

# ***MSW Admissions Requirements***

The WVU Division of Social Work seeks to admit students who are emotionally and intellectually capable of completing graduate course work and who demonstrate the potential for practice as a social work professional. To this end, the Division looks at past academic performance, standardized test scores, human services paid and volunteer experiences, references from appropriate sources and personal qualifications and commitment to social work as provided in the applicant's personal statement. Admissions faculty give careful attention to the personal statement for evidence of such qualities as the ability to respect differences in people, recognize strengths in people and circumstances, and work toward solving social problems.

## **Applicants to the MSW Program (58 credit hours) must demonstrate:**

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a GPA of at least 2.75 (on a 4-point scale). Applicants whose GPA is below 2.75 may be granted "provisional" admission if they demonstrate a potential for graduate study.
  - Evidence of having successfully completed at least 30 hours of courses in the liberal arts, which includes the social, behavioral, and biological sciences.
  - Evidence of study relating to diverse cultures, social conditions, and social problems, and individual lifespan.
  - Applicants with an undergraduate GPA below 3.0 must demonstrate aptitude for graduate study as evidenced by performance on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
  - Evidence of commitment and potential to practice social work.
  - Paid or volunteer experience. For full-time students, preference will be given to applicants who have at least one-year of paid or volunteer human service experience. For part-time students, preference will be given for two or more years of paid or volunteer human services experience.
  - International students whose first language is not English must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and the GRE.

## **Advanced Standing MSW Program (42 credits)**

Applicants with a Bachelor of Social Work degree from a Council on Social Work Education accredited program may apply for advanced standing. Advanced Standing enables the baccalaureate social worker to move directly to the advanced curriculum (600 level courses, thus waiving 12 credits of 500-level foundation courses and the foundation field experience). The requirements are the same as above, with the addition of the following:

- A supporting recommendation from the director of the undergraduate social work program.
- A GPA of 3.0 or higher in their undergraduate social work courses.

## **Applications**

Application materials are included in the back of this brochure or you may access them by calling the Division of Social Work at (304) 293-3501, Ext. 3103, or on the website, <http://socialwork.wvu.edu>.

**Step One:** The following materials must be submitted to West Virginia University Admissions and Records Office, Graduate Unit, PO Box 6009, Morgantown, WV 26506-6009:

- West Virginia University Application for Graduate Admission available online at <http://admissions.wvu.edu/graduate/>
- Processing fee of \$50 payable to WVU must accompany the application
- Official transcripts from each university and college attended
- Scores from the Graduate Record Examination, if your undergraduate GPA is less than 3.0

**Step Two:** The following materials must be submitted to the WVU Division of Social Work, PO Box 6830, Morgantown, WV 26506-6830. All materials must be submitted as a completed packet:

- Application form to the Division of Social Work
- Personal Statement
- Three sealed reference letters

Only complete applications with all of the above materials will be reviewed by faculty for consideration of admission.

## **Deadlines**

Each of the following deadlines refers to complete applications. Incomplete applications are held over until complete for the next deadline.

**Priority Application Deadline -- March 1.** Applicants admitted from the priority review will be given preference for graduate assistantships in the Division and for scholarships.

**Regular Application Deadline -- April 1.**

**Late Application Deadline -- May 1.** This deadline applies to those who needed more time to complete their applications and to those who were rolled over for provisional acceptance consideration. Acceptance at this point is on a space available only basis.

The MSW Admissions Committee reserves the right to alter or extend deadlines for exceptional circumstances.



## **Transfer Students**

Applicants wishing to transfer from another CSWE-accredited graduate social work program must meet all of West Virginia University's admissions requirements and may request transfer of up to a maximum of eighteen credit hours. Syllabi and bibliographies for all requested transfer courses must be submitted along with a letter of recommendation from the MSW Program Director from that institution in addition to other required letters. Applicants should include this request as part of the complete application packet. Please contact the WVU Division of Social Work Admissions Office at (304) 293-3501, Ext. 3101, for appropriate forms and information on receiving credit.

## **Applicants to the Part-Time Program in Off-Campus Sites**

The part-time program in locations around the state of West Virginia provides persons living and working in these areas the opportunity to pursue an MSW degree without residency on the main campus in Morgantown. Locations have included Charleston, Beckley, Wheeling, Martinsburg and, less frequently, Keyser. Applicants for the part-time program in off-campus locations must meet all admissions requirements. These sites provide the social work curriculum using a cohort model. Thus admissions are not made every year. Applicants should inquire about the timing of a cohort in their area. All applications are received and processed in Morgantown by the Division of Social Work's MSW Admissions and Retention Committee.

## ***Guidelines for Writing The Personal Statement for Your Application***

**In order to obtain a clearer view of who you are, why you have chosen the social work profession, your readiness for graduate education, and why you are applying to the WVU Division of Social Work, we ask you to submit a personal statement with your application. This statement is a very important part of your overall application. This statement should be no more than six and not less than three pages, typewritten and doubled spaced. Be sure to include your name and social security number on the cover page.**

### **Part I: Choice of Social Work as a Career**

Why are you seeking a graduate degree in social work at this time? Show any influences that your family, personal, educational and vocational experiences have had on your choice of social work as a career.

What specific career goals and aspirations do you have following your graduation from the Master of Social Work Program at West Virginia University?

What are your expectations of graduate social work education?

Why have you chosen to apply to West Virginia University Division of Social Work that emphasizes social work practice in rural areas and small towns?

### **Part II: Personal Attributes**

Examine your personal strengths and limitations. Explain how your personal characteristics support, inhibit and generally influence your ability to pursue graduate study and to establish a career in social work.

Discuss your experiences, feelings and ideas about working with diverse populations (racial, ethnic, gender, disabled, aging, etc.)

### **Part III: Understanding of Social Issues**

Name five important social issues in the country and the world today. Discuss what you believe to be the most critical current social issue that you would want to actively address and why.