

MSW Admissions Basics – Video Transcript

Hi, my name is Caitlin Bauer and I work in the Office of Social Work Student Services, Administration, and Finance here in the Department of Social Work at MSU Denver. Today I'm here to talk you through the MSW Program Admissions Basics for our MSW Program at MSU Denver.

We have one application cycle annually for both of our programs. Our Regular Program, which is fall start only and is for applicants who do not have an undergraduate degree in social work, and for our Advanced Standing Program, which is summer start only and is for applicants who do have an undergraduate degree in social work. Because we only have one application cycle annually applicants should plan on applying the fall and winter prior to the semester they wish to start. The exact dates and deadlines may change from admission cycle to cycle so make sure to visit our website for the exact dates for the current admissions cycle. Typically our final deadline will be in January and we will have a priority deadline in late October. Application processing does take us 10 to 12 weeks to complete post deadline, not from when you finish submitting your materials and we'll send you your admissions decision via email. Applicants who apply by the priority deadline are reviewed during the fall and winter and, if ranked in the top of the applicant pool, may receive their admissions decision early, granting them a head start on preparing to start the program, securing a field placement, and registering for classes. All other applicants who submit by the priority deadline will be notified that their application is being rolled forward and will receive their admission decision 10 to 12 weeks after the final deadline.

You might be wondering how to determine if you're eligible to apply for the MSW Program at MSU Denver. Our eligibility requirements are pretty simple. The first is that you have to complete an undergraduate degree. For the Advanced Standing Program it must be from a CSWE Accredited BSW program obtained within the past 6 years. For the Advanced Standing Program if your undergraduate degree is more than 6 years old but less than 10 years old you do also have the option to petition for advanced standing. For the Regular Program as long as you have an undergraduate degree, that's all that matters. Our second eligibility requirement is that we look for an undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. However, we do not disqualify applicants for having below 3.0 GPA. If your undergrad GPA is below a 3.0 just know that the rest of your application will have to be strong to make up for that lack. Third, we require that you submit all required application materials. Again, these exact requirements may vary slightly from cycle to cycle so make sure to visit our website for the most up to date information. For the regular program we also require that all undergraduate prerequisite requirements be completed prior to the start of the fall semester. Visit our website for the most up to date information. And that's it! You may have noticed that we don't require the GRE or any other comparable standardized test. We found that those tests don't really show if someone's going to be successful in our program or in the field of social work so we don't require them or use them as part of our admissions review process.

When we're reviewing applications for admission to the MSW Program we use a very holistic admissions review process. All pieces of the application are looked at and evaluated using a

series of rubrics. We don't disqualify applicants based on just one piece of the application alone. Over the past 4 admissions cycles we've had an average acceptance rate of 75 percent for the Regular Program and 65 percent for the Advanced Standing Program. The Advanced Standing Program has a lower acceptance rate because it is more competitive. Essentially, when an applicant applies to advanced standing they're applying to the second year of a graduate program so the admissions committee does hold them to higher standards.

In order to apply the MSW Program at MSU Denver, applicants must submit all required application materials online. The one exception to submitting materials online is your transcripts. We accept official transcripts electronically, via mail or dropped off by the student still in a sealed envelope. If you're planning on dropping off a copy of your transcripts making sure that that envelope is still sealed is vital. As soon as you open that envelope those transcripts become unofficial and we can no longer accept them. No application materials should be submitted to the MSU Denver Office of Admission. Everything should either be submitted in the online system or, in the case of your transcripts, sent directly to the Office of Social Work Student Services, Administration, and Finance. Applying to the MSW Program is a multi-step process, so make sure to visit our website for a detailed step by step walkthrough of how to apply for the current admissions cycle. You have to apply to both the university as well as the MSW Program and we want to make sure you don't miss a single step. I always recommend you bookmark our step by step walkthrough so that you can refer to it frequently throughout the application process.

Thank you so much for taking the time to watch this video on the MSW Admissions Basics. There will be links below this video to admissions information, F.A.Q. and more. If you have any questions about the process feel free to email us at socialwork@msudenver.edu and we will get back to you within 48 business hours. The Office of Social Work Student Services, Administration, and Finance is here to support you on your journey. Thanks and have a great day.