Master of Social Work
Foundation Program for students **without** a BSW

The MSW program has an Advanced Generalist Concentration, preparing students for leadership roles in service, administration, and policy-making positions. Graduates master competencies that prepare them for effective practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Graduates work in a diverse array of human service settings, including mental health, family services, child welfare, schools, criminal justice, gerontology, and health care organizations and agencies.

The Advanced Generalist Concentration equips students for effective practice in highly under-served areas, including rural and reservation communities. These settings demand that students be able to synthesize and apply inter- and multi-disciplinary knowledge and skills to address needs in complex, multi-system service environments.

**Mission Statement**
The University of North Dakota's Master of Social Work Program provides broad access to quality graduate education that prepares versatile advanced generalist practitioners with the necessary knowledge, values, and skills to enhance human well-being, to meet basic human needs, and to serve as leaders in their communities in North Dakota, the region, and beyond.

**Program Goals**
To prepare advanced generalist social work practitioners who:
1. Have a strong identification with the social work profession, are committed to its highest ethical ideals, and inspire others to do the same.
2. Continually strive to increase their cultural competence and understand and respect the inherent value of human diversity.
3. Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and advocate for social and economic justice.
4. Synthesize and effectively apply a broad range of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary knowledge and skills across practice levels.
5. Have a passion for critical inquiry and a commitment to lifelong learning.
6. Embrace their roles as change agents and leaders.

The MSW Concentration builds on a generalist foundation curriculum to prepare advanced generalist practitioners who assess, intervene, and evaluate to promote human and social well-being, while advancing practice and the broader goals of the Social Work profession. Advanced practitioners can tailor actions to changing circumstances, and continually refine their own practice through experience and self-improvement.

All MSW students must complete both Foundation and Advanced Generalist Concentration social work courses. Foundation courses are not offered through the Campus Program; instead, students who have a bachelor's degree in a related field may apply to the Second Degree Program. Upon successful completion of the Second Degree Program, students are eligible to apply to the MSW Concentration Program. Advanced Generalist Concentration courses may be completed through the Campus Program, or the part-time Distance Program. The Campus Program may be completed in three semesters, and the Distance Program may be completed in two years for students with a BSW, or in as few as three years for students without a BSW.

**Admission Requirements for Foundation Program**
The applicant must meet the School of Graduate Studies’ current minimum general admission requirements as published in the graduate catalog. Applicants for the Foundation courses (offered only through the part-time Distance Program for students without a BSW) must meet the following standards:

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**Deadlines apply. See our website for more details.**

Last Updated: 7/10/2014  
Email: questions@gradschool.und.edu
1. Satisfactory completion of a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution.
2. At least 30 credit hours of liberal arts courses in such fields as biology, music, languages, anthropology, economics, political science, history, literature, sociology, psychology, and philosophy.
3. A grade of C or higher in a statistics course prior to entering the Advanced Generalist Concentration portion of the MSW program.
4. Willingness to abide by the National Association of Social Worker’s Code of Ethics and the University of North Dakota Code of Student Life.
5. An undergraduate GPA of 3.00 overall or a GPA of 3.00 in the last two years of the undergraduate program.
6. Satisfy the School of Graduate Studies’ English Language Proficiency requirements as published in the graduate catalog.

Admission Schedule

- **Campus Program**: Annual application deadline is January 15. Classes begin the following Fall Semester (August).
- **Distance MSW Foundation Courses**: Applicants without a BSW must apply for Foundation courses. Annual application deadline is June 15. Classes begin the following Spring Semester (January).
- **Distance Program Concentration Courses**: Applicants with a BSW are considered “Advanced Standing” applicants and apply for Concentration courses. Annual application deadline is November 15. Classes begin the following Summer Semester (May).

The Department of Social Work will continue to accept applications after the deadline if the cohort is not full.

**Degree Requirements for Foundation Program**

Students seeking the Master degree at the University of North Dakota must satisfy all general requirements set forth by the School of Graduate Studies as well as particular requirements set forth by the Social Work Department. Credit is not granted for life or work experience.

**Degree Requirements for Students Completing Both Foundation and Concentration Courses:**

1. Successful completion of 60 credit hours of courses approved by the social work faculty with at least a 3.00 grade point average. The number of electives required is dependent on whether a student selects the independent study or the thesis option.
2. Satisfactory completion of Foundation courses (24 credit hours). Please refer to the academic catalog for the list of courses.
3. Satisfactory completion of the Advanced Generalist Concentration courses (36 credit hours).
4. Completion of the research capstone, **SWK 997** Independent Study (2 credits), or **SWK 998** Thesis (4 credits).
5. Successful completion of comprehensive exam requirements.
6. Completion of at least 52 semester credits at UND. A maximum of 8 credits will be allowed for transfer.
7. The development of a program of study in the semester in which the full-time student first enrolls in Concentration courses, or the second semester in which the part-time student enrolls in Concentration courses.

**Faculty and Areas of Expertise**

Please refer to the Department of Social Work website (http://nursing.und.edu/departments/social-work/) for a list of faculty and their areas of expertise.

**Contact Information**

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