

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
School of Social Work
UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION

Social Work Minor and Pre-Social Work Advising Contact Jan Dekker at 387-2656

Students interested in a social work major will be admitted into the pre-social work curriculum at the time of admission to the University. This does not guarantee admission to the social work major. The School of Social Work provides a pre-social work orientation session during the fall and spring semesters. Call 269-387-2656 for dates and times.

Admission Requirements for the Social Work Major:

- Completion of SWRK 2100,
- Minimum of 45-credit hours completed prior to application,
- Minimum overall GPA of 2.5 (all coursework completed at other colleges/universities will be included in this calculation)
- **Submit all academic transcripts to the School of Social Work at the time of application to the BSW program.** (The School of Social Work needs transcripts for all college level coursework taken outside WMU, even if the transcript has already been sent to the University's main Admission's Office.),
- Supplemental statement.

ALL TRANSCRIPTS FROM PREVIOUS COLLEGE/UNIVERSITIES MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION

All application materials must be submitted to the Western Michigan University School of Social Work, Office of Admissions and Student Services by the deadline date. All application materials must be printed, neat, and readable.

Application Deadlines: October 1st January 15th May 15th

Application Criteria:

This is a competitive admissions process with a limited number of students admitted each year. Specific criteria for selection of candidates are based on:

- Competitive overall GPA (minimum 2.5),
- General and social work related employment,
- Participation in community service, leadership activities, and volunteer experience,
- Written communication skills, personal qualifications, and basic knowledge of the profession as evidenced in the supplemental statement.

Requirements for Graduation with a Bachelor of Social Work Degree:

- Complete 122 credit hours,
- Complete all required social work courses with a "C" or better,
- Complete 400 hours of field experience.

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT

This statement will be read and evaluated as one criterion in determining applicant's admissions status. Statements should be three to four pages in length (total) addressing the three focuses. The statement must be typed, double-spaced, and attached to this form. Respond separately to each of the following items in the order presented:

1. **Professional Focus.**
 - a. Explain when and how you became interested in social work as a profession.
 - b. Identify a client population you would like to work with and elaborate on why you selected this group.
 - c. Identify and discuss a social problem that concerns you.
2. **Diversity Focus.** Social Work involves working with people of varied backgrounds. Describe and elaborate on your experiences with diversity. Focus on social, familial, educational, or employment settings where you have encountered people from whom you differ.
3. **Personal Focus.** Using specific examples,
 - a. Identify your strengths related to the social work profession.
 - b. What character traits do you have that will help you be successful in the Social Work profession?
 - c. Identify current limitations that may present obstacles to your professional development and how you plan to overcome these limitations.