Dear Prospective Student:

Your interest in social work is a clear indication that you have a passion for intellectual exploration, discovery, theories, ideas, experiments and observations. Graduate social work education is one of the most important investments you will ever make. We hope you will take the time to discover why the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver (GSSW) offers you exceptional preparation for this rewarding career.

If you’re interested in our Master of Social Work (MSW) program, you may already have a clear vision of your professional goals—whether that means working with at-risk adolescents, becoming a policy analyst or advocate for low-income families, treating individuals with mental illness or implementing sustainable interventions through global social work practice. On the other hand, you may be like many of our entering students who bring with them a primary motivation to make a positive impact on the world, but are still deciding how best to make that impact.

In either case, you’ll find that GSSW offers you academic and field internship choices that you will not find anywhere else. An MSW is one of the most dynamic graduate degrees you can earn, preparing you to practice effectively in a wide variety of settings, both here and abroad. And labor market career trends indicate that employment in the social work profession will continue to increase at a steady rate over the next decade.

From my own extensive social work experience, I can assure you that this profession offers unparalleled personal satisfaction, with many opportunities to make a positive difference in the world.

Welcome—from our faculty, staff and students—to the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver!

All the best,

James Herbert Williams, PhD, MSW
Dean and Milton Morris Endowed Chair
VISION • MISSION • VALUES

Our Vision
The Graduate School of Social Work aspires to be among the finest graduate schools of social work in the country, a vibrant center for intellectual development, a leader in promoting diverse communities, and an advocate for an integrated and inclusive model of social work, all within a facility that supports the best educational practices.

Our Mission
The Graduate School of Social Work is committed to excellence in teaching, scholarship, and community leadership and service. Our mission is to foster social responsibility regarding social and economic justice, quality of life and multicultural communities, based on equality for all people. As a center for the creation and dissemination of knowledge, the School provides graduate social work education in order to alleviate and prevent social problems of individuals, families and communities.

Our Values
The guiding philosophy of social work includes values that create a framework for social work education, research and service. These include:
• progressive ideals of equality, social and economic justice, cultural diversity and freedom
• social work’s unique focus on person-in-environment as the central concept which shapes our curriculum and practice
• excellence in the development of social work knowledge and its dissemination to students, communities and policy-makers
• responsibility for promoting social change and multiculturalism in the community, and empowerment of the social work profession

Accreditation
Our MSW program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation. Our accreditation has been continuous since 1933.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Located in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, the Western Colorado MSW Degree Program offers the opportunity to earn an MSW in the local community.

The program objectives include:
• provide professional education to support local workforce development,
• address community concerns and the special needs of rural 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 the Western Colorado region, 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 on-site classes. Students and instructors have online access to the University of Denver Library.

A full-time Western Colorado-based faculty member serves as program director and offers a local presence, coordinating all aspects of the program. Coordination with the Dean for Academic Affairs ensures that all aspects of the program are integrated between the University of Denver campus and the on-site Western Colorado program.

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 selection and completion of their field placements.

The Western Colorado program offers a weekend schedule of Friday afternoon and Saturday classes that allow students to be in their communities during the week and also work at their internship sites.

The Western Colorado MSW Program is a cohort-based model. A new cohort is admitted biennially according to the following schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACADEMIC YEARS</th>
<th>APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED</th>
<th>CLASSES BEGIN</th>
<th>GRADUATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015 - 2017</td>
<td>Two-Year Program</td>
<td>October 2014 – June 1, 2015</td>
<td>September 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advanced Standing</td>
<td>October 2015 – June 1, 2016</td>
<td>July 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advanced Standing</td>
<td>October 2017 – June 1, 2018</td>
<td>July 2018</td>
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</table>
**PROGRAM OPTIONS**

**Two-Year MSW Program**

The two-year MSW program option is available to applicants with baccalaureate degrees 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-quarter-hour program in six to seven academic quarters (two calendar years).

The foundation curriculum (fall and winter quarter of the first year) consists of courses related to work and 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 social functioning of individuals, families, 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 (beginning in spring quarter of the first year and continuing throughout the second year), students advance in professional knowledge and skill through specialization in Advanced Social Work Practice with a focus on individuals, couples and families.

**Advanced Standing MSW Program**

The advanced standing program option is available only to applicants with a baccalaureate degree in social work from a college or university whose social work program is accredited by the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE) at the time the degree is conferred. Distance education advanced standing students begin their program in summer 2016 and complete their MSW degree in one calendar year (four quarters).

The first quarter of the advanced standing program consists of course work only. Specific courses are required during this quarter, including multicultural practice and a 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 then 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, couples and families.

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.

**ADMISSION CRITERIA**

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 salaried 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.

Applicants to the MSW program who meet the minimum and preferred qualification salso will be evaluated, to the extent possible, on their communication skills, acceptance of diversity, self-awareness, empathy, professional behavior and integrity. Applicants to the MSW program should also keep in mind that:

- they will need to arrange flexible schedules in their jobs and family commitments to accommodate the field internship requirements and weekend classes, and
- they will need to commit to class work over a two-year period (one year if the student holds a BSW and is accepted as an advanced standing student).

**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.

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

Our education programs utilize 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, Anderson Academic Commons, websites, e-mail, 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 are also available through applications on smartphones. Colorado’s mountain country 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. In Colorado, WiFi services or desktop computers may be available to you at those locations. In many communities, local coffee shops or cafes offer WiFi services for their customers. In some cases, you may have access at work. We advise all students who are using Internet resources at their workplace for program participation to ensure that they have appropriate workplace permissions for use and time spent in learning activities.

**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.

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.
APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applications for the two-year Western Colorado MSW program that begins in the fall of 2015 must be received by June 1, 2015, or before the class is full. Applications for the Western Colorado advanced standing MSW program, to begin in the summer of 2016, must be received no later than June 1, 2016, or before the class is full. Request an application from the GSSW admission office (gssw-admissions@du.edu or 303.871.2841) or visit us online at www.du.edu/socialwork/programs/westernco.html.

Since the GSSW application for admission is "self-managed," all required documents are obtained and submitted by the applicant. These documents include the following:

- the Western Colorado application form found here: www.du.edu/socialwork/programs/westerncoapp.pdf
- an official transcript from all colleges or universities previously attended
- two letters of reference from sources able to address the applicant's ability, potential and readiness for graduate education and professional social work practice; references should include one academic professional (a professor, advisor or field instructor) and one employment supervisor
- a written Career Goals Statement (form supplied with admission packet)
- two letters of reference from sources able to address the applicant's ability, potential and readiness for graduate education and professional social work practice; references should include one academic professional (a professor, adviser or field instructor) and one employment supervisor
- an official transcript from all colleges or universities previously attended
- a résumé

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 and makes admission decisions the admission committee makes. 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.

Transfer of Credit and Waiver of Courses

International students must also submit the International Application Form and their TOEFL score, as described previously. In addition, the application must be accompanied by a nonrefundable application fee of $85, in the form of a check or money order payable to the University of Denver.

All application materials should be sent to:
Office of Admission
Graduate School of Social Work
University of Denver Craig Hall
2148 South High Street
Denver, CO 80208-7100

Transfer of Credit and Waiver of Courses

Applications 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 admission office (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 www.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 Western Colorado MSW program in fall 2015 must file the 2015-16 FAFSA (covering the 2015-16 fall, winter, spring and summer quarters). The FAFSA becomes available on January 1 each year and should be filed online as soon as possible thereafter.

Advanced standing students entering the MSW program in summer quarter 2016 should complete and submit the 2015-16 FAFSA as soon as possible and the 2016-17 FAFSA after January 1, 2016.

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 Web site at www.thebutlerinstitute.org/mswstipend.htm.

Online Sources for Additional Financial Aid Information

- University of Denver Office of Financial Aid ——— www.du.edu/finaid
- College Board online ——— www.collegeboard.com
- FAFSA online ——— www.fafsa.ed.gov
- AAUW fellowships for women ——— www.aauw.org
- Financial aid information ——— www.fastweb.com
- FastWeb ——— www.fastweb.com

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.

Two-year MSW students will be required to register for 45 credit hours the first year, beginning in fall 2015. The 2015-2016 tuition rate for The Western Colorado program is $29,700 (6660 per credit hour x 45 credit hours). The technology fee is 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 communities.

The program totals 90 credit hours of classroom (60 to 63 credit hours) and field instruction (27 to 30 credit hours). Thirty credit hours (18 classroom and 12 field) are waived for students admitted with advanced standing.

**FOUNDATION Curriculum**
(two quarters) | 41 credit hours total

- SOWK 4132 Power, Privilege & Oppression from a Critical Multicultural Perspective | 3 credits
- SOWK 4020 Integrated Social Work Practice for Social Justice | 4 credits
- SOWK 4001 Clinical Social Work Skills | 3 credits
- SOWK 4006 Human Behavior and the Social Environment: Theory for Practice | 3 credits
- SOWK 4120 Social Policy Analysis, Advocacy and Practice | 3 credits
- SOWK 4201 Evidence for Practice | 3 credits
- SOWK 4120 Community/Macro Social Work Theory and Practice | 4 credits
- SOWK 4201 Evidence for Practice | 3 credits
- SOWK 4135 Foundation Field Seminar | 3 credits
- SOWK 4950 Foundation Field Internship | 12 credits

Course descriptions are available at [http://www.du.edu/socialwork/programs/mswcourses.html](http://www.du.edu/socialwork/programs/mswcourses.html)
### MSW CURRICULUM (concentration)

**CONCENTRATION Curriculum** (four quarters)

The Advanced Social Work Practice concentration prepares social workers to practice across the continuum of services that are provided in rural areas. Social workers interested in advanced social work practice are prepared to provide social work services at a micro, mezzo, or macro level across 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 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.

### Possible elective courses

(Not all electives will be available for every cohort; space may be limited):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 4325</td>
<td>Disproportionality &amp; Disparity Across Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 4340</td>
<td>Leadership and Supervision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 4345</td>
<td>Intersections of Mental health, Substance Abuse &amp; Trauma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 4401</td>
<td>Integrated Health Care: Models and Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 4430</td>
<td>Drug Dependency Interventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 4435</td>
<td>Community Organizing and Empowerment Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 4445</td>
<td>Assessment and Interventions in Aging</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 4715</td>
<td>School SW Interventions*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 4730</td>
<td>Cognitive Approaches in SW Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 4751</td>
<td>Global Relations &amp; Poverty in Mexico*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 4758</td>
<td>Conservation SW in Kenya: Context, Empowerment, Sustainability*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 4795</td>
<td>Integration of Animals Into Therapeutic Settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 4971</td>
<td>Helping Military Families*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 4971</td>
<td>SW Response to Postwar Bosnia*</td>
</tr>
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<td>SOWK 4971</td>
<td>Social Work in Thailand*</td>
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</table>

* Cross-listed with Denver campus and/or Four Corners MSW program; space will be limited
  + Meets the requirements for School Social Work endorsement in Colorado
  † International Experiential Course—Travel is required, and additional fees will apply

Note: Most courses are 3 credits, unless otherwise indicated on the course schedule. Possible elective courses

* Cross-listed with Denver campus and/or Four Corners MSW program; space will be limited
+ Meets the requirements for School Social Work endorsement in Colorado
† International Experiential Course—Travel is required, and additional fees will apply
**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. Field liaisons work with students to find internship sites in or near students’ local communities.

A minimum of 1,080 field clock hours is 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, 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, 5 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.

**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.
For additional information, please contact:

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