PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, MPA AND SOCIAL WORK, MSW (MPA/MSW)

School of Public Administration and Grace Abbott School of Social Work, College of Public Affairs & Community Service

Vision Statement
The MPA/MSW dual degree program is a collaborative effort between the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), Grace Abbott School of Social Work and the School of Public Administration. This program offers interdisciplinary preparation in the fields of social work and public administration leading to the master of social work and the master of public administration degrees, with fewer required credit hours than it would take to obtain these degrees independently.

The program prepares students to provide a variety of advanced direct and indirect social work services and assume leadership in the public service sector, specifically in administrative and policy work with governmental units and nonprofit organizations.

Students beginning the MPA/MSW program at the MSW Foundation level must complete 81 credit hours total. Students beginning the MPA/MSW program at the Advanced Standing level must complete 57 credit hours total.

Program Contact Information
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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 effectively-functioning society as it struggles to “provide for the general welfare,” as well as to help people, families, groups and institutions within that 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/Pages/default.aspx).

Admissions
Application Deadlines (Spring 2021, Summer 2021, and Fall 2021)
- Fall: January 15

Note: If admitted to the Master of Social Work program and you wish to become a dual degree MSW/MPA student you will need to adhere to the MPA deadline date which is **June 1** (fall) or **October 1** (spring).

Program-Specific Requirements
- Applicants are required to have a command of oral and written English. Those who do not hold a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from the United States, OR a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from a predetermined country on the waiver list, must meet the minimum language proficiency score requirement in order to be considered for admission.
  - The minimum TOEFL requirement is 550 (written), 80 internet-based, 6.5 IELTS, or 53 PTE.
- The general prerequisite for admission to the program is a four-year bachelors’ degree with a minimum of a 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) in the junior and senior years (last 50-60 hours).
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score
  - Applicants to the MPA/MSW program may be granted a waiver from the GRE requirement, under one or more of the following circumstances:
    - The applicant is enrolled in the UNO Grace Abbott School of Social Work (MSW) program and has completed at least four courses with a minimum GPA of 3.2 and no less than a “B” in any course.
    - The applicant earned a 3.5 or above GPA in the last 50-60 credit hours of their bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college or university in the US, or the equivalent of such degrees in another country.
    - The applicant has five or more years of relevant professional work experience.
- Three (3) Letters of Recommendation
  - Recommendation requests are generated from your online application. These recommendations should be from professional and academic sources who are directly familiar with your skills and experience. At least one reference should be from an immediate professional supervisor. If you have graduated from an academic program within the past three years, at least one reference should be from a faculty member who can speak directly to your academic preparation for graduate social work education. References from family members, family friends, personal friends, personal therapists, or other non-professional/academic sources will not be scored.
- Two (2) Statements of Purpose, one for the School of Public Administration and one for the Grace Abbott School of Social Work
  - For Social Work, the statement of purpose is an opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of and fit for the social work
profession, as well as your aptitude for graduate-level social work education. The Admissions Committee pays close attention to both content and writing skills. In your statement of purpose, please address each of the items listed below, and should be no more than five (5) pages, double-spaced, in a 12-point font. Your response to each of the items should be roughly the same length. If your statement of purpose does not clearly and directly address each of the items or does not follow the instructions, it may not be considered.

- Why have you chosen social work? Your response should demonstrate a basic understanding of the social work profession, including what distinguishes it from other helping professions.
- Social work is a values-based profession dedicated to mitigating inequality and enhancing human wellbeing, especially for vulnerable, marginalized, and oppressed populations. From the core values and ethical principles identified in the NASW Code of Ethics ([https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English/](https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English/)), identify and discuss one that resonates with you and one that may challenge you.
- Social workers are self-reflective, strengths-based, and growth-oriented. Identify a strength that you possess and an area for growth. Discuss how you became aware of these, how they show up in your current professional practice, and how they may influence your future professional practice.
- The social work profession is rooted in social justice. Social workers adopt a stance of cultural humility and strive towards cultural awareness. Discuss a time when you realized that one of your personal or cultural identities influenced your reaction to a social situation. Reflecting on that experience, how might it influence your future social work practice?
- If you have a compelling autobiographical story relevant to your application, but that falls outside of the items addressed within the statement, you may add a letter to the Admissions Committee. Your letter will be considered, but will not be scored.

- For Public Administration, the essay should answer the following questions:
  - Please tell us about the factors in your background that will help us understand your interest in a profession in the public or nonprofit sectors.
  - What are your professional goals? Ten years from now, what do you hope to be doing professionally?
  - How can this dual degree from UNO help you achieve these goals?
- Resume
  - Applicants are highly encouraged to have professional experience in the human service field. Please submit a professional resume that identifies:
    - Professional experiences, especially in human services
    - Educational experiences since high school
    - List start and end dates with month and year
    - Identify whether the position is part or full-time
    - Identify whether the position is paid or volunteer
    - Field placements, internships or practicums
    - Honors or distinctions received
- Writing Sample
  - Applicants who have a BSW or BSSW degree from a CSWE accredited program are required to submit a researched, APA-style, original essay addressing a social issue relevant to social work practice. Your social issue essay should be no more than five (5) pages of content, double-spaced, in a 12-point font, with a reference page. Your essay should address each of the following components:
    - Identify a contemporary social problem and its relevance to social work practice
    - Discuss the origins and causes of the social problem
    - Discuss potential solutions to the social problem
    - Evaluate potential solutions to the social problems in the context of the core values and ethical principles of social work.

The MSW Foundation Program is a 63 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 MPA/MSW 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 MPA/MSW Program.

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

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**Degree Requirements**

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<td><strong>Required Foundation Courses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 8070</td>
<td>HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND 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>SOWK 8130</td>
<td>GENERALIST PRACTICE I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>SOWK 8150</td>
<td>GENERALIST PRACTICE II</td>
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<td>GENERALIST SOCIAL WORK PRACTICUM I</td>
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<td>GENERALIST SOCIAL WORK PRACTICUM II</td>
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Total Credits 24

1 A student must receive grades of 'B' or higher in practicum courses (SOWK 8160 and SOWK 8170).

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<tr>
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<td>PA 8050</td>
<td>FOUNDATIONS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION</td>
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<td>PA 8090</td>
<td>ORGANIZATION THEORY AND BEHAVIOR</td>
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<td>ADVANCED MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP FOR PUBLIC AND NONPROFIT PROFESSIONALS</td>
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<td>PA 8300</td>
<td>POLICY DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION</td>
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<td>PA 8400</td>
<td>PUBLIC AND NONPROFIT BUDGETING</td>
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<td>PA 8530</td>
<td>PLANNING AND EVALUATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA 8990</td>
<td>CAPSTONE PROJECT IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION</td>
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**Public Administration Elective**

Select one of the following:

- PA 8320 PUBLIC POLICY EVALUATION
- PA 8550 INTRODUCTION TO THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR
- PA 8410 PUBLIC HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
Required Social Work Courses

- **PA 8480**  SEMINAR IN PUBLIC FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION
- **PA 8520**  SEMINAR IN GRANT WRITING
- **PA 8566**  INTERGOVERNMENTAL MANAGEMENT
- **PA 8600**  ADMINISTRATIVE LAW
- **PA 8740**  HEALTH CARE POLICY
- **PA 8470**  ADMINISTRATIVE ETHICS AND LEADERSHIP

**Required Social Work Courses**

- **SOWK 8190** RESEARCH & COMPUTER APPLICATIONS 3
- **SOWK 8220** CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK WITH INDIVIDUALS 3
- **SOWK 8230** CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK WITH GROUPS 3
- **SOWK 8540** PLANNING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE 3
- **SOWK 8290** SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE IN HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH 3
- **SOWK 8650** HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH POLICIES FOR SOCIAL WORK 3
- **SOWK 8940** EVALUATION OF SOCIAL PROGRAMS 3
- **SOWK 8400** ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK PRACTICUM I 3
- **SOWK 8410** ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK PRACTICUM II 3

**Social Work Community Practice Elective**

Select one of the following: 3

- **SOWK 8550** SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL ADVOCACY
- **SOWK 8560** ADVANCED COMMUNITY PRACTICE
- **SOWK 8570** ADMINISTRATION OF SOCIAL WELFARE AGENCIES (Social Work Elective)

**Social Work Elective**

Select one of the following: 3

- **SOWK 8016** SOCIAL WORK WITH AMERICAN INDIANS
- **SOWK 8026** SOCIAL WORK WITH THE AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY
- **SOWK 8046** WORKING WITH MINORITY ELDERLY
- **SOWK 8056** ETHNIC DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE
- **SOWK 8240** SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH CHILDREN
- **SOWK 8250** SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH FAMILIES
- **SOWK 8260** SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH OLDER ADULTS
- **SOWK 8270** SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH SEXUAL CONCERNS
- **SOWK 8280** SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH COUPLES AND CHANGING FAMILY STRUCTURES
- **SOWK 8516** TREATMENT ISSUES IN CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY
- **SOWK 8536** SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK
- **SOWK 8600** PERMANENCE FOR CHILDREN
- **SOWK 8610** FAMILY AND COMMUNITY VIOLENCE
- **SOWK 8626** TRAUMA AND RESILIENCE
- **SOWK 8686** MEDICAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL ASPECTS OF ALCOHOL/DRUG USE AND ADDICTION
- **SOWK 8696** ASSESSMENT AND CASE MANAGEMENT IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE
- **SOWK 8806** SOCIAL WORK AND THE LAW

**SOWK 8816** SPIRITUALITY AND SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE
- **SOWK 8826** GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT: A SOCIAL WORK PERSPECTIVE
- **SOWK 8836** CRISIS INTERVENTION
- **SOWK 8856** HOSPICE & OTHER SERVICES FOR THE DYING PATIENT/FAMILY
- **SOWK 8886** TOPICAL SEMINAR IN SOCIAL WORK

Total Credits: 57

1. A student must receive grades of ‘B’ or higher in practicum courses (SOWK 8400, SOWK 8410 and SOWK 8420).

**Exit Requirements**

- **Capstone - 3 Credits PA 8990**
- **Comprehensive Examination**
  - Students will complete a social work comprehensive exam focused on advanced generalist social work practice, administered by the Grace Abbott School of Social Work. The comprehensive exam is offered twice each academic year, during the Fall and Spring semesters. It is recommended that students take the comprehensive exam during the semester of graduation, but they may take it earlier, provided no more than 9 semester hours are remaining to complete after the semester in which the comprehensive exam is taken.

**Academic Policies and Standards**