

On Campus MSW Program: Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the application deadline?

A. The Priority Deadline is January 15th. The Standard Deadline is March 1st. Students who apply by the January 15 deadline will be eligible for School of Social Work scholarships and graduate assistantships. Applicants applying for the full-time Advanced Standing Program must apply by January 15th to be considered.

Q. What are the admissions qualifications?

A. To be considered for admission students must have an undergraduate GPA of 2.75 or higher, 3.0 preferred. Students with an overall GPA below 2.75 may be considered for provisional admission based on a review of the applicant's transcript(s) and the strengths of the other elements on the application. Applicants will need to complete an online application and submit the following documents: official transcripts, resume, three letters of recommendation, and their admissions essay. Those applying for Advanced Standing must also complete a case study and have a 3.25 GPA or higher in their social work classes. Full guidelines are found here: <https://socialwork.wvu.edu/students/msw/admissions-requirements>

Q. Is there an application processing fee?

A. Yes, applicants will need to pay a \$60.00 application fee to apply to WVU before the application can be submitted.

Q. What is the difference between advanced standing and regular standing?

A. An Advanced Standing student is someone who already has a bachelors in social work from an accredited university within the last 8 years. They skip the foundational courses and their generalist placement and go straight into higher level courses and their advanced field experience. Regular Standing students hold a bachelor's degree in something other than a social work degree. They first take foundational social work courses and complete their generalist field placement and in their second year move on to higher level courses and the advanced field placement.

Q. How long does it take to complete the program?

A. An Advanced Standing student attending school full time will complete the program in 12 months; they will complete the program in 2 years part-time. A Regular Standing student attending full time will complete the program in two years including a summer semester in between years; they will complete the program in 3 years part-time.

Q. What is the curriculum like?

A. The advanced integrated practice curriculum provides an integrative approach to social work where students are prepared for both direct practice and administrative roles. This curriculum prepares WVU MSW graduates to be well-rounded advanced practitioners who can respond to the complex realities of practice in a variety of roles and settings. Students also need to complete field placement hours. Regular standing students complete 300 general field placement hours and 600 advanced placement hours. Advanced standing students complete 600 advanced placement hours. Students will be matched and supported by our Field Placement Director according to their interests. For more details, look through our Student Handbook found here: <https://socialwork.wvu.edu/students/msw>

Q. How much does it cost?

A. Tuition varies depending on your residency. For the 2020-2021 school year, 1 credit hour costs \$606 (fees included) for in-state students and \$1,529 for out state students. Detailed tuition costs can be found here: <https://tuition.wvu.edu/graduate>.

Q. Is there any financial assistance available?

A. Yes. There are a number of financial resources for students. You will find more details on funding, including a list of scholarships, here: <https://socialwork.wvu.edu/students/financial-resources>.

Scholarships: Students must apply by January 15th to be eligible for scholarships. Although these awards are helpful, they will not cover full tuition costs.

Graduate Assistantships (GA): The School of Social Work offers several GA positions. Students must apply by January 15th to be eligible. GA positions cover tuition and include a small stipend in exchange for 16-20 hours of work per week. Students may apply once admitted. Students may also search for GA positions outside of social work by contacting departments individually and using an employment search tool found here:

Rural Integrated Behavioral Health Training: provides \$10,000 in stipend support for advanced field placement to 20 MSW students per year to focus their studies on integrated behavioral health practice across the lifespan. Students apply to enter the program during their first year in the program.

Title IVE Child Welfare Training: program provided they are prepared to do their field placements in West Virginia and work within the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources following graduation.

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND): the purpose of the LEND training program is to improve the health of infants, children, and adolescents with disabilities. This program provides long-term, graduate level interdisciplinary training as well as interdisciplinary services and care. Trainees are offered full tuition coverage and a monthly stipend.

Merit Based Waivers: students need a 4.0 GPA to apply for merit based tuition waivers and the earliest one can apply is during their second semester for the following semester. On average, 1-3 credit tuition waivers are awarded.

Finally, students can apply for Financial Aid by completing their FAFSA application by the March 1st deadline. WVU's Federal Code is 003827. For more details on completing the FAFSA visit here: <https://financialaid.wvu.edu/applying-for-aid/fafsa>