



DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL WORK  
ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY™

School of Health & Human Services

**MSW Program**

Advanced Standing Track



ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY™

EDUCATION FOR LIFE.

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## **The St. Cloud State University MSW Program**

### **Advanced Standing/Concentration Track**

***Advanced Standing/Concentration track:*** Individuals possessing a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) can be accepted as Advanced Standing students assuming all prerequisites are completed.

- Full-time student Advanced Standing, possessing a BSW degree granted more than 5 years ago: one summer session and two semesters (35 credits).
- Part-time student Advanced Standing, possessing a BSW degree granted more than 5 years ago: one or two summer session and four semesters (35 credits). If pursuing thesis, no second summer sessions, will take 3 credits of thesis in fall and spring semesters (35 credits).
- Full-time student Advanced Standing, possessing a BSW degree granted within the last 5 years: one summer session and two semesters (32 credits). If pursuing thesis, no summer sessions, will take 3 credits of thesis in fall and spring semesters (32 credits).
- Part-time student Advanced Standing, possessing a BSW degree granted within the last 5 years: one summer session and four semesters (32 credits). If pursuing thesis, no summer sessions, will take 3 credits of thesis in fall and spring semesters (32 credits).

Prerequisites:

- Students (possessing a BSW degree granted more than 5 years ago) are required to take the Social Work Theory and Framework class (SW 610) during the summer session prior to entering the program. Students will need at least an 80% in SW 610 in order to continue in the Program.
- Applicants must hold a BSW degree from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. The social work degree must be granted prior to the first day of class in August. Official transcripts must be submitted before first day of class.

#### **Purposes of Social Work Education**

The purposes of social work education are to prepare competent and effective professionals, to develop social work knowledge, and to provide leadership in the development of service delivery systems. Social work education is grounded in the profession's history, purposes, and philosophy and is based on a body of knowledge, values, ethics and skills. Social work education enables students to integrate the knowledge, values, ethics and skills of the social work profession for competent practice.

#### **What is the advanced generalist degree?**

The advanced generalist social worker possesses a broad and multi-faceted theoretical understanding of client systems with a focus on the person-situation-environment. Social workers with an advanced generalist degree grasp the social context of practice including the psychological, sociocultural, and political environments that impact approaches, methods, and means to enhance human well-being and to achieve social justice.

Interventions may occur at the micro, mezzo, or macro level. To that end, advanced generalist social workers develop a wide range of skills that enable them to work comprehensively particularly in rural settings and to serve in positions of leadership.

### **Mission of the MSW Program**

*Our mission is to engage students in an educational program that prepares them to think critically and evaluate practice and programs and contribute to the body of social work knowledge through active research. Students will be prepared to work effectively and collaboratively as professional social workers to enhance human well-being and promote economic, political and social justice in a diverse and global society. Using justice centered and community based practice approaches, the MSW program will prepare social work professionals at the advanced generalist level who can practice across a variety of social service settings.*

### **Mission of the SCSU Department**

*The mission of the Department of Social Work at St. Cloud State University is to use an anti-oppression lens, with a focus on race, class and gender, to inform both its educational environment and educational programs. Faculty, staff and students commit to an experiential and transformative educational process that will challenge them to think critically and analyze systemic inequalities in the United States and the world. This process will prepare professional social workers to work as change agents in a diverse world.*

### **Goals of the MSW Program**

1. To educate advanced generalist social workers who are grounded in the liberal arts and in the values and ethics, theories and practice interventions of the social work profession.
2. To prepare highly skilled and culturally competent advanced generalist social workers who actively seek to create change, promote social justice and human well-being at all system levels.
3. To educate advanced generalist social workers to think critically, conduct research, and to analyze social welfare policies, practice, and research, in order to advocate for social justice at all levels.
4. Prepare advanced generalist social workers to assume leadership positions in public and private sectors to effect social change and influence public policy.

## Application to the Master of Social Work Program

All applications are submitted and reviewed by the School of Graduate Studies before **being forwarded** to the Department of Social Work.

### Part A: School of Graduate Studies Application.

**Applicants must submit the following documents electronically** (*visit School of Graduate Studies website for all forms*) (<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/gradadmissions/>):

1. **Application form** with a **\$40 nonrefundable application fee**.
2. **GPA:**
  - i. Possess at least an overall 2.75 GPA on a 4.0 scale in your previous undergraduate and graduate records, or possess a GPA of at least 2.75 in the last half of your undergraduate work.
  - ii. Please note that while the SCSU Graduate School requires a 2.75 GPA, the MSW program requires a minimum 3.0 GPA in the last two years of undergraduate study.
3. **English proficiency** (TOEFL or IELTS) is required for applicants whose first language is other than English (email - [testingcenter@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:testingcenter@stcloudstate.edu) or website- [www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl)).
4. **Three references** from individuals who can address your academic qualifications and ability to succeed (<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/gradadmissions/application/recommendation-tips.aspx> ).
5. **Official Transcripts:**
  - a. **Undergraduate degree** from an accredited college or university.
  - b. **Advanced standing:** applicants must hold a BSW degree from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. The social work degree must be granted prior to the first day of class. Official transcripts must be submitted before enrollment in coursework if accepted into MSW program.
6. **Statement of intent** (<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/gradadmissions/application/statement-intent.aspx> ).

### Part B: Admission Requirements Specific to the MSW Program

**Applicants must submit the following documents electronically** (*visit School of Graduate Studies website for all forms*) (<https://catalog.stcloudstate.edu/~Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=7&topicgroupid=1871> ) (<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/graduate/msw/details.aspx> ).

1. **GPA:** Students must have a **minimum of a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale** in their undergraduate education. Advanced standing students must have at least a 3.0 grade point average in their social work courses.
2. **Current resume** which addresses: education, position and responsibilities for paid or unpaid experience and community involvement in human services and/or social change activities, including frequency and duration of involvement.
3. **Written essay:** three to five (3 – 5) typed double spaced pages (12 point font). Include citations for any sources used. Please respond to the questions below:
  - a. How are your career goals consistent with:
    - i. The mission of the Department of Social Work;
    - ii. The mission of the MSW Program; and
    - iii. The values of the Social Work profession as articulated in the NASW Code of Ethics?
  - b. Describe a social justice issue that is of interest to you and describe the contribution you plan to make toward the resolution of the problem.

**\* Please note: the Program does not give academic credit for life experiences and/or previous work experiences.**

NOTE: The School of Graduate Studies and the individual programs within it reserve the right to request additional information when they believe it is necessary.

## Applicant Checklist St. Cloud State University MSW Program

When applying for the Master of Social Work program, the following information must be included in your application for consideration. The Program has limited admission space for students; therefore qualified students are encouraged to apply for consideration by the **deadline of January 15.**

### Information Needed for the School of Graduate Studies:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Official Transcripts from previous schools
- \_\_\_\_\_ GPA (Grade Point Average, minimum of 3.0 on 4.0 scale)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent (can attach letter to supplement recommendations)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Recommendations (Forms found on Graduate Studies website)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$40.00 Fee

### Information Specific to the MSW Program:

- *Advanced Standing Student:* an applicant who possesses a BSW Degree.

#### Advanced Standing Applicants

- \_\_\_\_\_ Resume which addresses: education, position and responsibilities for paid or unpaid experience and community involvement, which reflects frequency and duration of involvement.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Essay: Social Justice/Mission Essay (3-5 pages typed, double spaced, 12 font; separate from the letter of intent). Please respond to the questions below:
  - a) How are your career goals consistent with:
    - i) The mission of the Department of Social Work;
    - ii) The mission of the MSW Program; and
    - iii) The values of the Social Work profession as articulated in the NASW Code of Ethics?
  - b) Describe a social justice issue that is of interest to you and describe the contribution you plan to make toward the resolution of the problem.

**MSW Plan of Study**  
**Advanced Standing – Program Plan A – Thesis**

	<b>Fall Semester</b>	<b>Credits</b>
650	Mental Health and Social Work Practice	3
631	Advanced Generalist Practice with Individuals and Families	3
635	Field Placement III (300 hours)	2
636	Integrated Practice Seminar III	2
634	Advanced Generalist Practice with Communities & Organizations	3
699	Thesis (fall)	3
	<b>Total Semester Credits</b>	<b>16</b>
	<b>Spring Semester</b>	
618	Advanced Practice with Refugees & Immigrants	3
645	Field Placement IV (300 hours)	2
646	Integrative Practice Seminar IV	2
642	Advanced Policy Practice	3
680	Advanced Clinical Social Work Practice	3
699	Thesis (spring)	3
	<b>Total Semester Credits</b>	<b>16</b>
	<b>Total Program Credits</b>	<b>32</b>

**Note: Applicants who possess a BSW Degree that was granted more than 5 years ago are required to take the “Social Work Frameworks” summer course prior to their first Fall Semester.**

**MSW Plan of Study**  
**Advanced Standing – Program Plan B – Non-Thesis**

	<b>Summer Session</b>	<b>Credits</b>
	Plan B approved course/Elective	3
	Plan B approved course/Elective	3
	<i>May be required: SW 610 for BSW's greater than five years old</i>	3
	<b>Total Summer Credits</b>	<b>6(9)</b>
	<b>Fall Semester</b>	
650	Mental Health and Social Work Practice	3
631	Advanced Generalist Practice with Individuals and Families	3
635	Field Placement III (300 hours)	2
636	Integrated Practice Seminar III	2
634	Advanced Generalist Practice with Communities & Organizations	3
	<b>Total Semester Credits</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>Spring Semester</b>	
618	Advanced Practice with Refugees & Immigrants	3
645	Field Placement IV (300 hours)	2
646	Integrative Practice Seminar IV	2
642	Advanced Policy Practice	3
680	Advanced Clinical Practice	3
	<b>Total Semester Session Credits</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>Total Program Credits</b>	<b>32(35)</b>

**Note: Applicants who possess a BSW Degree that was granted more than 5 years ago are required to take the “Social Work Frameworks” summer course prior to their first Fall Semester.**



**MSW Program Part-time Option  
School of Health and Human Services  
St. Cloud State University**

**Advanced Standing Students**

**Year One**

<b>Semester</b>	<b>Courses</b>
Fall	SW 634 Communities & Organizations SW 631 Advanced Generalist Practice with Individuals and Families
Spring	SW 618 Adv. Practice with Refugees & Immigrants SW 680 Adv. Clinical Practice
Summer	6-credits of Electives

**Year Two Option A**

<b>Semester</b>	<b>Courses</b>
Fall	SW 650 Mental Health and SW Practice SW 635* Field Placement III SW 636* Integrated Field Seminar III SW 699* Thesis
Spring	SW 642 Advanced Policy Practice SW 645* Field Placement IV SW 646* Integrated Field Seminar IV SW 699* Thesis

**Year Two Option B**

<b>Semester</b>	<b>Courses</b>
Fall	SW 650 Mental Health and SW Practice SW 635* Field Placement III SW 636* Integrated Field Seminar III
Spring	SW 642 Advanced Policy Practice SW 645* Field Placement IV SW 646* Integrated Field Seminar IV

Students selecting Option B will need to take 2 elective courses (6-credits) prior to graduation. Students with advisement and approval will determine which courses and when these will be taken.

**Note: Applicants who possess a BSW Degree that was granted more than 5 years ago are required to take the “Social Work Frameworks” summer course prior to their first Fall Semester.**

## Helpful Links



**MSW Graduate Catalog/Admissions Requirements:**

<http://bulletin.stcloudstate.edu/gb/programs/msw.asp>

**NASW Code of Ethics:**

<http://socialworkers.org>

**School of Graduate Studies Admissions:**

[http://www.stcloudstate.edu/gradadmissions/us\\_admissions/default.asp](http://www.stcloudstate.edu/gradadmissions/us_admissions/default.asp)

**Tuition and Fees:**

<http://bulletin.stcloudstate.edu/gb/financial/tuition.asp>

**Financial Aid, Loans, Scholarships, and Graduate Assistantships:**

<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/financialaid/default.asp>

**TOFEL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) Testing:**

[www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl)

[testingcenter@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:testingcenter@stcloudstate.edu)

**NASW Code of Ethics:**

<http://socialworkers.org>

**St. Cloud State University Campus Map & Parking:**

<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/campusmap/default.asp>

**SCSU's Student Life/Student Services:**

<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/studentlife/studentservices/default.asp>

**St. Cloud, MN: Recreation, Arts, Athletics, Special Events, & General Information:**

<http://www.ci.stcloud.mn.us/a/GeneralInformation/tabid/56/Default.aspx>

## St. Cloud State University- Concentration Clinical Hours - MSW Program

SW Course/ Credits  (1 semester hour= 15 clock hours)	Differential Diagnosis (108)	Clinical Treatment Planning (36)	Clinical Intervention Methods (108)	Evaluation Methodologie s (18)	Social Work Ethics and Values (72)	Culturally Specific Clinical (18)
	<b>SW 618: Advanced Generalist Practice with Refugees and Immigrants</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>SW 630: Advanced Generalist Practice in Changing Communities (3)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>SW 631: Advanced Generalist Practice with Vulnerable Individuals and Families (3)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SW 635: Field Placement III (2) (300 hours)</b>	<b>14 (Clinical Placements)</b>		<b>16 (Clinical Placements)</b>			
<b>SW 636: Integrated Practice Seminar III (2)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>SW 680: Advanced Clinical Social Work Practice(3)</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>SW 642: Advanced Policy Practice (3)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>SW 645: Field Placement IV (2) (300 hours)</b>	<b>14 (Clinical Placements)</b>		<b>16 (Clinical Placements)</b>			
<b>SW 646: Integrated Practice Seminar IV (2)</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>SW 650: Mental Health in Social Work Practice (3)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Program Total/Required Clock Hours</b>	<b>Clinical Placement 84.5/108 Non-Clinical Placement 64.5/108</b>	<b>35.5/36</b>	<b>Clinical Placement 97/108 Non-Clinical Placement 65/108</b>	<b>21/18</b>	<b>44.5/72</b>	<b>28/18</b>
<b>Additional Clock Hours Needed for LICSW in Minnesota</b>	<b>Clinical Placement 23.5 Non-Clinical Placement 43.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>Clinical Placement 11 Non-Clinical Placement 43</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>0</b>