



## 2018/2019 APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS

OFFICE OF ADMISSION GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

The Graduate School of Social Work (GSSW) fully processes its own admission applications; please direct all admission-related questions to the GSSW Office of Admission using the contact information above.

Prospective MSW students complete most of the application process online. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all admission documents are received by our office. Please carefully review the instructions below to ensure that your application is processed without delay.

Applications are processed on a rolling basis, so applicants are urged to submit a completed application by the priority deadlines. Applications will be accepted until the class is filled, at which time admitted applicants will be placed on a wait list.

### APPLICATION PRIORITY DEADLINES

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| <p><b>DENVER CAMPUS TWO-YEAR &amp; ADVANCED STANDING MSW PROGRAMS</b></p> <p>Early Deadline: December 15, 2018<br/>Regular Deadline: January 15, 2019</p> | <p><b>FOUR CORNERS ADVANCED STANDING MSW PROGRAM (DURANGO, CO)</b></p> <p>Early Deadline: December 15, 2018<br/>Regular Deadline: January 15, 2019</p> | <p><b>WESTERN COLORADO TWO-YEAR MSW PROGRAM (GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO)</b></p> <p>Early Deadline: January 15, 2019<br/>Regular Deadline: March 1, 2019</p> |
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### APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

All application materials listed below must be submitted online: [gradadmissions.du.edu/apply](http://gradadmissions.du.edu/apply)

Application materials include:

- **Graduate School of Social Work MSW Application**
- **Nonrefundable \$65.00 application fee**
- **Recommendations** (Two preferred, not to exceed three)
  - We prefer one academic recommendation and one professional recommendation.
  - **Note: Current BSW students are required to obtain their professional recommendation from their BSW field instructor.** However, if you have not yet started your BSW field placement, you may substitute another professional recommendation from a social work/human services supervisor who can attest to your social work experience/potential.
  - **Note: Current MSW students wishing to transfer into our program are required to obtain their professional recommendation from their MSW program director or faculty advisor.**
- **Career Goals Statement (Essay)** - See detailed instructions on next page
- **Resume**
- **Unofficial Transcripts**
  - You may submit unofficial transcripts for an initial review of your application. If admitted, you must provide official transcripts from all institutions attended.
  - Transcripts are required from ALL colleges or universities you have attended. Taking even a single course requires that a transcript be provided.
  - If your transcript is in a language other than English, you must have official English translations of the documents submitted to GSSW in addition to the original documents. Students with foreign credentials must also submit official proof of the degree earned (e.g., a copy of the diploma) with a certified English translation.
- Paul D. Coverdell Fellows Application (for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers)
- GSSW Teach for America Partnership Application (for Teach for America alumni/alumnae)
- City Year Partnership Application (for City Year alumni/alumnae)

Please note that GRE scores are not required as part of our MSW admission process.

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## **INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS**

If you are not a United States citizen, you must submit the following additional documents:

- Supplement for International Applicants
- Official scores from TOEFL/IELTS. Visit our website for details.
  - If you received a degree from a college or university where English is the language of instruction and examination, you are not required to submit the TOEFL score. If the institution is outside of the United States, you must submit a statement from the registrar of that institution verifying that the above conditions are met.

**Note:** To obtain a visa eligibility document (I-20), which is needed to obtain a visa or to transfer to the University of Denver if you are already in the United States, you must submit financial documentation that includes an original bank statement and/or an offer of scholarship that confirms funding for at least one year of study. Verification of financial resources is not necessary for an admission decision.

## **CAREER GOALS STATEMENT (ESSAY)**

The Admission Committee considers your Career Goals Statement to be an essential part of your application. While factors such as cumulative grade point average and social work-related experience are important, your rationale for entering the social work profession, your self-awareness, creativity, critical thinking and writing skills are major factors committee members consider when reviewing your application. Respond openly and honestly to each section.

The average statement length is approximately five pages; submissions exceeding seven pages are discouraged. Please double-space your statement, use a font size of no less than 12, and put your name in the upper right corner of each page. Answer questions 1-5. Answering question 6 is optional.

Prior to writing your essay, review the NASW Code of Ethics: [socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics](https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics)

## **QUESTIONS:**

### **1. RATIONALE**

*Identify significant factors that influenced your decision to pursue a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree and how you intend to use it in the future. (1-2 paragraphs)*

### **2. SOCIAL WORK VALUES AND ETHICS**

*Describe your understanding of the social work profession and its core values. Compare your own values with the professional social work values, any potential value based or ethical conflicts you might experience and how you plan to address or reconcile these conflicts (whether it be in the classroom, in field, in future practice or in any other areas). (1 page)*

### **3. PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL ATTRIBUTES AND LIABILITIES**

*Describe any cultural, economic or social challenges and/or opportunities that have provided you with a unique perspective about social work issues. What insights have you gained from these experiences about how to maintain professional judgment and performance during times of distress? (1 page)*

### **4. EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES**

*Discuss the relationship between your educational, employment and volunteer experiences and what qualities equip you for the social work profession. Describe your experiences and feelings about working with populations different from your own. (1 page)*

### **5. WORK LIFE BALANCE**

*Explain your plan for managing your graduate education. Consider how you will balance work, family and other responsibilities with the required courses, homework and internship responsibilities. (2-3 paragraphs)*

### **6. OPTIONAL**

*Please address any special academic or other considerations that you would like GSSW to consider in the review of your application.*