THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
Primarily Online | MSW PROGRAM

RISE WITH THE TIDE
DISTANCE LEARNING
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As a social worker, you can use your compassion and care to help improve people’s lives. Social workers assist people in many areas including child and family situations, juvenile justice, public health, mental health and substance abuse. Social work administrators, researchers and policymakers are also needed to address issues such as trauma, poverty, violence, homelessness and more.

The University of Alabama School of Social Work alumni are serving clients in Alabama, across the U.S., and across the world. The school has been preparing Master of Social Work students since 1965 and is ranked in the top 25 percent of accredited MSW programs in the nation by U.S. News and World Report. The goal of the MSW faculty is to increase students’ knowledge of social problems and their solutions, to improve social conditions of the state and beyond, and to promote social justice and human dignity for all people.

School of Social Work faculty members have extensive experience in all areas of social work. They are involved in research, social justice issues and direct practice. Student learning is enhanced through faculty discussion of their own experiences.

The School of Social Work offers MSW distance learning through two options: the Advanced-Standing program (42-credit-hour program for those who earned a BSW from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited program) and the 60-credit-hour program option, for those who do not have a BSW.

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Advanced-Standing

Advanced-Standing is a 42-credit-hour program that can be completed in three semesters. This option is for those students who hold a CSWE-accredited BSW. One cohort of distance learning Advanced-Standing students begins every year in late May or early June and another begins every year in January. All classes are primarily online, with face-to-face skills labs held on selected Saturdays at regionally convenient locations across the state of Alabama. This program can be completed on a full-time or part-time basis.

60-Credit-Hour

60-credit-hour students complete first-year and second-year classes primarily online, with face-to-face skills labs held on selected Saturdays at regionally convenient locations across the state of Alabama. This program begins in the summer semester and can be completed in two years if a student is full-time.

Visit BamaByDistance.ua.edu/msw for more information.

Concentrations

The School of Social Work offers two concentrations within the MSW distance education program.

Children, Adolescents and their Families
This concentration is designed for students interested in working with children, adolescents and their families, especially in child welfare and mental health settings. Graduates may practice and take leadership roles in the areas of child welfare, family services, mental health, health care, substance abuse treatment, behavioral health and other social service fields.

Adults and their Families
This concentration prepares students to work with adults and their families, especially in geriatric services and adult mental health settings. Graduates may practice and take leadership roles in the areas of geriatric services, family services, mental health, health care, substance abuse treatment, behavioral health and other social service fields.
SKILLS LABS

Skills labs are designed to give students in the program an opportunity to practice the skills learned in online classes. Each skills lab is led by an instructor who guides students through role-playing and practice exercises. Students in the Advanced-Standing and 60-credit-hour programs participate in the face-to-face skills labs held on selected Saturdays at regionally convenient locations across the state of Alabama. Locations for the skills labs are determined based on enrollment.

ORIENTATION

Orientation is mandatory for all students in the MSW program. Sessions are held shortly before the start of classes. Information regarding dates, times and locations of orientation sessions is included in the admissions letter.

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES AND REQUIREMENTS

Some courses are presented entirely online, while others include face-to-face skills lab sessions. To participate in a distance learning program, students must have access to a computer with a high-speed Internet connection. Students receive a tutorial during orientation on technology requirements and resources.
FIELD EDUCATION

Requirements

For students in the 60-credit-hour program, five hundred clock-hours in an approved social work setting are required for field education during the first and also the second year, for a total of 1000 clock-hours.

Advanced-Standing students complete one 500 clock-hour field education placement during the concentration year.

Field education starts in January and must be completed by August at the end of the full summer term. The field placement schedule must include two full normal business-hour weekdays per week (Monday-Friday; 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.). To complete field education, employed students must arrange their work schedules to accommodate weekday time in field placement. Students who reside out of state will be responsible for helping secure field placement locations. The field office will contact out-of-state students at the appropriate time to begin the process.

Options and Approvals

Additional field education hours may be approved for weekends and after business hours, with appropriate MSW supervision available. There may also be options for completion in the student’s place of employment with restrictions. All field education placement plans require prior approval by the Field Education Coordinator. All students are required to attend a field orientation and obtain a background check prior to entering the field placement. Field education orientation times and places will be announced and may be provided in Tuscaloosa, in regionally convenient locations or online.
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must complete an application to the Graduate School and an application to the MSW program. Admission applications should be completed by January 8 for priority consideration for the 60-credit-hour program and the summer Advanced-Standing program and by September 1 for the spring Advanced-Standing program. Applications will continue to be reviewed and students will be admitted as long as space is available. For application review by the MSW Admissions Committee to begin, all application materials must be completed. It is recommended that the Graduate School sections of the application be submitted in mid-December or mid-July.

Minimum Admission Standards

The following standards and requirements must be met for admission to the MSW program:

1. A bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution.
2. An acceptable GPA.
   a. For regular admission - A GPA of at least 3.0 overall (based on a 4.0 scale) or a 3.0 average for the last 60 semester hours of coursework toward a completed degree (based on a 4.0 scale).
   b. For conditional admission* - A GPA of at least 2.5 overall (based on a 4.0 system), and a score at the 50th percentile or higher on the MAT, or at least 300 on the combined quantitative and verbal sections of the GRE. MAT/GRE scores must be less than five years old.
   c. For Advanced-Standing admission: Students who hold the Bachelor of Social Work degree from an institution accredited by the Council on Social Work Education may qualify for Advanced-Standing. Advanced-Standing students enroll in MSW study for one full summer or spring session followed by one full academic year (fall and spring). In addition to the satisfaction of all regular or conditional admission requirements of the School, admission with Advanced-Standing also requires a ‘B’ average or better in all undergraduate social work courses, with no more than one ‘C’ in upper division/professional social work courses and grades of ‘B’ or better in field education courses.

*Refer to the Graduate Catalog for the policy on removal of the condition at the end of the first 12 hours of enrollment.

Other Program Options

For more information on other degree options, please visit BamaByDistance.ua.edu/msw.

- MSW/MPH Dual Degree Program (Primarily online)
- MSW/JD Dual Degree Program (Tuscaloosa campus)
- MSW Program (Tuscaloosa campus)
FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Financial aid and scholarships help many students defray the cost of courses. To learn more please visit the websites below.

Financial Aid
financialaid.ua.edu

College of Continuing Studies Scholarships
BamaByDistance.ua.edu/scholarships

The School of Social Work also offers scholarships and stipends (determined both by merit and financial need). The application for School of Social Work scholarships and stipends is included as part of the admission application materials. Check with the Human Resources department at your place of employment for possible tuition aid or reimbursement.

APPLICATION MATERIALS AND INFORMATION

To download application materials visit BamaByDistance.ua.edu/msw, or request application materials by emailing studentservices@sw.ua.edu or calling (205) 348-8413.

Information in this brochure is subject to change.
CONTACT INFORMATION
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For more information, please visit BamaByDistance.ua.edu/msw.

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