WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
School of Social Work

Amy Vliek, MSW, LMSW
Director of Admissions and Student Services
Why Western?

- We are a research driven program
- Focus on social change, social justice, & service transformation
- Work closely with students and the community
Why Western?

- Have programs on three different campuses:
  - Kalamazoo
  - Grand Rapids
  - Benton Harbor

- Internships in students’ home community
Areas our faculty conduct research

- Cultural competence
- Child trauma
- Child sexual abuse
- Social work ethics
- How global changes shape human well-being
- Culture of education & access to education
- Program evaluation
Areas our faculty conduct research

- Substance abuse and mental health
- Foster care; aging out
- Criminal history & its impact on access to education & employment
Program Options

- Full-time Advanced Standing – Kalamazoo only
- Part-time Advanced Standing – Grand Rapids only
- Full-time Program – Kalamazoo only
- Extended-study Programs – Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, and Benton Harbor
Advanced-standing Programs

- Available to BSW graduates only
- Elevated admissions criteria
- Full-time 9 month program (starts in June, Kalamazoo only)
- 24 month evening program (starts in June, Grand Rapids only)
- 39 credit hours
- Application deadline January 15, 2017
Full-time Program

- Application deadline March 15, 2017
- Program begins September 5, 2017
- 60 credit hours
- 20 month program
Extended-study Program

- Application deadline March 15, 2017
- Program begins September 5, 2017
- 60 credit hours
- 32-34 month program
- Evening classes
- Maximum of 6 credit hours per semester
- Field placement in home community
Concentrations

- Interpersonal Practice
- Policy, Planning, & Administration
  - Advanced-standing must choose before applying
  - Full-time and Extended-study have time to choose
Certificate Programs in the School of Social Work

- School Social Work Eligibility (9 credits + internship)
- TF-CBT training (4 credits + internship)
- Trauma specialization: Trauma Across the Lifespan (9 credits + internship)
Certificate Programs in College of Health and Human Services

- Holistic Health Care
- SPADA certificate (program in alcohol and drug abuse)
- Graduate Certificate in Gerontology
Admissions

- Admissions criteria
- Application procedures
- Application materials
- Admissions decisions
- Non-degree status (NDS)
Admissions Criteria: All

- Evidence of aptitude for graduate study (GPA for last 60 credit hours in undergraduate program and GPA for any graduate courses)
- Liberal arts base (with specific need for: undergraduate preparation in human biology and writing)
- Work and life experience
- Personal maturity
- Leadership ability
Admissions Criteria: Advanced-standing Programs

- BSW degree from a CSWE accredited program within six years of application
- Overall undergraduate GPA of 3.0
- No more than one BSW course below a B (Any BSW course below a B will require retaking an equivalent course in the MSW curriculum)
Admissions Criteria: Advanced-standing Programs

- One year of full-time post BSW human service work experience is recommended
- One of the three letters of reference must be from the applicant’s BSW field instructor or faculty liaison
Application Procedures

- Apply through the graduate college site: http://www.wmich.edu/apply/graduate/application.html
- Must choose a program
- Current resume
- Supplementary Statement (4-6 pgs)
- Three letters of reference
Resume – to be included with the application

- Personal data
- Educational experience
- Employment and volunteer experience
- Scholastic and professional honors and affiliations
- Part of electronic application
Supplementary Statement

- Formal
- Organized
- Articulate
- Read carefully and answer all questions, using outline provided
- Recommend using headings
- Part of electronic application
Six questions:

a. Understanding of problems and concerns relative to social work
b. Understanding of diversity
c. Personal values
d. Personal background factors and experience
e. Personal attributes
f. Academic preparation

* More detail on the questions can be found on the department website
Three Letters of Reference

- University only accepts electronic
- Professional and/or academic
- No personal references
- Completed on WMU graduate application
All materials must be received by the deadline or will not be considered for admission.

That means the application, completed statement, and resume.

The application can be submitted without all letters or recommendation but it cannot be reviewed without all 3 letters.
Admissions Decisions

- Please check status on-line
- We aim for 8-10 weeks
- Advanced-standing: Early March
- Full-time and Extended-study:
  - Applications received by March 15, 2017: mid to late May
  - Applications received after March 15, 2017: as space is available
Financial Aid

- Office of Student Financial Aid: www.wmich.edu/finaid/
  - Perkins Loans
  - Stafford Unsubsidized Loans
- Non-degree students (NDS/PTG) not eligible for financial aid
Financial Aid

- Graduate College
  - Thurgood Marshall Fellowship
  - Graduate fellows receive $16,155 for 1 yr, 6 credits in Fall & Spring paid, 3 credits in each summer session
  - Applications due: February 15, 2017 (this must be completed and sent to the Graduate College before knowing admission status)
  - Applications available at: http://www.wmich.edu/grad/funding/thurgood_marshall.html
School of Social Work

Scholarships

- Rebecca Binkowski Memorial Scholarship
- Charlene Russell Cove Memorial Scholarship
- Steven Crumm Scholarship
- Nathaniel McCaslin Scholarship
- Robert Barstow Scholarship
- Deloris Jordan Phillips Scholarship

Application will be included with admission acceptance letter
Graduate Assistant Positions

2016-17 Academic Year Rates:

- Full appointment: $12,134 stipend + $9,983.70 tuition for 20 hours/wk
- Half appointment: $6,067 stipend + $6,655.80 tuition for 10 hours/wk

Application will be e-mailed after admissions decision
Tuition Costs

- **Tuition**
  - Main Campus: $554.65 per credit hour
  - EUP Campuses: $617.43 per credit hour

- **There are additional fees:**
  - Main campus: $412.00
  - EUP Campuses: $20 per course

- **Total:**
  - Main Campus: approximately $33,691
  - EUP Campuses: approximately $37,445
Office of Admissions and Student Services

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