



**Master of Social Work**  
**College of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Admissions Guide**

| Option                        | Length of Time to Complete | Starting Semester |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Full-time                     | 2 years                    | Fall              |
| Part-time                     | 3 years                    | Fall              |
| Part-time                     | 4 years                    | Fall              |
| Advanced Standing (part-time) | 2 years                    | Fall              |

Bridgewater State University’s School of Social Work invites applications to its Master of Social Work (MSW) program. The MSW program, a clinically informed advanced practice program, supports students in developing strength-based skills in clinical assessment, intervention and evaluation. Understanding the importance of the whole person and the many systems that impact the human experience, the program relies on a bio-psycho-social perspective to strengthen resilience in individuals, families, and communities. The program seeks to prepare advanced practitioners for work with vulnerable populations in a range of settings. The Admissions Committee reviews all applications and accepts candidates who demonstrate personal and academic qualifications necessary for success as a graduate student and as an autonomous social work practitioner. Full-time, Part-time, and Advanced Standing enrollment begins in the Fall semester only.

The application process allows applicants to demonstrate evidence of the following: an academic ability to succeed at the graduate school level, personal maturity, a readiness and ability to practice self-reflection, an openness to cultural diversity including a respect for others and for their life decisions, a commitment to social justice as well as to practice in alignment with the NASW Code of Ethics, and a capacity for flexibility and creativity.

Standardized entrance tests are not required. Preference may be given to applicants having had post-baccalaureate human service work or volunteer experience. Academic credit, however, cannot be given for prior life and work experience. Please visit our website at <http://www.bridgew.edu/msw> for the latest information about our program. If you have specific questions pertaining to your own situation, please contact Dr. Karen R. Fein, Coordinator of the MSW Program by phone at 508-531-2370, or by email at [karen.fein@bridgew.edu](mailto:karen.fein@bridgew.edu). For additional information regarding the admission process, please contact the Graduate Admissions Office by phone at 508-531-1300, or by email at [gradadmissions@bridgew.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@bridgew.edu).



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### **Admissions criteria for Full-time or Part-time applicants**

Applicants must have earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college. A liberal arts background with some coursework in the social, behavioral and biological sciences is strongly preferred. Applicants with other backgrounds may be asked to take additional coursework prior to matriculation in the program. For more information concerning the required coursework, please visit our website at <http://www.bridgew.edu/msw> or contact the MSW Program Coordinator, Dr. Karen R. Fein, at 508-531-2370 or [karen.fein@bridgew.edu](mailto:karen.fein@bridgew.edu).

Individuals applying must present evidence of the ability to succeed at graduate study. Applicants should have attained a GPA of 3.0 in their last 60 credits, although an exception may be made in unusual circumstances. Those candidates with a GPA below 3.0 should address this concern in their personal statement.

### **Admission criteria for the Advanced Standing applicants**

Candidates seeking to enter the program with full advanced standing must have earned a BSW or BA/BS in social work from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)-accredited program within six years of application to the MSW program. Students who completed their BSW degrees more than six years ago will be evaluated individually to determine their preparedness for the second year of coursework. A record of strong academic performance with a 3.0 GPA in social work courses is required. Only courses in which the applicant earned a grade of B or above will be accepted for advanced standing, except in extenuating circumstances.

Applicants must indicate that they are applying for the Advanced Standing option on the application and must meet the criteria for admission noted above. One of the letters of reference must be from the faculty advisor who was responsible for overseeing the 400-hour senior field experience.

### **Summary Statement of Field Experience**

In addition to your personal statement applicants to the Advanced Standing program will be required to complete a summary statement of their field experience. Details of both essays can be found in the [MSW section here](#).