

School Social Work Training Program

What is school social work?

School social work is a specialized field of practice that provides support to students to help them achieve their goals. They assess for barriers to learning and equip the child and their family to advocate for supportive services. With specific training in systems theory, special education law, and school law, they assist schools to understand the connection between human development, education, justice, mental health, and families. (Michigan Association of School Social Workers, 2018)

Western Michigan University School of Social Work is committed to preparing students for directservice and leadership positions in the field of school social work.

State approval for school social workers

Western Michigan's MSW program fulfills the educational component of the state requirements for approval as a school social worker. Detailed Michigan Department of Education (MDE) requirements can be found at www.michigan.gov.

Please note that these are state-specific requirements. If you are seeking to pursue school social work approval in another state, please contact that state's licensing board.

Complete state eligibility requirements

- Completed MSW degree
- At least one interpersonal practice course (grade "B" or better)
- Completion of school social work courses SWRK 6200, SWRK 6210, SWRK 6220 (grade "B" or better)
- 500 hours at a qualifying internship with children (school setting is preferred)

Temporary Approval as School Social Worker

- Send the Recommendation for Temporary Approval as a School Social Worker form (REC:SSW 310) to WMU School Social Work Coordinator
- WMU will grant REC:SSW 310 if all requirements have been met (valid for 5 years)
- Obtain a job as a school social worker (SSW). This employer will complete the REC:SSW 310 form
- MDE will grant temporary approval as a SSW

Approval as a School Social Worker

- Complete one full year of employment in a school setting under the supervision of a fully approved school social worker
- If you meet the requirements, your employer will apply for full approval status
- The Michigan Department of Education will issue full approval
- Maintain your approval status by remaining employed as a school social worker

Course Offerings

Summer I	Summer II	Fall	Spring
Course: SWRK 6200	Course: SWRK 6200 Type:	Course:	Course: SWRK
Type: Hybrid	Hybrid	SWRK 6210	6220
1 section offered	1 section offered	Type: Hybrid	Type: Hybrid
		1-3 sections	1-3 sections offered

Courses should be taken in the order offered. Students should contact their academic adviser or program coordinator if they need to request an exception.

Approval Renewal

If you do not secure and maintain employment as a school social worker, refer to the chart below for renewal options.

Years since last school social work employment	Steps to renewal	
0-5	No refresher needed. Use original 310 University Recommendation form to apply for employment and temporary approval.	
6-9 years	Complete a refresher course. WMU does not currently offer refresher courses. Submit verification of coursework and field placement completion or work experience verification to WMU. WMU will issue a new 310 University Recommendation form.	
10+ years	Repeat all coursework and field placement or work experience verification, completing all steps in the approval process.	

WMU Alumni seeking school social work training:

WMU currently offers the school social work training as continuing education courses. However, you must also have completed at least 500 hours in an approved school social work setting or worked with children under the supervision of a licensed social worker within the past five years. When you have successfully completed the courses, you can continue with the steps indicated in the chart to be approved as a school social worker. Please visit our CE page for more information.

Questions?

Phone: 269-387-3180

Email: swrk admi@wmich.edu

