of Social Work seeks to advance the well-being of people, to promote social and economic justice and to protect human rights. Emphasizing client system empowerment, the School prepares graduates to practice competently, ethically and with critical understanding of diversity, human behavior and social contexts.

Students acquire a comprehensive knowledge base, practice skills, and ethical standards for professional practice. These competencies enable graduates to provide resources and opportunities for people to live with dignity and freedom in their transactions with each other and social institutions locally, nationally, and globally.

The SAU Master of Social Work program prepares empowerment social workers to use a life-long praxis process in order to ensure collaborative, client-centered, multi-level, contextualized practice. Empowerment social workers promote professional social work and advocate for social, economic and environmental justice.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The program emphasizes strength-based work with populations with diverse identities in a variety of social service settings. This provides opportunities to learn and implement a range of empowerment social work practice approaches. The MSW program is committed to the education of empowerment social workers with a commitment to social justice. Other valuable advantages of choosing St. Ambrose University for graduate social work education include:

- The social work faculty includes internationally known empowerment scholars.
- The program's pedagogical approach encourages students to be actively involved in shaping their learning experience.
- Energetic faculty are committed to guiding student development and providing quality education. Their scholarly research interests reflect a broad range of social work issues.
- Area and regional agencies and organizations offer a full range of field placement options.



MSW PROGRAM OPTIONS

1 YEAR PROGRAM

- Must have BSW degree (CSWE accredited)
- Admissions decision based on: minimum 3.0 GPA, personal statement and professional/academic references
- Classes online or in person
- Program starts in the summer
- Academic year field placement is 15 hours per week

2 YEAR PROGRAM

- Must have undergraduate degree with a liberal arts base
- Admissions decision based on: GPA, personal statement and professional/academic references
- Classes in person
- Program starts in the fall
- Academic year field placement for Year 1 is 12 hours per week; Year 2 is 15 hours per week

3 YEAR PROGRAM

- Must have undergraduate degree with a liberal arts base
- Admissions decision based on: GPA, personal statement and professional/academic references
- Classes online
- Program starts in the fall
- Field placement begins in the second year of the program. Academic year field placement for Year 2 is 12 hours per week; Year 3 is 15 hours per week

ALL OPTIONS INCLUDE

- Small classes
- Specialization in empowerment practice
- Focus on wide range of practical skills for maximum career flexibility
- Free license preparation included in the curriculum
- Individualized field placement planning process facilitated by the Director of Field Education based on student interests, experience, and goals
- Study abroad options in India and Ecuador
- MSW/Master of Business Administration dual degree prepares graduate for nonprofit administration
- MSW/Master of Public Health dual degree prepares graduates for work in public health

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- Official transcripts from all institution(s) of enrollment
- MSW application (guidelines at sau.edu/MSW)
- Two letters of reference
- Personal statement

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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The material presented here is for informational purposes and does not substitute for the catalog. Consult the official university catalog for complete program requirements.

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