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

OUR VISION

The Graduate School of Social Work is 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
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.

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

Field education is a key component of the MSW program. Students complete internships throughout the Four Corners region, and teams of field liaisons assist these students in the completion of their field placements.

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 biannually according to the following schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Years</th>
<th>Two-Year Program</th>
<th>Applications Accepted</th>
<th>Classes Begin</th>
<th>Graduation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018 – 2020</td>
<td>October 2017 – May 1, 2018</td>
<td>September 2018</td>
<td>June 2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Standing</td>
<td>October 2018 – May 1, 2019</td>
<td>July 2019</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 – 2022</td>
<td>October 2019 – May 1, 2020</td>
<td>September 2020</td>
<td>June 2022</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Standing</td>
<td>October 2020 – May 1, 2021</td>
<td>July 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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).

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 on Social Work Education (CSWE) at the time the BSW or BA degree is conferred.

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.

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.

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.

For admission consideration, applicants must:
- Demonstrate 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.
- Demonstrate 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.

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.

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.

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED

To GSSW 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 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 are also 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, 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.
Applications for the two-year Four Corners MSW program that begins in the fall of 2018 must be received by May 1, 2018, or before the class is full. Applications for the Four Corners advanced standing MSW program, to begin in the summer of 2019, must be received no later than May 1, 2019 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 unofficial transcript from each college or university previously attended.

If admitted, you must provide official transcripts from all institutions 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 2018 must file the 2018–2019 FAFSA (covering the 2018–2019 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 2019 must complete and submit the 2018–2019 FAFSA and the 2019–2020 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 for each year they receive the stipend. For more information, please visit the Butler Institute Website: thebutlerinstitute.org/work-with-us/msw-stipends.

**ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION**

University of Denver Office of Financial Aid du.edu/financialaid
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.
The Advanced Social Work Practice Concentration prepares social workers to work 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 areas many Native tribes, the program includes a special focus on Native social work. Two specialized courses, both taught by Native faculty, add Native knowledge and skill through specialization in Advanced Social Work Practice with a focus on individuals, families and communities.
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 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.

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.
Wanda Ellingson, MSW, ACSW, LCSW-CO
Professor of the Practice of Social Work
Program Director Four Corners MSW Program
701 Camino Del Rio, Suite #311
Durango, CO 81301
970-247-9773
970-259-4122
wanda.ellingson@du.edu

Office of Admission
Graduate School of Social Work
University of Denver
2148 S. High St.
Denver, CO 80208-7100
gssw-admission@du.edu
telephone 303-871-2841
fax 303-871-2845
www.du.edu/socialwork