

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, MPA AND SOCIAL WORK, MSW (MPA/MSW)

School of Public Administration and Grace Abbott School of Social Work, College of Public Affairs & Community Service

Vision Statement

The MPA/MSW dual degree program is a collaborative effort between the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), Grace Abbott School of Social Work and the School of Public Administration. This program offers interdisciplinary preparation in the fields of social work and public administration leading to the master of social work and the master of public administration degrees, with fewer required credit hours than it would take to obtain these degrees independently.

The program prepares students to provide a variety of advanced level micro, mezzo, and macro social work services to individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities; and assume leadership in the public service sector, specifically in administrative and policy work with governmental units and nonprofit organizations.

Students beginning the MPA/MSW program at the MSW Foundation level must complete 81 credit hours total. Students beginning the MPA/MSW program at the Advanced Standing level must complete 57 credit hours total.

Program Contact Information Social Work

Henry D'Souza, Ph.D., Graduate Program Chair (GPC)
206 College of Public Affairs & Community Service (CPACS)
402.554.2793
hdsouza@unomaha.edu

Public Administration

Tara Bryan, PhD, Graduate Program Chair (GPC)
111 College of Public Affairs & Community Service (CPACS)
402.554.2751
tbryan@unomaha.edu

Admissions Advisor

Meagan Van Gelder, EdD, Senior Advisor
111 College of Public Affairs & Community Service (CPACS)
402.554.3480
mvangelder@unomaha.edu

Current Student Advisor

James Harrold, PhD, Advisor
111 College of Public Affairs & Community Service (CPACS)
402.554.6702
jharrold@unomaha.edu

Program Website (<https://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-public-affairs-and-community-service/public-administration/academics/mpa-dual-degree-msw-mpa.php>)

Other Program Related Information

- Master's level social workers are employed in public and private agencies, including medical settings, schools, residential treatment

centers, court and correctional agencies, and community planning and development agencies.

- The MSW degree at the Grace Abbott School of Social Work is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the national accrediting body for all social work education.
- Information on certification and licensure is available on the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services website (<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/default.aspx>).

Admissions

General Application Requirements and Admission Criteria (<http://catalog.unomaha.edu/graduate/admission/>)

Program-Specific Requirements

Application Deadlines (Spring 2024 and Fall 2024)

- Spring: October 15
 - Foundation MPA/MSW students (those who do not have an undergraduate degree in social work, BSSW) admitted for the spring term are limited to only the MPA coursework in spring and summer terms. The MSW coursework will be added in the fall term.
 - Advanced MPA/MSW students (those with an undergraduate degree in social work, BSSW) can begin both MPA and MSW coursework in the spring term.
- Fall: February 15
 - Students admitted as either Foundation MPA/MSW or Advanced MPA/MSW can begin both MSW and MPA coursework in the fall term.

Note: If admitted to the Master of Social Work program and you wish to become a dual degree MSW/MPA student you will need to adhere to the MPA deadline date which is **June 1**(fall) or **October 1** (spring).

Other Requirements

- The general prerequisite for admission to the program is a four-year bachelors' degree with a minimum of a 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) in the junior and senior years (last 50-60 hours).
- **English Language Proficiency:** Applicants are required to have a command of oral and written English. Those who do not hold a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from the United States, **OR** a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from a predetermined country on the waiver list, must meet the minimum language proficiency score requirement in order to be considered for admission.
 - Internet-based TOEFL, 80, IELTS: 6.5, PTE: 53, Duolingo: 110
- **Statement of Purpose:** Two statements of purpose are required; one for the School of Public Administration and one for the Grace Abbott School of Social Work
 - For Social Work, the statement of purpose is an opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of and fit for the social work profession, as well as your aptitude for graduate-level social work education. The Admissions Committee pays close attention to both content and writing skills. In your statement of purpose, please address each of the items listed below, and should be no more than five (5) pages, double-spaced, in a 12-point font. Your response to each of the items should be roughly the same length. If your statement of purpose does not clearly and directly address each of the items or does not follow the instructions, it may not be considered.
 - Why have you chosen social work? Your response should demonstrate a basic understanding of the social work profession, including what distinguishes it from other helping professions.
 - Social work is a values-based profession dedicated to mitigating inequality and enhancing human wellbeing, especially for

vulnerable, marginalized, and oppressed populations. From the core values and ethical principles identified in the NASW Code of Ethics (<https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English/>), identify and discuss one that resonates with you and one that may challenge you.

- Social workers are self-reflective, strengths-based, and growth-oriented. Identify a strength that you possess and an area for growth. Discuss how you became aware of these, how they show up in your current professional practice, and how they may influence your future professional practice.
- The social work profession is rooted in social justice. Social workers adopt a stance of cultural humility and strive towards cultural awareness. Discuss a time when you realized that one of your personal or cultural identities influenced your reaction to a social situation. Reflecting on that experience, how might it influence your future social work practice?
- If you have a compelling autobiographical story relevant to your application, but that falls outside of the items addressed within the statement, you may add a letter to the Admissions Committee. Your letter will be considered, but will not be scored.
- For Public Administration, the essay should answer the following questions:
 - Please tell us about the factors in your background that will help us understand your interest in a profession in the public or nonprofit sectors.
 - What are your professional goals? Ten years from now, what do you hope to be doing professionally?
 - How can this dual degree from UNO help you achieve these goals?
- **Resume:** Applicants are highly encouraged to have professional experience in the human service field. Please submit a professional resume that identifies:
 - Educational experiences since high school
 - List start and end dates with month and year
 - Identify whether the position is part or full-time
 - Identify whether the position is paid or volunteer
 - Field placements, internships or practicums
 - Honors or distinctions received
 - Professional experiences, especially in human services
 - **Letters of Recommendation:** Three letters of recommendation are required. Recommendation requests are generated from your online application. The recommendations should be from professional and academic sources who are directly familiar with your skills and experience. At least one reference should be from an immediate professional supervisor. If you have graduated from an academic program within the past three years, at least one reference should be from a faculty member who can speak directly to your academic preparation for graduate social work education. References from family members, family friends, personal friends, personal therapists, or other non-professional/academic sources will not be scored.

The MSW **Foundation Program** is a 63 credit hour program available to applicants who do **not** hold a BSSW degree from an accredited school of social work within the last 10 years.

The MPA/MSW **Advanced Standing Program** is a 57 credit hour program available to applicants who have earned a BSSW degree from an accredited school of social work within the last 10 years.

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Required Foundation Courses		
SOWK 8070	HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT I	3

SOWK 8080	HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT II	3
SOWK 8090	SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY	3
SOWK 8110	INSTITUTIONAL OPPRESSION	3
SOWK 8130	GENERALIST PRACTICE I	3
SOWK 8150	GENERALIST PRACTICE II	3
SOWK 8160	GENERALIST SOCIAL WORK PRACTICUM I ¹	3
SOWK 8170	GENERALIST SOCIAL WORK PRACTICUM II ¹	3
Total Credits		24

¹ A student must receive grades of "B" or higher in practicum courses (SOWK 8160 and SOWK 8170).

Code	Title	Credits
Required Public Administration Courses		
PA 8050	FOUNDATIONS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	3
PA 8090	ORGANIZATION THEORY AND BEHAVIOR	3
PA 8100	ADVANCED MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP FOR PUBLIC AND NONPROFIT PROFESSIONALS	3
PA 8300	POLICY DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION	3
PA 8400	PUBLIC AND NONPROFIT BUDGETING	3
PA 8530	PLANNING AND EVALUATION	3
PA 8990	CAPSTONE PROJECT IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	3
Public Administration Elective		
Select one of the following:		3
PA 8320	PUBLIC POLICY EVALUATION	
PA 8550	INTRODUCTION TO THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR	
PA 8410	PUBLIC HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	
PA 8480	SEMINAR IN PUBLIC FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION	
PA 8520	SEMINAR IN GRANT WRITING	
PA 8566	INTERGOVERNMENTAL MANAGEMENT	
PA 8600	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW	
PA 8740	HEALTH CARE POLICY	
PA 8470	ADMINISTRATIVE ETHICS AND LEADERSHIP	
Required Social Work Courses		
SOWK 8190	RESEARCH & COMPUTER APPLICATIONS	3
SOWK 8220	CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK WITH INDIVIDUALS	3
SOWK 8230	CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK WITH GROUPS	3
SOWK 8540	PLANNING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE	3
SOWK 8290	SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE IN HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH	3
SOWK 8650	HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH POLICIES FOR SOCIAL WORK	3
SOWK 8940	EVALUATION OF SOCIAL PROGRAMS	3
SOWK 8400	ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK PRACTICUM I	3
SOWK 8410	ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK PRACTICUM II	3
Social Work Community Practice Elective		

Select one of the following: 3

SOWK 8550	SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL ADVOCACY
SOWK 8560	ADVANCED COMMUNITY PRACTICE
SOWK 8570	ADMINISTRATION OF SOCIAL WELFARE AGENCIES (Social Work Elective)

Social Work Elective

Select one of the following: 3

SOWK 8016	SOCIAL WORK WITH AMERICAN INDIANS
SOWK 8026	SOCIAL WORK WITHIN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY
SOWK 8046	AGING AND DIVERSITY
SOWK 8056	ETHNIC DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE
SOWK 8240	SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH CHILDREN
SOWK 8250	SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH FAMILIES
SOWK 8260	SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH OLDER ADULTS
SOWK 8270	SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH SEXUAL CONCERNS
SOWK 8280	SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH COUPLES AND CHANGING FAMILY STRUCTURES
SOWK 8516	TREATMENT ISSUES IN CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY
SOWK 8536	SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK
SOWK 8600	PERMANENCE FOR CHILDREN
SOWK 8610	FAMILY AND COMMUNITY VIOLENCE
SOWK 8626	TRAUMA AND RESILIENCE
SOWK 8686	MEDICAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL ASPECTS OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS
SOWK 8696	ASSESSMENT AND CASE MANAGEMENT IN SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS
SOWK 8806	SOCIAL WORK AND THE LAW
SOWK 8816	SPIRITUALITY AND SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE
SOWK 8826	GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT: A SOCIAL WORK PERSPECTIVE
SOWK 8836	CRISIS INTERVENTION
SOWK 8856	HOSPICE & OTHER SERVICES FOR THE DYING PATIENT/FAMILY
SOWK 8886	TOPICAL SEMINAR IN SOCIAL WORK

Total Credits 57

¹ A student must receive grades of "B" or higher in practicum courses (SOWK 8400, SOWK 8410 and SOWK 8420).

Exit Requirements

- Capstone - 3 Credits PA 8990
- Satisfactory completion with a grade of B or better in SOWK 8400 and SOWK 8410

Academic Policies and Standards

- The *Academic Policies and Standards* can be found here (<https://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-public-affairs-and-community-service/social-work/student-resources/>).