

*VIE*WBOOK 2017 – 2019

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

at the
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER



Our Vision

The Graduate School of Social Work is among the finest graduate schools of social work in the country, a vibrant center for intellectual development, a leader in promoting diverse communities, and an advocate for an integrated and inclusive model of social work, all within a facility that supports the best educational practices.

Our Mission

The Graduate School of Social Work is committed to excellence in teaching, scholarship, and community leadership and service. Our mission is to foster social responsibility regarding social and economic justice, quality of life and multicultural communities, based on equality for all people. As a center for the creation and dissemination of knowledge, the School provides graduate social work education in order to alleviate and prevent social problems of individuals, families and communities

Our Values

The guiding philosophy of social work includes values that create a framework for social work education, research and service. These include:

- progressive ideals of equality, social and economic justice, cultural diversity and freedom
- social work's unique focus on person-in-environment as the central concept which shapes our curriculum and practice
- excellence in the development of social work knowledge and its dissemination to students, communities and policy-makers
- responsibility for promoting social change and multiculturalism in the community, and empowerment of the social work profession



Amanda Moore McBride
Morris Endowed Dean

Investment

Whether you are considering our Master of Social Work (MSW) program or our Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in social work, the Graduate School of Social Work (GSSW) at the University of Denver wants to invest in your passion and potential to make a difference in the world.

At GSSW, you learn from award-winning educators and scholars who bring years of practice and research experience to the classroom. You have opportunities to collaborate with faculty members on research that develops and tests new knowledge, connects it with practice and policy, and drives transformative social change. We also help you understand career trends, provide professional mentoring and help you sharpen your job-seeking skills.

GSSW is distinguished by its individualized learning options, inclusive culture, and impact on individuals, families, communities and policies across the nation and around the world. We look forward to learning about you and how we can help you achieve your personal and professional goals.

Inclusive Culture

When you choose social work and pursue your degree at GSSW, you join a unique and deep professional network. Our MSW and PhD students come from every state and from several countries around the world. As social workers and educators, we are committed to helping each member of our diverse community find a place to root and grow through respect and celebration of difference.

Our small classes encourage your active participation. Your instructors are mentors who know you by name; you learn about your classmates, and you learn about yourself. Your field instructors help you apply that classroom learning to a variety of "real world" situations as you develop advanced practice skills.

Even in a volatile economy, the flexibility of a social work graduate degree gives you an almost unlimited variety of career options. As a GSSW graduate, you'll always be a valued member of our community. We'll connect you with other alumni and provide you with countless opportunities for continuing professional development, networking and mentoring.

Come join us in making a difference in the world.

Individualized Learning

A GSSW education is definitely not “one size fits all.” Our top-ranked graduate programs and world-class university offer you personalized educational and professional opportunities you won’t find anywhere else.

Your education at GSSW is experiential; you learn by doing. You take part in lively discussions in your classes. You apply social work theories and research through case studies, community projects and internships. Depending on your interests, you can choose from a range of courses and internships that embed you in the Rocky Mountain region or take you around the world.

Whether you want to become an effective clinician, an influential policy analyst, a successful community organizer or an internationally recognized scholar, you’ll find outstanding teachers and inspiring mentors at GSSW.



LIVE & LEARN IN DENVER

The vibrant city of Denver borders the Rocky Mountains and offers substantial ethnic and cultural diversity. As Colorado’s state capital, Denver is an ideal location for students seeking to understand and influence public policy.

The University of Denver campus is located in the heart of the urban community. With 11,600 students, the University’s unique medium size pairs the academic challenge typical of larger research institutions with the quality and personalized attention of smaller private colleges.

DENVER CAMPUS MSW PROGRAM

- Earn a career-enhancing interdisciplinary dual degree or a certificate in:
 - ♦ Animal-Assisted Social Work
 - ♦ Couples and Family Therapy
 - ♦ Social Work with Latinos/as
- Participate in the PROGRESS gerontology program with its unique multi-site internship model
- Specialize in your chosen field of practice earlier than in more traditional MSW programs

- Choose from hundreds of diverse internship opportunities
- Experience global social work practice firsthand through experiential courses and internships
- Customize your MSW by selecting from eight concentrations:
 - ♦ Aging Services and Policy
 - ♦ Child Welfare
 - ♦ Children and Youth: Risks and Healthy Development
 - ♦ Family Systems
 - ♦ Health and Wellness
 - ♦ Mental Health
 - ♦ Organizational Leadership and Policy Practice
 - ♦ Sustainable Development and Global Practice

Our PhD program, among the nation’s first social work doctorates, prepares master’s-level graduates from around the world to conduct advanced research or teach at the university level. You’ll have numerous opportunities for collaboration with faculty, classroom teaching and community-based research.

LIVE & LEARN

IN YOUR OWN COMMUNITY

You can complete your MSW degree without traveling to Denver, through one of these programs:

ONLINE MSW PROGRAM

This program allows students almost anywhere in the U.S. to complete their coursework online and fulfill internship requirements in their home communities. Online MSW students specialize in Mental Health and Trauma.

FOUR CORNERS MSW PROGRAM

Located in Durango, Colorado, this program is designed to meet the needs of rural and tribal communities throughout the Four Corners region that includes portions of Colorado, Arizona, Utah and New Mexico. Four Corners students specialize in Advanced Social Work Practice with a focus on individuals, families and communities. Because 25 percent of Four Corners students come from the region’s many Native tribes, the curriculum includes a special focus on Native social work.

WESTERN COLORADO MSW PROGRAM

Located in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, this program is designed to meet the needs of the state’s rural and mountain communities. Western Colorado students specialize in Advanced Social Work Practice with a focus on individuals, families and communities.



Impact

GSSW exemplifies the University of Denver's vision: *to be a great private university dedicated to the public good.*

We are a community of change-makers who have an unwavering commitment to social justice. In partnership with communities near and far, our education and research address the most entrenched social issues. We develop innovations, conduct engaged research and evaluation, work toward equity, inform policy and serve humanity through direct action.

CREATING NEW KNOWLEDGE

Founded in 1994, GSSW's Erna and Brad Butler Institute for Families is dedicated to family-strengthening work through system improvement at the local, regional and national level. Through their work, Butler Institute faculty and staff have found that the greatest return on investment comes from a holistic and systemic approach that begins with the end in mind: strong systems, strong communities and strong families. The institute also administers federally funded stipends for MSW students planning to work in child welfare after graduation.

GSSW's Institute for Human-Animal Connection (IHAC) addresses the critically important relationships between animals and people through research, training and education, technical assistance and advocacy. Multidisciplinary in focus, IHAC is the first program of its kind in the nation to be housed in a school of social work.

*You have the
passion and
potential to
change the
world. Learn
how at GSSW.*



GSSW's Center for Effective Interventions (CEI) is dedicated to developing a continuum of highly effective programs based on quality research, the highest training standards and implementation with full fidelity to evidence-based and best-practice models. CEI faculty and staff are passionately committed to helping communities create sustainable and lasting change for troubled families, children and youth.

Founded in 2016, GSSW's Burnes Center on Poverty and Homelessness is a community partner leading public discourse on issues of poverty and homelessness through evaluation, policy research and public education. The center's mission is to inform policymakers and practitioners, impact policies and practices, and transform the lives of people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

CHANGING COMMUNITIES

The Bridge Project is a GSSW community outreach initiative designed to break the cycle of poverty by providing educational and career opportunities to children, youth and families in four of Denver's public housing neighborhoods. Through after-school and summer programs, Bridge students gain skills in reading, technology, robotics, outdoor education and social interaction. Volunteer tutors and mentors help prepare students to graduate from high school and attend college or trade schools. The program also provides financial support for college tuition and other costs.

The Bridge Project is one of hundreds of internship sites open to our MSW students. Each year, our unpaid student internships contribute more than \$7.1 million to the human service budgets of communities in Colorado and across the nation.

CHANGING THE WORLD

In today's global society, a growing number of social workers choose to live and learn in cultures very different from their own. Our MSW curriculum includes an increasing number of international experiential courses and internships, and GSSW faculty members have forged numerous international research and academic partnerships. Global Practice Bosnia, the University of Denver's oldest international service learning program, is housed within our school.

Nearly a third of GSSW's PhD graduates have been international students, many of whom returned to their homes countries as high-level administrators in national government, non-governmental organizations and universities.

GSSW's impact is making a difference around the world and in communities like yours.



UNIVERSITY of DENVER

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Craig Hall
2148 South High St.
Denver, CO 80208-7100

www.du.edu/socialwork

Office of Admission and
Financial Aid
303-871-2841
gssw-admission@du.edu



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