

Master's in Social Work

M.S.W.

Earn your master's in Social Work from a top-ranked accredited M.S.W. program.

Social work is your calling. Be the change needed to help improve lives, stand up to injustices and prevent social problems. Study at North Dakota's only M.S.W. program.

Program type: Master's Degree

Format: On Campus or Online

Est. time to complete: 1-3 years

Credit hours: 36-60

Why earn an M.S.W. degree?

Application Deadline - Generalist

Spring: June 15 (Online)

Application Deadlines - Advanced Generalist

Fall: Jan. 15* | May 15 (On Campus)

Summer: Oct. 15 (Online)

* Priority deadline.

If you're an international student, refer to the international application process for deadlines.

UND offers both on campus and online master's in Social Work programs, including the only online Social Work master's program in North Dakota.

M.S.W. Advanced Generalist Degree Online and On Campus

Complete your master's in Social Work in as few as three semesters (36 credits) by attending class full-time, on campus or online. Or, complete the Advanced Generalist program part-time as you complete your advanced standing courses. On-campus and online (distance) Social Work master's students pursuing the Advanced Generalist program must have completed a Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.) from a CSWE-accredited program. With two starts in the Fall or Summer, you can earn your M.S.W. in a way that works best for your life.

M.S.W. Generalist Degree Online

UND's online master's degree in Social Work is especially tailored for students who work full-time.

The Online (Distance) Generalist program is for those without a B.S.W. but with a bachelor's degree in a related field. You'll develop the proper social work foundation in the first half of the program. By the second half of the program, you'll be completing advanced standing courses on your way to your M.S.W. degree. The Generalist program has one start each year in the Spring semester and requires 60 credits to complete.

Accredited Master's in Social Work

UND's master's in Social Work program was established in 1989 and fully accredited in 1993. UND social work programs are continuously reaffirmed for accreditation. UND continues to update its curriculum to adhere to revised standards established by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

M.S.W. Degree Online or On-Campus

- The Advanced Generalist emphasis prepares you for all practice settings, including clinical social work. You will be prepared to provide advanced social services and develop the skills needed for advanced positions.
- We provide financial support to qualified students who commit to working in an approved child welfare agency in North Dakota upon graduation.
- Get involved with our national award-winning Student Social Work Association or Phi Alpha, the social work honor society.
- UND is home to the Children and Family Services Training Center, providing research and training with a strong rural focus. The Center certifies all new child welfare workers and all North Dakota foster parents.
- Internships are available in various agencies and include training to provide vital services in rural communities.
- Participate in the web-based Leadership Academy for Supervisors (LAS) for experienced child welfare supervisors. Most participants live and work in rural areas with limited access to training.

What can you do with a master's in Social Work?

9% Growth rate for social workers through 2031

- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

60K Average UND graduate starting salary

- UND Career Services

With a master's in Social Work, graduates can take on roles such as social worker, substance abuse counselor, community outreach coordinator, therapist, or they can pursue law degrees and engage in social work research.

A master's degree in Social Work offers you flexibility in social work employment as a licensed professional. The master's in Social Work program gives you additional expertise and training for career advancement. M.S.W. students have gone on to hold the following positions, among others:

- Adult community mental health practitioner at Northwestern Mental Health Center in Crookston, Minn.
- Case manager at McLaren Greater Lansing in Lansing, Mich.
- Chemical dependency and mental health counselor at Great Lakes Recovery Center in Marquette, Mich.
- Mental health practitioner at Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota in Detroit Lakes, Minn.
- Social work program director at Central Alabama Aging Consortium in Montgomery, Ala.
- Supervisor at PATH North Dakota in Fargo, N.D.

M.S.W. Degree Courses

Advanced Generalist Practice with Individuals

SWK 530. Advanced Generalist Practice with Individuals. 2 Credits.

Advanced Generalist Practice with Individuals helps students refine and deepen their conceptual and technical knowledge of social work practice with individuals. The course equips students with advanced generalist skills to guide engagement, assessment, intervention, and evaluation with individual clients. Course assignments promote ethical and evidence-based practice relevant to diverse populations. Prerequisite: Admission to the Advanced Generalist Concentration. F,SS.

Advanced Generalist Practice with Families

SWK 533. Advanced Generalist Practice with Families. 2 Credits.

Advanced Generalist Practice with Families teaches students advanced generalist skills in working with families to engage, assess, intervene and evaluate client systems. This class builds upon family therapy theories and their practical applications. Activities and assignments build skills necessary to work with families in therapeutic settings. Prerequisite: Admission to the Advanced Generalist Concentration. F,S.

Advanced Generalist Practice with Treatment Groups

SWK 534. Advanced Generalist Practice with Treatment Groups. 2 Credits.

Advanced Generalist Practice with Treatment Groups uses an interpersonal perspective as a theoretical foundation for understanding group dynamics. Students build upon foundational knowledge and skills, and develop and demonstrate advanced techniques for engaging individuals in the group process, assessing appropriateness for group membership, developing interventions, and evaluating the treatment group process. Prerequisite: Admission to the Advanced Generalist Concentration. F,S.

Generalist Practice Field Education

SWK 515. Generalist Practice Field Education I. 3 Credits.

Generalist field internship placement in a human service organization. Students apply foundation coursework, emphasizing core competencies and demonstration of practice behaviors. Prerequisite: Admission to field program. Corequisite: *SWK 516*. S/U grading. F.

Human Behavior in the Social Environment

SWK 501. Human Behavior in the Social Environment I. 2 Credits.

Generalist Human Behavior in the Social Environment I (HBSE I) provides students with foundational knowledge relevant to human life span development, and an introduction to social work systems perspectives. Students critique and apply various frameworks to case scenarios that exemplify client differences in biological, psychological, social, spiritual, and cultural domains. Prerequisite: Admission to the MSW program. Prerequisite or Corequisite: *SWK 507*.

Social Policy

SWK 506. Social Policy. 2 Credits.

Provides a basic understanding of the history and current patterns of social welfare services in the United States. Students apply a policy analysis framework to identify key issues, understand policy development, and assess the role of social policies and political processes on the well-being of individuals, families, and communities. Students also learn to identify opportunities for actively engaging in the policy arena. Prerequisite: Admission to the MSW program.

How is the online master's in Social Work offered?

Live Online M.S.W. Classes

Synchronous classes are held in real-time. If you're the kind of learner who likes active discussion and immediate feedback through live interaction, you'll enjoy this online course format.

Every class is different, but generally, you'll log into a virtual classroom at scheduled times to:

- Listen to a lecture.
- Ask questions.
- Participate in class discussions.
- Conduct group activities.
- Participate in video-sharing.
- Have chat conversations.
- Use interactive whiteboards.
- Take live polls.

You should prepare for your classes by finishing any assigned readings, compiling questions for your instructor, and thinking about how to contribute to the next live class.

Campus Visit

While the majority of your courses are offered online, you'll come to campus to complete portions of the program. Here, you'll extend and apply the knowledge you've learned online through hands-on activities. Our students find tremendous value in having the opportunity to personally interact with their instructors and fellow students.

Local Social Work Field Placement

You'll participate in a 500-hour field placement to better serve your own community, and may be completed in your local community. Background checks are required prior to entry into field placements.

Best Online M.S.W. Programs

#8 College Choice
#9 Grad School Hub
#17 College Rank
#17 Social Work Degree Center
#17 Best Universities
#17 Intelligent
#19 EDsmart
#21 Great Value Colleges
#22 GradDegree.Com

UND is ranked by many as a Top 20 best online M.S.W. program in the nation. We are well regarded for our educational quality, affordability, flexibility, and career outcomes.

Ranking sites vary in their methodology, but are generally based on the following criterion:

- Financial data such as net cost, loan default rate, and return on investment
- Academic rigor including curriculum standards, accreditation status, and faculty reputation
- Student gratification, retention rate, and support services
- Employment rate and graduate salary

Online Master's in Social Work

9# best online university in the nation
- EDsmart

2# best online graduate programs
- EDsmart

UND is one of the most affordable online colleges in the region. For this program, we offer the same online M.S.W. tuition rates regardless of your legal residency. Compare and you'll see UND is lower cost than similar four-year doctoral universities.

Top-Tier Online Master's in Social Work

Over a third of UND's student population is exclusively online; plus, more take a combination of online and on campus classes. You can feel reassured knowing you won't be alone in your online learning journey and you'll have resources and services tailored to your needs.

No matter how you customize your online experience, you'll get the same top-quality education as any other on campus student.

- **Same degree:** All online programs are fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). Your transcript and diploma are exactly the same as our on-campus students.
- **Same classes:** You'll take courses from UND professors, start and end the semesters at the same time and take the same classes as a student on campus.
- **Real interaction:** You can ask questions, get feedback and regularly connect with your professors, peers and professionals in the field.
- **Your own academic advisor:** As an invaluable go-to, they're focused on you, your personal success and your future career.
- **Free online tutoring:** We're here to help you one-on-one at no cost. Plus, get access to a variety of self-help online study resources.
- **Unlimited academic coaching:** Need support to achieve your academic goals or feeling stumped by a tough course? We'll help with everything from stress and time management to improving your memory to achieve higher test scores.
- **Full online access:** Dig into virtual research at UND's libraries. Improve your writing skills with online help from the UND Writing Center. Get online access to career services, veteran and military services, financial services and more.
- **24/7 technical support:** UND provides free computer, email and other technical support for all online students.
- **Networking opportunities:** Our significant online student population means you'll have a large pool of peers to connect with. UND has numerous online events and activities to keep you connected.

Best Online College

Our high alumni salaries and job placement rates, with affordable online tuition rates make UND a best-value university for online education. UND's breadth of online programs rivals all other nonprofit universities in the Upper Midwest making UND one of the best online schools in the region.

UND ranks among the best online colleges in the nation for:

- Affordability
- Student satisfaction (retention rate)
- Academic quality (4-year graduate rate)
- Student outcomes (20-year return on investment per Payscale.com)

FAQs

What is the cost of an M.S.W. program?

Compare our online and on campus costs. You'll find we are one of the most affordable social work schools in the Midwest. Our online students pay the same affordable tuition rate regardless of their legal residency.

UND is committed to assisting students in funding their education, providing over \$105 million in financial aid annually. A range of financial aid options offered by UND, including scholarships (merit-based), grants (need-based), and loans, help students alleviate college costs.

Is there a difference between the online and on campus M.S.W. programs?

The online M.S.W. program coursework is completed remotely through digital platforms, allowing for greater scheduling flexibility. On the other hand, the on campus M.S.W. program involves attending classes in person at the university campus, providing a more traditional experience and opportunities to have real interactions. Besides such small differences, the transcript and diploma offered by UND are the same for online and on campus students.

How long does it take to complete the M.S.W. degree?

The duration for completing the UND's M.S.W. degree ranges from 1 to 3 years based on enrollment. Full-time students attending the M.S.W. program on campus can complete it in as few as three semesters, while the time it takes part-time students is longer.

Please be aware there may be different application deadlines for international students.

Are international students eligible for the online M.S.W.?

Yes, international students are eligible for the online M.S.W. program provided by UND. To apply, they must complete the application, submit required documents, including transcripts and English proficiency scores, and fulfill immunization and TB screening requirements.

How hard is the M.S.W. program?

The difficulty of the M.S.W. program varies from student to student. While the coursework can be challenging, with hard work, dedication, and a genuine interest in the field, many students find the program manageable and even rewarding.

Explore More Options

Connect with the social work faculty you'll work with at UND or discover additional education opportunities.

- [Department of Social Work](#)
- [Explore Similar Programs](#)

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