



FSU

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

**MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK
PROGRAM GUIDE**

CSW.FSU.EDU





WHY FSU? WHY THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK?

Florida State University (FSU) is a nationally recognized, student-centric institution that takes pride in offering challenging, yet engaging academic programs, open communication with students and opportunities to assume leadership roles. On FSU's main campus, there are 17 colleges offering more than 270+ undergraduate, graduate, professional and doctorate programs.

The FSU College of Social Work recruits one of the most varied student cohorts on FSU's campus, giving each student the opportunity to learn from colleagues that bring invaluable professional experiences and life histories to the classrooms and field placements. Professors and students collaborate and engage in meaningful discussions and intellectual explorations enriched by a variety of cultural and social perspectives.



College of Social Work
University Center, Building C



Online MSW students visiting FSU's main campus for a weekend workshop.

Student-Centric

- Work and collaborate closely with faculty and staff in a warm, caring environment.
- The FSU College of Social Work ranks as a **Top Graduate Program in Social Work** according to *U.S. News & World Report*:
 - No. 36 in National Rankings**
 - Top 25 Among Public Universities** (No. 22)
- More than 44,000 students are enrolled at FSU each year.

Legacy of Excellence

- FSU has offered classes on social welfare/social work for 100+ years.
- FSU is the first U.S. university to offer a Master of Social Work online program.
- An emphasis on classroom theory applied to real-world scenarios makes the College of Social Work a top program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
- According to *U.S. News & World Report*, Florida State University ranks:
 - No. 8 Best Value College** among public universities
 - Best National University for Veterans** (No. 30 overall and No. 23 among public universities).
- According to *University Magazine*, FSU is among the **Top 10 Universities for Best Student Life**



MSW PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Master of Social Work Program is offered on-campus (Tallahassee and Panama City) and online. Each program site or modality provides different opportunities—you can read more about each below:

Tallahassee Campus Program:

The **Traditional MSW** program (Tallahassee Main Campus) allows students with a bachelor's degree in any discipline other than social work to choose from the Clinical Social Work concentration or the Social Leadership concentration. The Traditional MSW program is comprised of 61 credit hours and can be completed part-time or full-time.

The **Advanced Standing MSW** program (Tallahassee Main Campus) allows students who have earned a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) within seven years (from graduation date) from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education to complete their MSW in one year (three semesters), choosing either the Clinical Social Work concentration or Social Leadership concentration (39 credit hours) and can be completed part-time or full-time.

The FSU College of Social Work offers four **joint graduate pathway programs** (Tallahassee Main Campus) for both traditional and advanced standing students, with full-time programs of study. Joint graduate pathways provide qualified master's students with an opportunity to earn two master's degrees or master's/professional degrees from two academic degree programs.

- **Joint MSW/MBA program** combines degrees through the College of Social Work and the College of Business.
- **Joint MSW/JD program** combines an MSW and Juris Doctor degree in law through the College of Social Work and College of Law.
- **Joint MSW/MPA program** offers degrees through the FSU Reuben O'D. Askew School of Public Administration & Policy and the College of Social Work.
- **Joint MSW/MS Criminology program** is offered through the College of Social Work and the College of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

The College of Social Work offers several joint pathways. Students must apply and be accepted to each graduate program independently.

Panama City Campus Program:

The **Panama City Campus** offers a full-time **Advanced Standing** or **Traditional MSW** program. The Advanced Standing program can be completed in 4 semesters, and the Traditional program can be completed in 6 semesters. The Panama City Campus program only offers the Clinical Social Work concentration.

Online MSW Program:

The **Online MSW** part-time program is the first of its kind in the nation and allows students to participate in asynchronous instruction online. Students residing in Tallahassee, Panama City or surrounding counties of these areas are not eligible for the online program.

- Two Tracks:
 - Advanced Standing** (for students with a Bachelor of Social Work earned within seven years from a graduation date from a CSWE accredited program required) **part-time or full-time**
 - Traditional** (for students with a bachelor's degree in another concentration) **part-time only**
- **Clinical Social Work Concentration only**
- A Student Success Advisor will be with you every step of the way



TUITION & FINANCIAL AID

Tuition information for FSU is available at controller.vpfa.fsu.edu/student-business/tuition-fees.

College of Social Work scholarships are available on an annual basis through one application process during the early Spring semester. (csw.fsu.edu)

STUDENT SUPPORT
2024-2025

131 Scholarships

94 Students

\$109,625 \$ Amount for Scholarships

Federal Loans

Federal loans are a form of financial aid that must be paid back with interest. Graduate students at FSU may be eligible to receive Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loans and/or Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loans. Students must apply for the Graduate PLUS loan at studentaid.gov

Private Loans

To learn more about private educational loans, visit: financialaid.fsu.edu/private-loans

Apply for Federal Aid

1. Submit your FAFSA at studentaid.gov
2. Submit all documents listed in your To-Do List at my.fsu.edu
3. Use our budget worksheet at financialaid.fsu.edu to determine financial need
4. Accept, reduce or decline loan offers at my.fsu.edu
5. Complete your loan entrance counseling and Master Promissory Note at studentaid.gov
6. Enroll in at least 6 credit hours. Note that your aid amounts may be reduced if you are not enrolled full-time
7. Report outside aid at my.fsu.edu
8. Complete your Direct Deposit setup and Disbursement Permissions through my.fsu.edu
9. Review the Financial Aid Terms and Conditions to make sure you meet and maintain all eligibility requirements
10. View financial aid disbursement dates

Military Benefits

For students who are recipients of educational benefits, we would encourage you to review the Student Veterans Center website to learn more: veterans.fsu.edu





ALUMNI FEATURE

Derickk St. Fort MSW Graduate, 2012

"I was born and raised in a disenfranchised neighborhood where most people I knew rarely had second chances. Too often, their mistakes overshadowed their entire existence. I wanted to change that. I earned a bachelor's degree in criminology and became a board-certified criminal defense investigator.

After a few years, I realized I wanted to understand why people made certain choices and how to help them find healthier paths. This calling led me to social work. I could be a stronger advocate if I also understood the practice of social work. The FSU College of Social Work had a reputation for producing not only excellent practitioners but also leaders who drove meaningful change. I pursued my MSW part-time while working full-time.

The mentorship of faculty member Dr. Stephen Tripodi played a pivotal role in shaping my career path. He encouraged me not to limit myself to just investigations and to see the broader picture. That perspective gave me the skills to tell clients' stories through mitigation while connecting them with treatment and resources that support long-term change.

Social work often places you at the crossroads of human pain and systemic limitations. The MSW program prepared me to navigate the complexities of the judicial system processes with empathy, resilience and clarity. Today, I work with people facing some of the hardest moments of their lives, helping to create second chances through both accountability and compassion."



STUDENT HIGHLIGHT



Brianne Rucker MSW Student

"I grew up in a musical family, so I always knew music would be a big part of my life. I started playing the saxophone at age six. When I began my undergraduate studies, I was sure I wanted to be an educator. At the same time, I had a growing curiosity about psychology and human behavior. An internship with the Nashville Symphony, working with adults with Williams syndrome, introduced me to the field of music therapy. I applied for and earned my master's in music therapy at FSU.

But ultimately, my passion for working with underrepresented youth, particularly those who have experienced adverse childhood experiences and academic, social, and environmental barriers, led me to pursue social work. I've genuinely enjoyed all my classes so far. Each one has helped expand my knowledge and skill set in meaningful ways. Professionally, this degree will give me the tools and platform to advocate for the issues I'm passionate about. I hope to inspire others through my journey and help break down barriers for those coming after me."



ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

For the application and complete details on the MSW admissions requirements, visit csw.fsu.edu/mswadmissions.

- 1. 3.0 undergraduate GPA (upper division)**
- 2. The GRE requirement is waived through the 2026 admissions cycle**
- 3. Official transcripts from each undergraduate or graduate school you have attended**
- 4. Statement of Purpose**
- 5. Resume**
- 6. Letters of Recommendation (3 required)**
- 7. Application**

**The Advanced Standing MSW requires a BSW degree from a CSWE accredited institution.*

**Students that have graduated with a BSW more than seven years ago are required to submit a waiver prior to submitting their application. If the waiver is approved, applicants can apply for the Advanced Standing MSW program. If not approved, applicants can apply for the Traditional MSW program.*



CONNECT WITH US!



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"An MSW is an extremely versatile degree that allows students with a variety of interests to practice in this very fulfilling career."

Fran Gomory, MSW



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