from the DEAN

Dear Prospective Student,

The Graduate School of Social Work (GSSW) at the University of Denver welcomes you!

We want to invest in your passion and potential to make a difference in the world. GSSW is distinguished by its inclusive culture, individualized options for learning, and impact on individuals, systems and policy.

INCLUSIVITY
Our faculty, staff and alumni will provide countless opportunities for your development. You will be inspired, supported and mentored by them. We are committed to helping each member of our community find a place to root and grow through respect and celebration of difference.

INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING
Our pedagogy is experiential; you learn by doing. You will apply social work theories and research through case studies, community projects and internships. You can choose among a range of courses and internships, depending on your interests.

IMPACT
At GSSW, you will join 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.

By choosing social work and attending GSSW, you will join a unique and deep professional network. You will be bolstered throughout your career by our renowned faculty, committed staff and leading alumni.

We look forward to learning about your passions and are glad to answer any questions you have. Come join us at GSSW in making a difference in the world.

All the best,

Amanda Moore McBride, MSW, PhD
Morris Endowed Dean and Professor

WESTERN COLORADO MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM
Located in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, the Western Colorado Master of Social Work Degree Program offers you the opportunity to earn your MSW in or near your own community. The program’s objectives are to:

- provide affordable, high-quality graduate social work education to support local workforce development
- address community concerns and the special needs of rural and mountain communities
- strengthen the professional social work infrastructure of communities in Western Colorado

The courses offered during the academic year are taught using a variety of technologies: summer-intensive courses taught on-site in Glenwood Springs, classes simulcast and broadcast from Denver using interactive video, and online and hybrid courses using web-based technology. Both GSSW faculty and local adjunct faculty teach the classes. Students and instructors have online access to the University of Denver libraries.

Field education is a key component of the MSW program. Students complete internships throughout the Western Colorado area, and a team of field liaisons assists these students in the completion of their field placements.

The Western Colorado program offers a weekend schedule of Friday afternoon/evening and Saturday classes that allow students to be in their communities during the week and also work at their internship sites. A new cohort of students is admitted biennially according to the following schedule:

### ACADEMIC YEARS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED</th>
<th>CLASSES BEGIN</th>
<th>GRADUATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Standing</td>
<td>October 2017 – May 1, 2018</td>
<td>July 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 – 2021</td>
<td>Two-Year Program</td>
<td>October 2018 – May 1, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Standing</td>
<td>October 2019 – May 1, 2020</td>
<td>July 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PROGRAM OPTIONS

#### Two-Year MSW Program

The two-year MSW program option is available to applicants with a baccalaureate degree in academic disciplines other than social work. Degrees must be from institutions accredited by a regional accrediting body. Students who attend full-time typically complete the 90-credit-hour program in six to seven academic quarters (two calendar years).

#### Advanced Standing MSW Program

The advanced standing program option is available to applicants with a baccalaureate degree in social work from a college or university whose social work program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) at the time the degree is conferred. Western Colorado advanced standing students begin their program in summer 2018 and typically complete their MSW degree in one calendar year (four quarters).

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In selecting their student body, GSSW seeks individuals who support the school’s mission and will advocate, in their subsequent careers, for the values and principles embodied within that mission.

Applicants to the MSW program must have the following minimum qualifications to be considered for admission:

- **TWO-YEAR PROGRAM:** A baccalaureate degree earned at a college or university accredited by a regional accrediting body.
- **ADVANCED STANDING PROGRAM:** A baccalaureate degree in social work from a college or university whose social work program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) at the time the BSW or BA degree is conferred.
- A minimum of 20 semester hours or 30 quarter hours in undergraduate course work in the arts and humanities, social/behavioral sciences and biological sciences. All liberal arts courses counted toward this requirement must have a grade of “C” (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) or better. In addition, applicants must have completed at least one course in English Composition or present evidence of testing out of the English Composition requirement.

Applicants to the MSW program who meet the minimum qualifications for consideration will then be evaluated based on the following preferred qualifications for admission consideration:

- Demonstrated successful academic record with a grade point average of “B” (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) or better as an undergraduate or in any graduate studies the applicant may have pursued. The 3.0 GPA is not, however, a prerequisite for admission. The reputation of the institution conferring the degree, the date the degree was conferred and other factors are considered in evaluating the applicant’s academic record. Applicants who are in their final year of undergraduate study may be accepted for admission contingent upon a final transcript documenting successful completion of degree requirements.
- Demonstrated salaried or volunteer experience in human services or related areas, e.g., teaching, child care or therapeutic recreation. Salaried experience is generally given greater weight than volunteer experience in an allied field.

**TEST SCORES**

Entrance examinations such as the Graduate Records Examination (GRE) and Miller Analogies Test (MAT) are not required for admission to GSSW. International students must submit their score from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Students with a degree from a college or university where English is the language of instruction are not required to submit the TOEFL score. If the institution is outside the United States, a statement must be submitted by the registrar verifying that the above conditions are met. Degrees from non-U.S. institutions will be evaluated by the Office of International Student Admission for equivalency to a U.S. baccalaureate degree.

**OTHER SKILLS**

Entering students should have a basic knowledge of research methods and statistics. They should be competent in the use of personal computers for the purposes of word processing, data analysis, web-based research and electronic correspondence.

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

The Western Colorado program uses a variety of information and communication technologies to support student learning. For most classes, you will be expected to access the University of Denver’s course management system, the University libraries, websites, email, social media and other Internet-based resources. The fundamental requirement for using these resources is that your learning is accessed to the Internet. Your experience with use of the resources will be enhanced if your connection to the Internet is broadband, although the resources also are available through applications on smartphones. Colorado’s mountain country and reservations can have spotty Internet access, as well as areas where smartphone access is a problem. If you do not have Internet access at your home or through cell services, you encourage you to build time into your weekend schedule to access the Internet through our facilities. In addition, please check at the nearest library, where Wi-Fi services or desktop computers may be available to you.

In many communities, local coffee shops or cafes offer Wi-Fi services for their customers. In Glenwood Springs, you may have access at work. If you plan to use Internet resources at your workplace for program participation, please ensure that you have permission from your employer to do so.

### ADMISSION CRITERIA
Applications for the two-year Western Colorado MSW program that begins in the fall of 2017 must be received by May 1, 2017, or before the class is full.

You must submit your application online. Please visit the Western Colorado admission webpage for complete information: du.edu/socialwork/admission/msw/applywcolorado.html

- The Western Colorado MSW Application (submitted online at gradadmissions.du.edu/apply)
- The Career Goals Statement (link to printable instructions available on the Western Colorado admission webpage)
- An official transcript from each college or university previously attended
- Two written recommendations:
  - You’ll need reference names and valid email addresses during the online application process.
  - Recommenders will be emailed the appropriate form and detailed instructions on how to submit their recommendation electronically.

Admission Decisions

When applications are received, admission staff will verify that the applicants have submitted all the required documents listed above. Faculty members read the admission files and make admission recommendations. The admission committee then reviews the application files, along with the faculty members’ recommendations, and makes admission decisions.

Admitted applicants must make a $300 deposit to guarantee enrollment. This non-refundable deposit is applied to the first quarter’s tuition.

Transfer of Credit and Waiver of Courses

Applicants may transfer graduate credits earned from another accredited institution to meet GSSW’s degree requirements, if those credits have not been applied to any other degree. Details are available from the Office of Admission (303-871-2841). All requests for transfer of credit must be approved by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs after the applicant has been admitted. In keeping with CSWE standards, GSSW cannot grant academic credit for life experience or previous work experience, in whole or in part, in lieu of the field practicum or any courses in the curriculum.

FINANCIAL AID

Federal Direct Student Loans

Western Colorado MSW students may be eligible for Federal Direct Unsubsidized Student Loans. Students must take at least 4 credit hours per quarter to be eligible. The maximum annual loan limit is $20,500. Students who wish to apply for Federal Direct Unsubsidized Student Loans must submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at fasa.ed.gov. Each student must file the FAFSA as an independent student. The institutional code for the University of Denver is 001371.

Students entering the two-year Western Colorado MSW program in fall 2017 must file the 2017–2018 FAFSA (covering the 2017–2018 fall, winter, spring and summer quarters). The FAFSA becomes available on Oct. 1 each year and should be filed online as soon as possible thereafter.

Advanced standing students entering the MSW program in summer quarter 2018 should complete and submit the 2017–2018 FAFSA as soon as possible and the 2017–2019 FAFSA after Oct. 1, 2018.

Title IV-E Child Welfare Stipends

Administered through the Erna and Brad Butler Institute for Families, these stipends are awarded to students intending to work in public child welfare in Colorado after graduation.

The stipends are generally awarded to concentration curriculum students. The selected applicants agree to work in public child welfare in Colorado one year for each year they receive the stipend. For more information, please visit the Butler Institute website at: thebutlerinstitute.org/work-with-us/msw-stipends

Additional Financial Aid Information (online sources)

- University of Denver Office of Financial Aid – du.edu/finaid
- College Board: collegeboard.com
- FAFSA: fasa.ed.gov
- AAUW Fellowships for women: aauw.org
- Financial aid information: financialaid.org
- FastWeb: fastweb.com

Note: All rates quoted here are subject to change.

PROGRAM EXPENSES

The following is a summary of minimum expenses for University of Denver distance education graduate students. The Western Colorado program is being offered at a reduced tuition rate in an effort to better serve communities in the region. Tuition charges are the same for residents and non-residents of Colorado.

The 2016–2017 tuition rate for the Western Colorado program is estimated at $31,140 ($692/credit hour) with an additional technology fee estimated at $180 for the year. This does not include the cost of books. Students should anticipate a tuition increase of approximately five percent each year.

Note: All rates quoted here are subject to change.
The two-year MSW program consists of the foundation curriculum and the concentration curriculum. The foundation curriculum prepares students for generalist practice. The concentration curriculum prepares students for advanced clinical practice and community leadership in rural and mountain communities. The two-year program totals 90 credit hours of classroom (60 to 63 credit hours) and field instruction (27 to 30 credit hours).

The foundation curriculum consists of coursework and a field internship. During the foundation curriculum, students are introduced to the professional foundation of social work. Students acquire a basic knowledge of intervention skills and techniques used to improve the social functioning of individuals, families, groups, communities and organizations. At the same time, a sense of social responsibility for the achievement of social work goals will be enhanced.

In the concentration curriculum, students advance in professional knowledge and skill through specialization in Advanced Social Work Practice with a focus on individuals, families and communities.

### ADVANCED STANDING MSW PROGRAM

The first quarter of the advanced standing program consists of coursework only. Specific courses are required during this quarter, including “Power, Privilege and Oppression from a Critical Multicultural Perspective” and “Advanced Standing Seminar,” whose purpose is to help students integrate their BSW education with their social work experience and plan their continuing professional development.

Advanced standing students begin their concentration curriculum in the fall quarter along with the two-year MSW students, specializing in Advanced Social Work Practice with a focus on individuals, families and communities.

### CONCENTRATION CURRICULUM

The Advanced Social Work Practice Concentration prepares social workers to practice across the continuum of services at micro, mezzo and macro levels with a wide range of populations and settings to meet the needs of their community. Additionally, social workers intervene in social justice issues impacting local populations through educational, management, program development, advocacy and policy work. This concentration emphasizes culturally responsive practice needed for the increasing diversity in communities locally and nationally.

Students engage in field education in a variety of settings, such as community service and government agencies, health and hosipice agencies, residential facilities, schools, child welfare settings and more. Clients include individuals, families, groups and communities. These placements can offer opportunities to gain skills in clinical interventions, care management, group work, program and policy development, advocacy, and administration.

### REQUIRED CONCENTRATION COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 4006</td>
<td>Human Behavior and the Social Environment: Theory for Practice</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 4132</td>
<td>Power, Privilege and Oppression from a Critical Multicultural Perspective</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 4150</td>
<td>Foundation Field Seminar</td>
<td>1 credit for each 3 quarters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 4201</td>
<td>Evidence for Practice</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 4950</td>
<td>Foundation Field Internship</td>
<td>12 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course descriptions are available at du.edu/socialwork/programs/mswcourses.
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be met for the Master of Social Work degree:

- **RESIDENCY**: Students must be enrolled in the GSSW program for at least three quarters and earn a minimum of 45 credit hours from GSSW.
- **GRADES**: Students must maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, excluding field practicum grades.
- **CREDIT HOURS**: Students in the two-year program must earn 90 quarter hours, and those in the advanced standing program must earn 60 quarter hours.
- **REQUIRED COURSES**: Students must complete all course requirements in consultation with a faculty advisor.
- **FIELD INTERNSHIPS**: Students must satisfactorily complete field internship requirements.
- **ADVANCEMENT TO CANDIDACY**: Students must advance to candidacy no later than one quarter before the expected date of program completion. Advancement is based on enrollment as a regular-status student, as well as satisfactory progress in course work and field internship. In addition, students must exhibit satisfactory progress in the areas of professional attitude and behavior, and ethical conduct. Students for whom there is a faculty concern pending will not be advanced until the satisfactory resolution of that concern.

FIELD INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Supervised field instruction is a required component of the GSSW curriculum. This experience allows students to apply the knowledge and theories learned in the classroom to professional clinical and community interventions. Field education is offered under the concurrent field plan, which engages students simultaneously in both classroom and practice learning during the fall, winter and spring quarters.

Students' field internships are selected in relation to career interests, administrative feasibility, geographic considerations and educational standards. The program director works with students to find internship sites in or near students' local communities.

A minimum of 1,080 field clock hours are required for the two-year MSW program; 600 clock hours are required for advanced standing students. Field internships last a full academic year. Some students in the Western Colorado MSW Program complete their internship hours during the summer quarter.

Foundation students must complete 12 quarter hours of field internship, typically four credit hours each quarter, for a total of 480 clock hours. Concentration students must complete a minimum of 15 quarter hours of field internships, typically five credit hours each quarter, for a total of 600 clock hours. Students in approved internships requiring more than 600 clock hours register for additional credits. Although the break between fall and winter quarters is four to five weeks long, students are expected to continue at their field internships two weeks beyond the Thanksgiving break, usually completing fall quarter field work by mid-December.

Students who are employed by a human service agency that meets GSSW's requirements may apply to do their field internship in their place of work. They must have been employed there for at least six months and have completed the agency's probationary period. Additional criteria are listed in the GSSW Field Manual.
The University of Denver is an equal opportunity affirmative action institution. It is the policy of the University not to discriminate in the admission of students, in the provision of services, or in employment on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or disability. The University complies with all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and Executive Orders. Inquiries concerning allegations of discrimination based on any of the above factors may be referred to the University of Denver, Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity, Mary Reed Building, Room 310, 2199 South University Boulevard, Denver, CO 80208. Phone 303-871-2585; Fax 303-871-7962.