

M.S.W. PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

“Meet & Greet” informational meetings are held monthly; call 816-235-1025 for information and to RSVP.

Why consider an advanced degree in social work?

There are many reasons to consider an M.S.W. program. Social workers are the primary service providers for people in need in this country. The UMKC M.S.W. Program prepares students with knowledge, values, and skills to work across a broad array of settings with diverse people. This social work perspective looks not only at individual thoughts, feelings, and actions but also at the social environment as a primary arena for opportunities for change. Social workers are committed to care-centered practice, community-building, and social justice.

What is unique about the UMKC Social Work Program?

Our advanced generalist curriculum is based on core professional competencies in the following areas: social work practice theory, organizations and leadership, community-building and social action, research and evaluation, and professional development. MSW students take courses in all of these areas in the classroom and in the field. Students have the opportunity to integrate learning in the integration seminar taken in the final semester.

Is the program accredited?

The UMKC M.S.W. Program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

What if I don't have a B.S.W. degree?

An undergraduate degree in social work is not required for application to the M.S.W. program. The majority of applicants have a variety of undergraduate degrees. Some people have life or work experience in other fields and are ready for a change. Others have worked in the field of human services and are ready to pursue an M.S.W. degree to advance their careers.

What about licensure?

The UMKC M.S.W. Program prepares students for licensure upon graduation. Graduates can be licensed as the following in both Missouri and Kansas:

- LMSW licensed master's social worker
- LCSW (MO)/ LSCSW (KS) licensed clinical social worker
- LAMSW (MO only) licensed advanced generalist social worker

Applicants from other states should contact specific state licensing boards for information pertinent to each state.

What about field practicum experience?

Various field placement opportunities in the community have been established for our students. Each three-credit practicum course requires 16.25 hours per week of supervised experience in an agency setting. Students are free to use evening and weekend hours in the field to fulfill the weekly time requirement with the field director's permission.

Can I work while I complete the program?

Many of our students do continue to hold at least part-time jobs while completing their MSW. Part-time academic status is estimated to require at least 10 hours each week; full-time academic status is estimated to require at least 36 hours each week.

How long will it take if I attend part-time?

The program of study must be completed within four years; many part-time students complete their coursework in 3 years.

What are the admission requirements?

Applicants must have earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited university, Have an overall undergraduate GPA of 3.0, and complete all the application paperwork. Students may be considered for provisional admission if their GPA is below a 3.0.

How do I apply to the school of social work?

Applicants complete the UMKC application, and include transcripts at www.umkc.edu
Applicants also complete a supplemental application for the School of Social Work including 2 written narratives, 3 professional references, a current resume. Application packets can be sent to potential applicants, picked up in our office, or downloaded from our website at www.cas.umkc.edu/socialwork
We DO NOT require the GRE test.

How much does the program cost?

Please call the UMKC Cashier's Office at 816-235-1365 to inquire about residency and status fees. For questions about student loans and scholarships please call the UMKC Financial Aid Office at 816-235-1154.

How can I find out more about the M.S.W. program?

You can learn more about the University of Missouri-Kansas City M.S.W. program by visiting the website at www.cas.umkc.edu/socialwork, visit our office, located at 5030 Cherry St, Room 225, e-mail soc-wk@umkc.edu, or call 816-235-1025.