Master of Social Work, MSW

Admission

The School of Social Work seeks to maintain a heterogeneous student body by enrolling students who represent diverse backgrounds and cultural perspectives. Previous experience in human services and cross-cultural experiences is desirable. While experience in volunteering, working, and life are valued, the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) does not permit the School of Social Work to grant academic credit for life experience or previous volunteer or work experience.

Admission to the 54 s.h. program requires a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited American college or university, or an equivalent degree from another country as determined by the Office of Admissions with reasonable distribution of courses in the liberal arts and sciences (the humanities and the social, behavioral, and biological sciences).

Admission to the 36 s.h. program requires a bachelor's degree in social work from a CSWE-accredited college or university.

All applicants must have an undergraduate grade-point average (GPA) of 3.00 or higher, or a GPA of 3.00 or higher on 12 s.h. of letter-graded graduate coursework; consult the university’s Office of Admissions for assistance in calculating GPA. Competence in personal computers and spreadsheet applications is required.

Applicants must submit:

• the University of Iowa graduate admissions application;
• a 2-page statement of purpose (advanced standing applicants have an additional question);
• a brief School of Social Work supplemental data form;
• a resume;
• the name, email address, and phone number for two references (one academic and one professional reference); and
• unofficial transcripts from all colleges attended (except the University of Iowa).

Applications for the 54 s.h. program are accepted beginning Sept. 1 and must be completed by Feb. 1 to be considered for the next academic year. Applications for the 36 s.h. program are due Dec. 1.

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website.

For a complete list of graduate admission policies, contact the School of Social Work.