

Program Overview

The Master of Social Work (MSW) Program is designed to prepare social workers for leadership roles in developing and providing services to individuals, families, groups, communities and organizations. Our MSW program is one of the oldest and most well-respected social work programs in the country. Students can apply to the Advanced Standing (full-time), Two-Year (full-time), Three-Year (part-time) and Employed Practitioners (part-time) programs.

The Advanced Standing program is designed for exceptional BSW students who have graduated from a CSWE-accredited BSW program within the past five years. Students begin graduate studies in the summer, followed by two semesters of full-time study in the academic year.

Participants in the two-year program are in classes two days a week (enrolled in four classes per semester) and in field placement three days a week both years.

The part-time (three-year) MSW program is designed for students who have chosen the profession but are not prepared to matriculate on a two-year basis. The three-year MSW program includes six semesters and two summers of coursework. Students complete field placement requirements during their second and third years of matriculation.

The Employed Practitioners program is a three-year part-time program designed for experienced professionals who have been employed in an approved social service agency full-time, under the supervision of an MSW, for at least two years and want to pursue their MSW while continuing to work at that agency. Students accepted into the Employed Practitioners program take two courses per semester (including summers). In the second year of study, students' coursework also includes two semesters of a Field Lab. During the third year, students complete a supervised field placement at their agency of employment.

Students in all programs select a method of concentration (clinical or macro practice) in their final year of study.

Admission Requirements

Admission decisions are based on the applicant's undergraduate record (and graduate transcripts when applicable), experience in human services (paid, volunteer, internships), the application essay, recommendation letters and the admissions interview. Applicants to the MSW program are expected to meet the following criteria:

- A bachelor's degree with a liberal arts perspective from an accredited college or university; or a bachelor's degree in social work from an accredited undergraduate social work program.
- An undergraduate record demonstrating academic achievement; and
- Personal qualifications such as maturity, critical thinking, good judgment, oral and written communication skills, integrity, a respect for difference, capacity for self-awareness and commitment to social work values.
- For international students whose first language is not English, we require official TOEFL or IELTS scores taken in the last two years.

The School does not give course credit for life or work experience.

Note: GRE scores are not required for the MSW program.

Application Deadline

MSW applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Priority consideration is given to Advanced Standing applications received by January 15th; priority consideration is given to all other MSW program applications, including two-year full-time, three-year part-time, Employed Practitioners, and dual-degree programs, received by February 1st. The Advanced Standing program begins in the summer term; all other programs begin in the fall term.



Partial list of our graduates' post-MSW employment sites

Action AIDS
Philadelphia, PA

Arizona Anti-Defamation League
Scottsdale, AZ

Catholic Charities
Newark, DE

Congreso de Latinos Unidos
Philadelphia, PA

DC Office of the Attorney General
Washington, DC

Department of Defense
Columbia, MD

Department of Veterans Affairs
Bedford, MA

Kaiser Permanente
Downey, CA

National Minority AIDS Council
Alexandria, VA

Philadelphia Museum of Art
Philadelphia, PA

Private Practice

San Francisco General Hospital
Oakland, CA

United Way
Bridgewater, NJ

U.S. Department of HUD
Alexandria, VA

Vitas Hospice Services
Philadelphia, PA



Marcus Presley, MSW'12, Senior Policy Associate, National Community Land Trust Network

The MSW program gave me a knowledge of systems, human behavior, research, and policy development that are invaluable in my job as an affordable housing policy advocate. Pursuing an independent study gave me the opportunity to work one-on-one with a fantastic professor to perform in-depth housing policy research.



Jabina Coleman, MSW'11, Medical Social Worker, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

Choosing to attend Penn's MSW program allowed me to accomplish one of my many goals of working in a hospital setting and supporting the needs of others. My field placement at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania helped prepare me for my job as a Medical Social Worker.



Tara Matthews, MSW'11, Management and Program Analyst/ Presidential Management Fellow, United States Department of Homeland Security

I loved that each student could choose their own personal emphasis; not only did this allow me to focus on my own interest in Criminal Justice but our classes were filled with enriching dialog. The conversations, the connections with students and faculty and the wide range of classes have thoroughly prepared me for my career in policy and research.



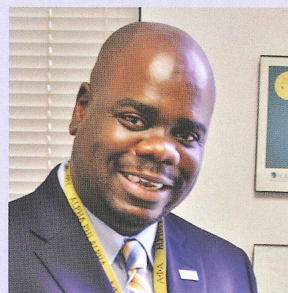
John Wenger, MSW'08, HUD/VASH Case Manager Specialist, Coatesville VA Medical Center

SP2 provided a unique and intensive opportunity to expand my professional skills. As a clinician committed to social justice, I was challenged by expert faculty and staff. The Penn experience is one that I continue to utilize and expand on a daily basis, empowering homeless veterans.



Katie (Harrison) Morris, MSW'00, Program Director, UMBC Social Work at Shady Grove

My SP2 professors were knowledgeable, passionate, and committed to the social work profession. In my current role I teach, recruit students and faculty, and address administrative roles and responsibilities. Each day I learn about how to be a better social worker, educator, and administrator and I work to model professional social work.



Lynell Crawford, MSW'97, Director of Admissions and Student Services, Year Up Inc. Baltimore

Having a degree from one of the most respected schools of social work has opened up doors for me that otherwise would have remained closed. The knowledge and skills that I gained in Penn's MSW program have been instrumental in my career and in my current position as a Director of Admissions and Student Services.

Find out more about how our alums are changing the world at

www.sp2.upenn.edu/msw

or contact the Admissions Office at apply@sp2.upenn.edu; (215) 898-5539

