



MSUSM
DENVER

Master of Social Work

Department of Social Work

MSW Prerequisite Requirements and Completion Options

2025 Admissions Cycle Prerequisite Overview

MSW Regular Program applicants are required to have the following prerequisite course requirements completed with a grade of “C-“ or better before the fall semester in which they start the program:

- At least 3 credits of course work in **social and behavioral science** organized around **contemporary multicultural or diversity issues**
- At least 3 credits of course work in **social and behavioral science** centrally organized around **American Government**
- At least 3 credits of course work in **human biology** **OR**
At least 6 credits of course work in **natural and physical science**
- At least 3 credits of course work in basic **statistics**

The undergraduate course content areas listed above must be present on the student’s official transcript but should not be officially transferred to MSU Denver. Prerequisites will be individually evaluated for each applicant based on the transcripts submitted to the Office of Social Work Student Services.

Prerequisites do not need to be complete prior to applying or being accepted to the MSW Program at MSU Denver, however if an applicant is accepted all prerequisites must be complete prior to starting MSW Program courses in the fall semester.

If an applicant wishes to petition for a course to count for a prerequisite after the evaluation is completed, the Office of Social Work Student Services will review course descriptions, syllabi, and/or learning objectives to determine if the course can fulfill the prerequisite requirement.



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Requirement: Social and Behavioral Science – Diversity

Courses Required: 1 course (3 credits)

Course Requirements:

- Courses must focus on one or more of the following contemporary multicultural or diversity issues:
 - One or more regions or countries outside the U.S. (including aspects such as the historical, political, social, cultural, legal, or business contexts of these regions)
 - One or more of the four groups of color in the United States
 - Global interdependence
 - Gender and/or sexualities
 - Effects of bias, prejudice, and discrimination

Suggested Completion Options:

1. Straighterline – [Cultural Anthropology](#) (proctoring and tutoring included, must provide transcription showing completion)
2. Coursera – [Feminism and Social Justice](#) or [Race and Cultural Diversity in American Life and History](#) (must provide certificate of completion)
3. MSU Denver Courses – **AAS** 1010, 1020, 2000*, 2100, 2200*, 2300, 3220*, 3300*, 3400, 3630*, 3700*, 3910*, 4010*, 4160*, 4490*; **ANT** 1310, 2330, 2350, 2360*, 3300*, 3310*, 3320*, 3340*, 3350*, 3361, 3370*, 3375, 3379*, 3395*, 3480*, 3490*, 3540*; **CHS** 1000, 2000*, 2100, 3100*, 3200*, 3210*, 3300*, 3460*, 3600*, 3660*, 3870*, 4010*, 4050*, 4210*; **COMM** 2010, 2030*, 3000; **CJC** 3710*, 3720*, 3810*, 4160*; **ECE** 3860; 4360; **ECO** 3600*, 3800*; **EDS** 1001, 3150*; **EDU** 1111, 3111, 3200*; **GEG** 1000, 1300, 3300*; **GWS** 1001, 1020, 1200*, 1550, 2100, 2200*, 2770, 3050*, 3070*, 3170*, 3220*, 3280*, 3300, 3310*, 3350*, 3395*, 3490*, 3500*, 3510*, 3530*, 3540*, 3550*, 3560*, 3600*, 3650*, 3660*, 3700*, 3920*, 4160*, 4200*, 4210*; **HCM** 2010*, 3700; **HSP** 3490*, 4160*, 4250*; **ITP** 2810*, 3920*, 4800*; **NAS** 1000, 3090*, 3110*, 3200*, 3240* 3300*; **NUT** 3300*, 3350, 3375; **PSC** 1030, 2200*, 2230, 2240*, 3110*, 3200*, 3300*, 3379*, 3400, 3530*, 3540*, 3630*, 3910*; **PSY** 2850*, 3030*, 3050*, 3070*, 3170*, 3700*, 3920*; **SED** 2200; **SOC** 1020, 1040, 2000*, 3140*, 3220*, 3280*, 3410*, 3430*, 3440*, 3460*, 3490*, 3660*, 3780, 3920*; **SWK** 3110*, 3120*, 3500*, 3570*, 3590*, 3600*, 3660* 4160*

* May have prerequisite requirements

For a full list containing course names, please email socialwork@msudenver.edu

To take courses through MSU Denver, email socialwork@msudenver.edu for instructions on getting enrolled

4. Colorado Community College System – **ANT** 1001, 2115, 2130; **COM** 2270, 2300; **EDU** 2341; **ETH** 2000, 2024; **GEO** 1005, 1006; **PSY** 2105, 2107; **SOC** 2016, 2018; **POS** 2005; **WST** 2100



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Requirement: Social and Behavioral Science – American Government

Courses Required: 1 course (3 credits)

Course Requirements:

- Courses must focus on the U.S. political system of representation at the national level

Suggested Completion Options:

1. Straigherline – [American Government](#) (proctoring and tutoring included, must provide transcription showing completion)
2. Coursera – [Civic Engagement in American Democracy](#) (must provide certificate of completion)
3. MSU Denver Courses – **PSC 1010** American National Government
To take courses through MSU Denver, email socialwork@msudenver.edu for instructions on getting enrolled
4. Colorado Community College System – **POS 1011** American Government
5. [CLEP Exam](#) – Students must receive a score of 50 or higher for the CLEP Exam to be accepted, options include: American Government (<https://clep.collegeboard.org/exams>)
6. Submit [College Board AP Exam Scores](#) – if you completed the **AP Government and Politics (U.S.)** Exam in high school and received a score of 3 or higher, you can have your College Board AP Exam Scores submitted directly to the Office of Social Work Student Services for review.

AP Exam scores can be submitted to:

Metropolitan State University of Denver
Department of Social Work
Attn: Office of Social Work Student Services
P.O. Box 173362, Campus Box 70
Denver, CO 80217-3362



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MSW Prerequisite Requirements and Completion Options

Requirement: Natural and Physical Science

Courses Required: 1-2 courses (3-6 credits)

Course Requirements:

- Students must complete either:
 - One (1) Natural and Physical Science course focused on human biology, anatomy and physiology, general biology, or biopsychology (3 credits required) **OR**
 - Two (2) Natural and Physical Science course in other areas such as chemistry, geology, physics, astronomy, biological anthropology, environmental science, etc. (6 credits required)

Suggested Completion Options:

1. Straighterline – [Anatomy & Physiology I](#) or [Introduction to Biology](#) (proctoring and tutoring included, must provide transcription showing completion)
2. Coursera – [Introductory Human Physiology](#) (must provide certificate of completion)
3. MSU Denver Courses - email socialwork@msudenver.edu for instructions on getting enrolled
 - For Human/General Biology: **BIO** 1000, 1030, 1080, 2310
 - For Other Sciences Courses: Any Natural & Physical Science general studies courses
4. Colorado Community College System
 - For Human/General Biology: **BIO** 1005, 1006, 1111, 1112, 2101, 2102
 - For Other Science Courses: Any Natural & Physical Science Guaranteed Transfer courses (GT-SC)
5. [CLEP Exam](#) – Students must receive a score of 50 or higher a CLEP Exam to be accepted
 - For Human/General Biology: Biology CLEP only
 - For Other Science Courses: Options include Biology, Chemistry, and/or Natural Sciences CLEP
6. Submit [College Board AP Exam Scores](#)
 - For Human/General Biology: If you completed the **AP Biology** Exam in high school and received a score of 3 or higher, you can have your College Board AP Exam Scores submitted directly to the Office of Social Work Student Services for review.
 - For Other Sciences Courses: If you completed the **AP Biology, Chemistry, Physics (B), Physics (C-Mechanics), or Physics (C-Magnetism, Elec)** Exams in high school and received a score of 3 or higher, you can have your College Board AP Exam Scores submitted directly to the Office of Social Work Student Services for review.

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Requirement: Statistics

Courses Required: 1 course (3 credits)

Course Requirements:

- Courses must be either a math or social and behavioral science course focused on statistics

Suggested Completion Options:

1. Straigherline – [Introduction to Statistics](#) (proctoring and tutoring included, must provide transcription showing completion)
2. Coursera – [Introduction to Statistics](#) (must provide certificate of completion)
3. MSU Denver Courses – **MTH 1210** Introduction to Statistics; **PSY 2310** Statistics for the Social and Behavioral Sciences

To take courses through MSU Denver, email socialwork@msudenver.edu for instructions on getting enrolled

4. Colorado Community College System – **MAT 1260** Introduction to Statistics
5. Submit [College Board AP Exam Scores](#) – if you completed the **AP Statistics** Exam in high school and received a score of 3 or higher, you can have your College Board AP Exam Scores submitted directly to the Office of Social Work Student Services for review.

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