

Master of Social Work (MSW) Supplemental Application

Effective Fall 2026

MSW Applicants Must Complete this Form in Addition to the Application for Graduate Admission

- 1. Program Cohort:** Students MUST apply and be admitted to a specific cohort. Please select the cohort to which you are applying. If you would like to be considered for more than one cohort, rank the order of your preferences (e.g. 1, 2).

Hybrid MSW Program: Students are **required** to attend classes on the VSU campus five weekends per semester (Fall & Spring); and complete online course assignments. Most electives and summer courses are conducted online without a requirement to attend classes on campus.

Hybrid MSW Program Options

_____ Hybrid (2 years)

_____ Hybrid (3 years)

Advanced Standing Hybrid Options

_____ Advanced Standing Hybrid (1 year)*

_____ Advanced Standing Hybrid (2 years)*

**To be considered for Advanced Standing (AS), students must have received a Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W) degree from a CSWE accredited social work program within the past 5 years. An applicant who meets this requirement may apply for and be considered for the AS option based on additional admission criteria. AS applicants must also submit 2 of the 3 required letters of recommendation from faculty in their BSW programs. AS enrollment is extremely competitive because space is limited. For more information contact the Social Work Department at socialwork@valdosta.edu or .229.333.5776*

2. Ineligibility: Any behavior that causes a student to be ineligible for: 1) licensing in the State of Georgia; 2) membership in the National Association of Social Workers (NASW); or 3) certification by NASW, renders the student ineligible for admission to the MSW program. The NASW Code of Ethics can be found at:
<https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English>

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you aware of any other reason that may prevent you from licensure or professional practice? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you answered yes to either question, please EXPLAIN:

3. Supplementary Statement: Essay Portion:

In a separate document, please write an integrated supplementary statement that incorporates answers to the following questions. Your completed statement should be no more than four pages (size 12 font; double spaced).

1. What factors from your personal and/or professional background have influenced your decision to pursue graduate social work education?
2. What do you expect to gain from graduate social work education?
3. What are your goals as a future social work practitioner?
4. Why do you think that you can be an effective social worker?
5. Describe two of your strengths and two challenges. How will these strengths and challenges impact you educationally and professionally?
6. Give one specific example of how you dealt with feedback that was either negative or challenging from a professor, supervisor, or mentor.
7. Describe a situation in which you gave assistance to an individual, group or community.
8. Describe a situation in which you sought assistance from a colleague or a classmate.

Short Answer Questions:

In a separate document, please write four to eight short sentences answering the following questions:

1. Describe your previous experiences with diverse or oppressed populations.
 2. Consider specific strategies that will enable you to complete the MSW program. Discuss issues such as time management, financial issues, and your perception of the demands of graduate social work education.
 3. Explain how you plan to accommodate field requirements into your personal, family, and/or professional responsibilities.
- 4. Resume:** Include a detailed resume with your application that lists your education, employment history, and any volunteer activities in which you have participated.

5. Understanding of Field Placement Obligations

Students are required to complete two, year-long field practicum placements which run concurrently with coursework. **Few opportunities for evening or weekend field practicums exist.** All students, including those working fulltime, will be responsible for completing all educational and field requirements related to their field practicums.

Foundation Practicum

The Foundation Practicum is conducted concurrently with classwork during two semesters for a total of 460 practicum hours. Students will be enrolled in a practicum seminar that will accompany each practicum. All students will begin Foundation Practicum mid-September and will continue throughout the Spring Semester.

****Note to students applying for the 3-Year Hybrid Program Option:** Students will complete the foundation practicum and practicum seminar during their second year in the MSW program. Students will complete most of their foundation classroom courses during their first year, enabling them to take a lighter academic load to facilitate completion of the practicum/practicum seminar in the second year. Students will begin practicum/practicum seminar mid-September. Students will have completed all foundation requirements by the end of their second year.

Hybrid Program Cohort

SOWK 6800 – Practicum (Fall Semester)

5 Weekend Sessions – Practicum Seminar (3 hours) = 15 hours
10 weeks – Agency Placement @ 16 hours/week = 160 hours
Integrated Assignments = 15 hours
Total Practicum/Seminar Hours for Fall Semester = 190 hours

SOWK 6900 – Practicum (Spring Semester)

5 Weekend Sessions – Practicum Seminar (3 hours) = 15 hours
15 weeks – Agency Placement @ 16 hours/week = 240 hours
Integrated Assignments = 15 hours
Total Practicum/Seminar Hours for Spring Semester = 270 hours
Total Required Foundation Practicum Hours = 460 hours

Concentration Practicum

Concentration Practicum consists of two consecutive semesters, a total of 540 practicum hours. Students begin Concentration Practicum during the first week of classes in August. Students enter Concentration Practicum only during the Fall Semester.

All Cohorts (including Advanced Standing)

SOWK 7611 – Practicum (Fall Semester)

15 weeks – Agency Placement @ 18 hours/week
Concentration Practicum Hours for Fall Semester = 270 hours

SOWK 7612 – Practicum (Spring Semester)

15 weeks – Agency Placement @ 18 hours/week
Concentration Practicum Hours for Spring Semester = 270 hours
Total Required Concentration Practicum Hours = 540 hours

2-Year Students & Advanced Standing: Students will spend 18 hours each week in placement in addition to their academic classes per semester. All Concentration Field Practicum placements begin Fall Semester and continue throughout Spring Semester.

3-Year Students: The Concentration Practicum sequence will begin in the third year Fall Semester and follows the same structure of 18 hours per week for two consecutive semesters. The Concentration Practicum is carried out CONCURRENTLY with academic classes for the entire year.

By submitting this application, I understand that the MSW Program is a professional graduate program requiring a significant commitment of time and energy. I believe that I can fulfill all requirements of the program in terms of coursework, practicum, travel, study time, individual and group projects, and completion of a final project. I also understand that travel may be necessary in order to complete field practicum placements. Additionally, I understand that most agencies require background checks, drug screens, or other prerequisites as part of their intern selection and/or hiring process. I further understand that if I have ever been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation, it may limit my placement in some or all agencies, impede my completion of the MSW program and future employment opportunities.

Applicant's Full Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

*This program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE),
www.cswe.org*