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
Located in Durango, Colorado, the Four Corners 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 tribal communities
• strengthen the professional social work infrastructure of communities in the Four Corners region

The courses offered during the academic year are taught using a variety of technologies: summer intensive courses taught on-site in Durango, 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.

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

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In selecting its 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 paid or volunteer experience in human services or related areas, e.g. teaching, childcare or therapeutic recreation. Salaried experience is generally given greater weight than volunteer experience in an allied field.

• Demonstrated completed or current studies for admission consideration:
  • Advanced Standing October 2016 – May 1, 2017 July 2017
  • Two-Year Program October 2017 – May 1, 2018 September 2018 June 2020

The Four Corners 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 in your learning is access 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 community 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, we 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 some cases, 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.
APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applications for the two-year Four Corners MSW program that begins in the fall of 2016 must be received by May 1, 2016, or before the class is full. Applications for the Four Corners advanced standing MSW program, to begin in the summer of 2017, must be received no later than May 1, 2017, or before the class is full. You must submit your application online. Please visit the Four Corners admission webpage for complete information: du.edu/socialwork/admission/msw/applyfourcorners.html

An MSW application includes the following:
- The Four Corners MSW Application (submitted online at gradadmissions.du.edu/apply)
- The Career Goals Statement (link to printable instructions available on the Four Corners 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.
- A résumé
- A nonrefundable $65 application fee

International students who wish to apply to the Four Corners MSW program also must submit additional items listed on our international student webpage: du.edu/socialwork/admission/msw/international.html

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.

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 nonrefundable deposit is applied to the first quarter’s tuition.

FINANCIAL AID

Four Corners MSW students may be eligible for Federal Direct Unsubsidized Student Loans. Students must take at least four 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 fafsa.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 Four Corners MSW program in fall 2016 must file the 2016–2017 FAFSA (covering the 2016–2017 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 2017 must complete and submit the 2016–2017 FAFSA and the 2017–2018 FAFSA.

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 after the year that they receive the stipend. For more information, please visit the Butler Institute Website: 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 fafsa.ed.gov
AAUW fellowships for women aauw.org
Financial aid information finaid.org
FastWeb fastweb.com

The Four Corners Program has a list of scholarships that may be available to Four Corners students, including scholarships for Native students made possible by a gift from the John and Sophie Ottens Foundation.

PROGRAM EXPENSES

The following is a summary of minimum expenses for University of Denver distance education graduate students. The Four Corners 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 nonresidents of Colorado.

The 2016–2017 tuition rate for the Four Corners program is estimated at $31,140 ($892/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.
TWO-YEAR MSW PROGRAM

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 tribal 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.

Course descriptions are available at du.edu/socialwork/programs/mswcurriculum.

CONCENTRATION CURRICULUM (four quarters)

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.

Because 25 percent of Four Corners student enrollment comes from the area’s many Native tribes, the program includes a special focus on Native social work. Two specialized courses, both taught by Native faculty, add Native content to the curriculum.

Students engage in field education in a variety of settings, such as community service and government agencies, health and hospice 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.
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. Field internships last a full academic year. Some students in the Four Corners 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 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.

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.
CONTACT INFORMATION

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