The Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) at Western Michigan University is a research-driven professional program that focuses on social change, social justice and service transformation, working closely with students and the community. Two concentrations that are offered include:

- **Interpersonal practice** - focusing on direct practice with individuals, groups and families.
- **Policy, planning and administration** - focusing on leadership and the macro-level issues of social work practice.

Also, within the concentration, students can build upon their foundation by choosing a specialization. The trauma specialization prepares students for professional practice with individuals who have experienced different types of trauma, for example childhood trauma, physical and emotional abuse and PTSD. The Trauma-focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy curriculum focuses on work with children ages 4-18 who have been exposed to trauma. Individuals who want to be school social workers should take the School Social Worker Eligibility Program courses.

Students may be admitted to the program in one of three pathways:

- **Advanced standing** - The 39-credit hour program is available for students who have a B.S.W. and meet specific criteria as outlined at: wmich.edu/socialwork/advancedstanding. Students can choose the nine-month program in Kalamazoo or the 24-month program in Grand Rapids.
- **Full-time** - The full-time, 60-credit hour/20-month program is tailored to students who are not working full-time. Students will have two field placements.
- **Extended study** - The part-time 60-credit hour/30-32-month program is tailored to working professionals with classes available in evenings and on weekends. Extended study is available in Kalamazoo, Benton Harbor and Grand Rapids. Students will have two field placements.

### Teaching, Research and Program Focus Areas

In addition to holding continuous national accreditation from the Council on Social Work Education, and to being the home of the “Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare” (est. 1974), WMU is fortunate to have faculty members with many years of teaching, research and service in the School of Social Work.

Key areas of expertise include:

- Support for young adults who age out of foster care
- Childhood trauma
- Sexual health
- National politics
- Evidence-based practice vs. values-based practice

Faculty members are known for their strength in integrating professional practice experience and scholarship into the classroom experiences of students.
Points of Pride
• Adjunct instructors are practicing social workers and are leaders in the community.
• Faculty have received over $650,000 in funding for local and national initiatives.
• WMU has been educating future social workers since the 1940s and has a long history of encouraging social and economic justice.

Industry Highlights
93 percent of M.S.W. graduates are actively employed in the field within three months of graduation, and 96 percent of those jobs were in Michigan.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the 2016 median income for a social worker was $46,890 with social work jobs projected to increase by 12 percent in coming years.

Funding
The School of Social Work employs two to six graduate assistant to facilitate its program objectives and the professional or teaching objectives of faculty members. Scholarships are also available.

Admission
Domestic
Fall 2018 Fulltime and Extended Study: Feb. 15, 2018
Summer II 2019 Advanced Standing: April 15, 2019

International
Fall 2018 Fulltime and Extended Study: April 1, 2018
Summer II 2019 Advanced Standing: Jan. 15, 2019

School of Social Work
wmich.edu/socialwork
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