

BYU School of Social Work

Master of Social Work at Brigham Young University

Our application deadline is December 15!

Thank you for your interest in the Master of Social Work program at BYU. In addition to the summary in this document, you will find more information on our web page at socialwork.byu.edu.

MISSION

The mission of the School of Social Work at Brigham Young University is to develop Christlike social workers who alleviate human suffering with competence and compassion.

PROGRAM

Our MSW program offers two emphases: **Clinical** and **Research**, both focusing on families and children. These emphases are different in the following ways:

CLINICAL

Approximately 38 students are admitted each year to the clinical emphasis. Students from this emphasis receive exceptional clinical training to work in mental health and other direct practice settings, go on to receive LCSW licensure, and frequently become agency directors and administrators of social work organizations.

RESEARCH

Approximately 2-4 students are admitted each year to the research emphasis. These students are well qualified to pursue advanced training in top social work PhD programs. Research emphasis students will also receive strong clinical training, but they will 1) take advanced research courses outside of social work as part of their elective requirements (instead of clinical electives), and 2) submit their research project for professional publication. Alumni from this emphasis are prepared to go on to become university professors, work in a research or policy arena, or receive advanced clinical training.

Our program takes 20 months of full-time study to complete, including 1,050 hours of field internship. We **do not** offer a part-time or online MSW program.



“We make a living by what we earn, but we make a life by what we give.”

Winston Churchill

TUITION

Graduate tuition for Fall 2026 is \$4,468/semester for members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS), and \$8,936/semester for non-LDS students.

PREREQUISITES

Completion of three prerequisite classes is required from all applicants by **December 31st**: Introduction to Social Work, Research Methods, and Statistics. These courses must have been taken within the past 7 years and with minimum B- grades. Please see our website for a list of pre-approved Prerequisite and other Recommended Courses: socialwork.byu.edu > Admissions > Prerequisite Courses. If your prerequisite grades have not been posted by the time you apply, please enter your estimated grade on the application and email msw@byu.edu to notify us. If you have taken a class that is not pre-approved but feel meets the requirements, email with the course syllabus so it can be evaluated.

GPA

The University requires an undergraduate **minimum GPA** of 3.0 to apply. The average GPA for admitted MSW students is 3.7. Typically, 110-140 students apply for the 40 available slots each year.

APPLICATION

Each year the new application cycle opens on September 15th. The **deadline** to submit the completed application is **December 15th**. Applications are received online only through the BYU Graduate Studies website (gradstudies.byu.edu). There is a \$50 non-refundable application fee. Admitted MSW students begin the following Fall semester in early September.

For more information and application details specific to social work, please attend one of our MSW Information Sessions (socialwork.byu.edu) and refer to the MSW Application Checklist (socialwork.byu.edu > Admissions > Application Checklist).

Please feel free to contact us with questions or for further information.

Rachel Gonzales – MSW Program Coordinator

BYU School of Social Work

msw@byu.edu

2181 JFSB, Provo, UT 84602

(801) 422-5681



BYU Graduate School Application

Master of Social Work Checklist

- Graduate Studies online application: gradstudies.byu.edu. Start the app after September 15th.
- Ecclesiastical Endorsement. For LDS applicants without an active CES endorsement, a 2-part endorsement from your Bishop and Stake President is required. Non-LDS applicants interview with their local church leader and the BYU Chaplain. The BYU Honor Code agreement is also required for all applicants.
- Minimum 3.0 undergraduate GPA.
- Prerequisite classes completed by December 31st: Intro to Social Work, Statistics, Research Methods. Taken within the past 7 years, with B- or above grades. See our website for preapproved classes (socialwork.byu.edu > Admissions > Prerequisite Courses).
- Accredited bachelor's degree, completed before the start of the MSW program in Fall.
- Unofficial transcripts. Official transcripts are required when admitted.
- Emphasis: Clinical or Research. Enter your choice on the 'Program Selection' page.
- Résumé - one page. Upload to your application.
- Calculate your last 60-hour undergraduate GPA in the 'Supplemental Materials' section of the application.
- Statement of Intent specific to Social Work (about 8 pages).
- Standards & Expectations of a BYU Social Work Student agreement. (socialwork.byu.edu > Admissions > Standards for MSW Students).
- 3 Letters of Recommendation from academic and social work settings only. One from an academic setting, one from a social work setting and one from either category. An automatic email is sent to recommenders when you save that page of the application. Notify recommenders before saving the page.
- Sign, submit and pay the application fee of \$50.

For MSW admissions consideration, all the above items must be submitted and received by **December 15th**.

Scholarships & Financial Aid

Scholarships through the BYU School of Social Work

Application Procedure for all Scholarships from the School of Social Work

Complete the Scholarship Application found on our website: socialwork.byu.edu > Admissions > MSW Scholarship Application. Deadline for submission is **December 15th**, uploaded to your online graduate school application. Only admitted students will be eligible to receive scholarships and other financial aid.

Gibbons Scholarship

The Gene Gibbons Endowment was established in 2011 through the generous contributions from the Friends of Brigham Young University Social Work Program. The scholarship is designed to meet the financial needs of outstanding students who are committed to pursuing the Master of Social Work degree at BYU.

Value: Full LDS-rate tuition for one semester and half LDS-rate tuition for one semester.

Eligibility: Typically awarded to two 1st year graduate students annually. Recipients are chosen based on a variety of criteria including academic achievement, identified need, community service, and potential for contribution in the field of social work.

Social Work Advocate Scholarship

The Social Work Advocate Scholarship is designed to meet the financial needs of outstanding students who are committed to pursuing the Master of Social Work degree at BYU.

Value: Partial or Full LDS-rate tuition for one semester.

Eligibility: Typically awarded to 10-15 1st year graduate students annually. Recipients are chosen based on a variety of criteria including academic achievement, identified need, community service, and potential for contribution in the field of social work.

Other Financial Aid through the BYU School of Social Work

Graduate Assistantships

There are a limited number of teaching assistantships and research assistantships awarded each year, mostly to first year students. Students are required to work approximately five or more hours per week (up to 70 hours per semester) and are compensated on an hourly basis, with the potential to earn approximately \$1,540 per semester. The research assistantships are open to all graduate students in the School but a demonstrated interest in research is useful. The intensity of the applicant's financial need is taken into account in awarding all assistantships. Newly admitted MSW students will be sent the Graduate Assistant application.

Paid Fieldwork Placements

The potential for paid fieldwork placements becomes available to all MSW students during their third semester, Spring term, when fieldwork begins. These paid placements are typically made available to all students who need and desire them. The compensation averages about \$7,200 for the Spring/Summer terms and an additional \$9,600 for Fall and Winter Semesters combined. The availability of paid placements changes from year to year and depends on the current operating budget of internship agencies. The selection of students for placement in a given agency is dependent on a number of variables including the student's interests and career goals, the agency's preference for particular students, and the Director of Field Education's assessment of individualized educational needs.

AmeriCorps Education Awards

Currently, education awards are available to students who are US Citizens, intern at a non-profit agency and serve more than 450 hours (spring/summer terms for approx. \$1956) and/or 300 hours (fall/winter semesters for approx. \$1,565 each semester).

Other Funding Opportunities at BYU

Financial Aid and Scholarship Office

The Financial Aid and Scholarship Office provides student financial aid information and explains how to apply for part-time work, scholarships, federal grants, federal loans, and BYU loans. Their website is financialaid.byu.edu.

FHSS Internship Grants

Current undergraduate and graduate students who are declared majors in a program in the College of Family, Home and Social Sciences or in International Relations may apply for an internship grant.

Marjorie Pay Hinckley Chair Travel Grants

The Marjorie Pay Hinckley Chair in the College of Family, Home and Social Sciences provides funds to support student participation in professional academic conferences.

Office of Prestigious Scholarships & Fellowships

The Office of Prestigious Scholarships & Fellowships provides a list of scholarships arranged by type and field of study as well as resources available to students to aid in getting started on scholarship searches and applications.

Graduate Fellowship & Scholarships

Based on need. To obtain information about these loans and forms to apply, visit the Financial Aid Office web site contact them directly at A-41 ASB, BYU, Provo, Utah 84602, Phone: (801) 422-4104.

Merlin & Edna Sant Graduate Scholarship

Must be a graduate student in the FHSS College, have a minimum GPA of 3.2, and have Family as the central focus of your education.

FHSS Single Parent Scholarship

Must be a single parent in the FHSS college, 3.0 minimum GPA, and enrolled in 12 credit hours per semester.



Standards & Expectations of a BYU Social Work Student

In addition to scholastic achievement, the following physical, cognitive, emotional, and character attributes provide reasonable assurance that students can effectively complete the BYU Master of Social Work (MSW) program and adhere to standards of professional social work practice. As the acquisition of competence as a social worker is a gradual process, students are expected to continually develop these attributes as they progress through all aspects of the program, including the classroom, field placements, and other areas of professional social work practice. Accepting admission into the MSW program, students commit that they have the following abilities and attributes and will conduct themselves according to the following requirements:

Physical and Motor Skills Students should exhibit sufficient motor and sensory abilities to attend and participate in class and field placement, with or without accommodations (see the BYU Accessibility Center (<https://uac.byu.edu/>) for additional information).

Communication Skills Students must have the ability to process information and communicate effectively with instructors, other students, faculty members, staff, clients, and other professionals. Students must have sufficient skills in written and spoken English.

Ethical Standards Students are ethically and professionally bound to adhere to the NASW (National Association of Social Workers) Code of Ethics and applicable state laws. In addition, it is essential that students demonstrate empathy, appreciation for diverse life experiences, and develop a non-judgmental attitude in their interaction with others. Confidentiality is foundational to the profession of social work.

Knowledge Base Students recognize ecological systems and distinct components of the biopsychosocial and spiritual perspectives of social work practice and methodologies.

Professionalism Students are expected to demonstrate professional conduct, including practicing within the appropriate scope of social work, adhering to the limit of their knowledge and skills in the delivery of services to clients, respecting others, being punctual and dependable, completing assignments and reports in a timely manner, and prioritizing professional responsibilities. Appearance and personal demeanor should reflect an appropriate understanding of the professional context. Conflict resolution should follow proper channels of authority, with feedback given and/or received in a professional manner. Respect should be shown to fellow students, faculty, staff, clients, and colleagues in the classroom and in the field. Disrespectful behavior toward others or any form of sexual harassment will not be tolerated.

Self-Awareness Students need to recognize within themselves the signs of stress and emotional challenges, develop appropriate means of self-care, and seek supportive services when necessary to minimize any adverse impact on academic and professional performance. Students seek the advice of faculty advisors and access relevant supports as needed. Students are open to recommendations regarding the appropriate maintenance of their academic, physical, or mental health.

Objectivity Students are expected to learn the knowledge, values, skills, and processes required for professional practice. Students should not impose their own personal, religious, sexual, and/or cultural values on their clients. Students are willing to examine diverse perspectives and maintain professional behavior with clients and other professionals.

Empathy Students should seek to understand and respect another individual's feelings, values, and way of life. Students must be able to communicate empathy and support to the client as a basis for a productive professional relationship.

Acceptance of Diversity Students are expected to demonstrate an understanding and respect for belonging, diversity, equity, and inclusion, regardless of race, ethnicity, age, class, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, religious affiliation, marital status, political belief, tribal or immigration status, mental or physical ability, veteran status, or value system.

BYU Mission Fit Students should contribute to and support the academic and religious mission of the University, including the spiritually strengthening aim of a BYU education. Students agree to abide by the Honor Code and Dress and Grooming standards.

Program Summary

Prerequisites

1. Introduction to Social Work
 2. Statistics
 3. Research Methods
- All must be completed by **December 31st** of the year you are applying - Must be completed within 7 years
 - Minimum B- or above grades
 - GRE not required

Application

- Deadline to Apply: **December 15th** to start the following Fall Semester
- Apply online @ gradstudies.byu.edu. \$50 application fee
- After all applications are read, a portion of applicants will be invited to an in-person interview
- Approximately 110-140 applicants, 40 graduate students admitted each Fall
- All applicants will be notified of their admission decision by April 1st - \$200 Tuition deposit required in April – applied to your Fall tuition

Admissions Criteria

- Completion of prerequisites
- Undergraduate GPA - Minimum 3.0. Admitted student average is 3.7 - Last 60-hour GPA calculation
- Statement of Intent
- 3 Letters of Recommendation (1 academic, 1 social work setting, 1 either category) - Paid/volunteer social work experience

Program

- Clinical or Research emphasis
- 20-month program, including 1050 hours of Field Internships - Research project/publishable paper

Financial Aid

- Historically paid Internships
- Scholarships available through our Department and College.
- Graduate Assistant jobs available - applications will be sent to all admitted students

Please feel free to contact us with questions or for further information.

Website: www.socialwork.byu.edu

Email: msw@byu.edu

Phone: (801) 422-5681

MSW Program of Study**2026-2028**

Name: _____

54 required hours + 6 *elective* hours = 60 total credit hours

BYU ID #: _____

Research Emphasis Students take research electives

Fall 2026			Credit Hrs
	Soc W 603	Research Methods in Social Work	2
	Soc W 612	Pre-Field Seminar 1	1
	Soc W 620	Human Behavior and Social Environment	3
	Soc W 623	Social Justice & Diversity	2
	Soc W 660	Social Work Direct Practice Skills	3
	Soc W 661	Social Work Practice Models	3
		Required Hours Total:	14
<i>*Electives</i>	<i>Soc W 671</i>	<i>Play Therapy</i>	2
	<i>Soc W 680R</i>	<i>Direct Practice with Spanish Speakers (offered only Fall 2026)</i>	2
	<i>Soc W 683</i>	<i>Trauma-Informed Social Work Practice (ONLINE) (Certification available)</i>	2
<i>Research Elective</i>	<i>MFHD 605</i>	<i>Structural Equation Modeling</i>	3
		Semester Hours total:	14-17
Winter 2027			
	Soc W 602	Statistical & Data Analysis in Social Work Research	3
	Soc W 611	Supervised Clinical Social Work Practicum	3
	Soc W 613	Pre-Field Seminar 2	1
	Soc W 622	Social Work Assessment	3
	Soc W 666	Specialized Direct Social Work Practice	3
	Soc W 667	Social Work Practice with Children & Adolescents	2
		Required Hours Total:	15
<i>*Electives</i>	<i>Soc W 675</i>	<i>Substance Use Disorders</i>	2
	<i>Soc W 676</i>	<i>Spirituality in Social Work (offered only Winter 2027)</i>	2
	<i>Soc W 683</i>	<i>Trauma-Informed Social Work Practice (ONLINE) (Certification available)</i>	2
<i>Research Elective</i>	<i>MFHD 706R</i>	<i>Advanced Statistical Methods</i>	3
	<i>MFHD 695R</i>	<i>Longitudinal Statistics</i>	3
		Semester Hours total:	15-17
Spring/Summer Semester 2027:	Soc W 614R	Integrative Field Seminar 1	1
	Soc W 654R	Field Internship 1	3
		Required Hours Total:	4
Fall 2027			
	Soc W 615R	Integrative Field Seminar 2	1
	Soc W 606	Program & Practice Evaluation in Social Work	2
	Soc W 630	Social Welfare Policy	3
	Soc W 655R	Field Internship 2	2
	Soc W 663	Social Work Practice with Groups	3
		Required Hours Total:	11
<i>*Electives</i>	<i>Soc W 671</i>	<i>Play Therapy</i>	2
	<i>Soc W 674</i>	<i>Human Sexuality and Social Work Practice (2nd yr MSW's only)</i>	2
	<i>Soc W 683</i>	<i>Trauma-Informed Social Work Practice (ONLINE) (Certification available)</i>	2
		Semester Hours total:	11-13
Winter 2028			
	Soc W 615R	Integrative Field Seminar 2	1
	Soc W 624	Social Work Practice with Couples and Families	2
	Soc W 655R	Field Internship 2	2
	Soc W 664	Leadership & Community Organization	3
	Soc W 669	Specialized Clinical Practice	2
		Required Hours Total:	10
<i>*Electives</i>	<i>Soc W 580</i>	<i>Social Work in the School Setting (Certification available) (offered only Winter 2028)</i>	2
	<i>Soc W 675</i>	<i>Substance Use Disorders</i>	2
	<i>Soc W 683</i>	<i>Trauma-Informed Social Work Practice (ONLINE) (Certification available)</i>	2
		Semester Hours total:	10-12

TOTAL Credit Hours:

Faculty Advisor _____ Date _____

* Students may take Soc W 595R (Directed Readings) for 1-3 elective credits. See Faculty Advisor for more information.

Any outside electives must be pre-approved by the Director.

Required courses are listed first in each semester. Electives are in *italics*.

Updated 4/1/2026