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

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Bridgewater State University’s School of Social Work invites applications from those who are interested in making a positive difference in people’s lives. The MSW program is oriented towards the use of strengths-based strategies from a bio-psycho-social perspective to increase 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.

Applicants should demonstrate evidence of the following: academic and personal maturity, including the ability to withstand difficult practical and emotional challenges, a commitment to interpersonal processing within the parameters of cultural expectations, respect for others and for their life decisions, a readiness to learn advanced clinical and macro practice and research skills, a commitment to social justice as well as to the social work professional Code of Ethics, and a capacity for flexibility and creativity.

Standardized 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://microsites.bridgew.edu/socialwork/msw-program](http://microsites.bridgew.edu/socialwork/msw-program) for the latest information on our program. If you have specific questions pertaining to your own situation, please contact Dr. Mark Brenner, Coordinator of the MSW Program by phone at 508-531-2760, or by email at mark.brenner@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.
**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 on the required coursework, please visit our website at http://microsites.bridgew.edu/socialwork/msw-program or contact the MSW Program Coordinator, Dr. Mark Brenner, at 508-531-2760 or mark.brenner@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**
Applicants to the Advanced Standing program must have earned a BSW or BA/BS in social work from a CSWE accredited program within the last six years. 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 please include a 2-3 page double-spaced summary of your learning in your BSW internship. This should include:

1) The social work models and/or theories and approaches you have used.
2) A discussion of a case and how you used a social work model or theory to facilitate your understanding of the case, to guide an intervention, and/or develop a treatment plan. Please remember to keep all identifying information confidential.
3) An assessment of your learning to date, a statement of your learning goals, and the challenges you anticipate encountering in an advanced clinical placement.
Master of Social Work
Application Checklist

Please include the following as part of your completed application:

☐ Online BSU application and $50.00 application fee payable by credit/debit card upon submission.

☐ Comprehensive current resume including education, work and life experience.

☐ MSW Supplemental Application Form.

☐ Personal Statement, as described in the MSW Supplemental Application Form.

☐ An official, stamped transcript from ALL undergraduate and graduate institutions attended. Transcripts may be sent directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions or sent to you in a sealed envelope to be submitted with your other materials. Transcripts of coursework done at Bridgewater State University will be obtained by the Office of Graduate Admissions, as long as you indicate BSU on your online application as an institution you have attended. Please let the Office of Graduate Admissions know if the name on any of your transcript(s) is different from the name on your application.

☐ Three letters of recommendation, using the MSW recommendation forms available online. Recent college professors and supervisors are preferred. Completed recommendations must be submitted in a sealed, signed envelope directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions. One reference must be from a work or volunteer experience.

☐ TOEFL test score for English language proficiency, if required.

**Additional items for Advanced Standing applicants**

☐ Faculty field advisor reference

☐ Summary Statement of Field Experience

**Send all application materials to:**

Bridgewater State University
Office of Graduate Admissions
Maxwell Library, Room 019
10 Shaw Road
Bridgewater, MA  02325

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