SOCIAL WORK, MSW AND PUBLIC HEALTH, MPH (MSW/MPH)

Grace Abbott School of Social Work, College of Public Affairs & Community Service, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Vision Statement
The MSW/MPH dual degree program is a collaborative effort between the University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health and the University of Nebraska Omaha, Grace Abbott School of Social Work. This program offers interdisciplinary preparation in the fields of social work and public health leading to the master of social work and the master of public health degrees, with fewer required credit hours than it would take to obtain these degrees independently. The MSW/MPH dual degree program is for students who have a BSSW degree or have completed the MSW Foundation program. Students in the MSW/MPH dual degree program receive both the MSW and MPH degrees. If beginning the dual degree program at the Foundation MSW level, 81 credit hours total will be completed; if beginning it at the Advanced Standing level, the program consists of 57 credit hours of required advanced social work courses and public health courses; no electives are possible. After completing all of the MSW courses, students may choose to take either the Clinical or Generalist social work comprehensive exam. This dual degree program prepares students to provide the range of advanced social work services and assume leadership in the public health sector to promote and protect physical and mental health, with a focus on population-based services, prevention, collaboration, and strategies and policies grounded in basic science.

Program Contact Information
Social Work Contact Information
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Public Health Contact Information
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984359 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE. 68198-4359
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Program Website

Other Program-Related Information
• The Master of Social Work (MSW) program prepares students for advanced social work practice. Master’s-level social workers are employed in public and private agencies, including medical settings, schools, residential treatment centers, court and correctional agencies, and community planning and development agencies. Their activities and interventions are designed to promote a more effective-functioning society as it struggles to “provide for the general welfare,” as well as to help people, families, groups, and institutions within the society achieve self-fulfillment.
• The MSW degree at the Grace Abbott School of Social Work is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the national accrediting body for all social work education.
• Information on certification and licensure is available on the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services’ website (http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/public_health_).

Admissions
Application Deadlines
• Fall: January 15 (MSW), June 1 (MPH)
• Students must enroll in a minimum of two courses (6 credit hours) per semester.

MSW Program-Specific Requirements
• Academic Record/Transcript-Undergraduate weighted cumulative GPA of 3.0
• Three (3) Letters of Recommendation
  • The letters must be professional in nature. Each recommender should describe how they know you (how long and in what capacity), and why they believe you would be a good candidate for the MSW/MPH program.
• Statement of Purpose
  • Please answer the following statements/questions in a total of five (5) double-spaced, typewritten pages (12 point font). Your application is considered incomplete if these instructions are not followed.
    • A brief autobiographical statement that discusses who you are and the experiences that led you to social work. Trace the development of your interest in social work. Why have you chosen social work as a profession? Describe the key motivating figure(s), role model(s), or experience(s) important to your decision to become involved in social work.
    • Discuss your career objectives as a professional social worker as you now conceive them. What do you see yourself doing immediately after receiving your MSW degree?
    • Discuss a contemporary social problem. Include possible causes and potential solutions in your response. What contribution do you want to make to the pursuit of social and economic justice?
    • In the School’s criteria for admission, we assert our commitment in having students representing diverse backgrounds. Diversity is defined by virtue of: personal characteristics such as race, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, and geography, as well as life experiences such as career history, experience dealing with a significant personal challenge, belonging to or working in or among another culture, economic disadvantage, knowledge of more than one language, and/or deep broad life experiences. What evidence can you
present to demonstrate your capacity to work with human diversity.

- Please review the Social Work admission requirements for additional information and details regarding the essay requirement.
- Resume
  - Current resume detailing employment history, nature of duties and responsibilities, accomplishments, leadership roles, and community involvement.

**MPH Program-Specific Requirements**
- **GRE**

The MSW/MPH Foundation Program is a 81 credit hour program available to applicants who do not hold a BSSW degree from an accredited school of social work within the last 10 years.

The MSW/MPH Advanced Standing Program is a 57 credit hour program available to applicants who have earned a BSSW degree from an accredited school of social work within the last 10 years.

Completion of the following undergraduate prerequisite courses is required before entering the MSW/MPH Program.

- A human biology course or equivalent such as anatomy
- A research methods course (Note: There is a waiver exam available for this prerequisite)
- A statistics course

**Degree Requirements**

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required Foundation Courses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 8070</td>
<td>HUMAN BEHAVIOR &amp; THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT I</td>
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<td>SOWK 8080</td>
<td>HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT II</td>
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<td>SOWK 8090</td>
<td>SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY</td>
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<td>SOWK 8110</td>
<td>INSTITUTIONAL OPPRESSION</td>
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<td>GENERALIST PRACTICE I</td>
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<td>SOWK 8150</td>
<td>GENERALIST PRACTICE II</td>
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<td>SOWK 8170</td>
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<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
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1 A student must receive grades of "B" or higher in practicum courses (SOWK 8160 and SOWK 8170)

**Total Credit Hours**

Foundation Program + Dual-Degree Requirements: 81
Dual-Degree Requirements: 57

**Other Program Related Information**

Students must enroll in a minimum of two courses (6 hours) per semester.

Students must seek prior approval from the director of the Grace Abbott School of Social Work if they wish to take more than 12 hours of coursework in a single semester.

Program requirements must be completed within six years. Exceptions can be requested from the Director.

**Academic Policies and Standards**