



Instructions for Master of Arts in Social Impact Leadership Application

- ✦ **It is essential that you review these instructions in their entirety, as well as review the School of Social Work (SSW) website ssw.umich.edu, before completing the application.** Since the application form provides significant information upon which decisions for admission are based, it is important to give complete and accurate data. The School reserves the right to withdraw an application and/or revoke an offer of admission if full and accurate information is not provided to the School in a timely manner.

You may work on and view your [application form](#) from any computer with Internet access. It is not necessary to complete the whole application in one session. For your privacy, be sure to completely close out of your Web browser when you are finished with your MA in Social Impact Leadership (MA-SIL) application session.

No admissions tests (e.g., GRE, GMAT) are required for admission to the MA-SIL degree program.

The MA-SIL application you submit will be considered “complete” once **all** of the following materials have been received by the Office of Student Services and Enrollment Management (OSS). Your MA-SIL application must be complete to meet any intended deadline.

\$75.00 Non-Refundable Application Fee (U.S. dollars)

The application fee must be paid online by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, and Discover are accepted) at the time of application submission.

A limited number of application fee grants are available through the School of Social Work for **U.S. Citizens, Permanent Residents of the U.S., and DACAmented** individuals who demonstrate that payment of the application fee would cause them extreme financial hardship. Documentation regarding the financial inability to pay the fee may be required. Further information regarding applying for an application fee grant is available by contacting the School of Social Work via email at ssw.oss@umich.edu. Such assistance is reserved for cases of established economic hardship.

If you are the recipient of an application fee waiver/grant from the School of Social Work or one of the following sources: Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA), Florida A & M University (FAMU), McNair Scholar, Project 1000, LSAMP, complete the necessary information in the **Getting Started** section of the application, scan or take a snapshot of the fee waiver/grant approval, and upload to the relevant section of your application.

Applications to Both the MA in Social Impact Leadership and MSW Programs:

Students applying to both the School of Social Work MA in Social Impact Leadership (MA-SIL) program and MSW program for the same academic year must submit a separate application to each program. You will only need to pay one application fee. Indicate this in the **Getting Started** section of your MA-SIL application. You may submit the MA-SIL application without a fee if the MSW application fee was paid in the same academic year as your MA-SIL application. If we are unable to verify payment of the fee for your MSW program application for the same academic year, the processing of your MA-SIL application will be delayed until either verification of payment is received or you submit a check/money order to the School of Social Work for payment of the application fee.

It is important to note that in some cases, if admitted to both programs, you can complete your MSW and MA-SIL in 5 semesters. If you are interested in a Dual Degree with the MSW, you must reach out to discuss your options for how to complete both. As a key caveat, not all MSW tracks are currently eligible for the Dual Degree with the MA.

MA in Social Impact Leadership Application

Complete information must be provided in the relevant spaces on the application form and all pages of the application must be completed. If you have additional information you would like to add, use the “Additional Information” page which is part of the MA-SIL application. Use the same format as on the relevant sections of the application form.

Each application page will validate, requiring you to complete any missing fields or correct incompatible data as necessary. You may choose to postpone validation to allow forward and backward movement through the application; validation then will occur once you click to submit your application.

Submission of the application constitutes your electronic signature.

Academic Transcript(s)

One academic transcript is required from each college/university where **a) you have received or will receive a degree or b) you took undergraduate or graduate coursework. If you are currently enrolled, you must include a transcript showing coursework completed to date.**

Transcript(s) must show all completed and/or in-progress coursework.

Upload your transcript(s) to the relevant section of the MA-SIL application. Scanned student copies or unofficial transcripts are accepted for application review; however, self-reported or advising transcripts are NOT accepted. If you attended the University of Michigan–**Ann Arbor**, then you do NOT need to upload your University of Michigan–**Ann Arbor** transcript. If you choose not to upload your unofficial transcripts, please note that transcripts may be sent via email to ssw.transcripts@umich.edu.

Transcripts must show your name, the name of the institution, dates of attendance, and grades received for each course taken in all terms attended. Degree information including the degree conferred and the date of conferral, if applicable, must appear on the transcript or on a separate degree document (diploma). If degree information is on a separate degree document, create one PDF for each college/university that contains both your transcript and degree document.

Include a copy of the transcript key or interpretation guide, which either appears on the back of the transcript or in a separate document. If your educational documentation is not in English, please also provide a certified English translation. The translation should be literal and not interpretive.

If you have multiple pages and/or documents for a college/university (transcript, degree, transcript key or guide), please create one multi-page PDF for each college/university that contains all pages and/or documents for that college/university.

Please note that if admitted to the School of Social Work, you will be required to provide an official copy of any transcripts and required educational documents where 1) a degree was received and 2) where graduate coursework was completed. Official transcripts must be sent directly by the issuing school or school’s official e-transcript service to ssw.transcripts@umich.edu. The School of Social Work reserves the right to revoke an offer of admission if any discrepancies are found between your uploaded unofficial transcripts/educational documents and official transcripts/educational documents that are submitted or if full and accurate information is not provided to the School in a timely manner.

Recommendations

Three professional or academic recommendations are required. *Strong recommendation letters should speak to your potential for social impact leadership; your capacity for core social impact skills, such as your initiative, curiosity, flexibility and adaptability, self-reflection; your ability to receive critical feedback; and your ability to work effectively in teams.*

Applicants who wish to substitute one or more career center references for our recommendation forms may do so. However, the School prefers that applicants utilize the School of Social Work recommendation forms. **We strongly encourage applicants to utilize the online recommendation system available through the MA-SIL application to**

allow recommenders to submit their recommendations online. You are required to list all three recommenders, along with their relevant information, in the Letters of Recommendation section of the application.

On the Letters of Recommendation page of the MA-SIL application, indicate that you would like to use the online recommendation system and click the “Submit Recommendation Request” for each recommender, which will prompt a recommendation request email and information on how to submit an online recommendation to be sent. You will have the ability to track the status of your online recommendations.

If you or your recommender opt to email a [PDF of the recommendation form](#), you must complete the top portion of the recommender form and email the form to your recommender. The recommender must email their recommendation directly to ssw.recommendations@umich.edu. If choosing the email option, note that the recommender’s email address must exactly match the email address listed for them on your MA-SIL application.

Supplementary Statement

A) **Written Statement:** A statement must be submitted with the application for admission and must be uploaded to the relevant section (page) of the application. Provide a double-spaced statement (12 pt.) that addresses each of the following three questions. Each response should be limited to no more than 250 words.

1. What does social impact mean to you? In your response, please describe issues (local or global) that you are passionate about and your assessment of the potential of the social impact sector in creating social change.
2. What is your motivation for pursuing the MA in Social Impact Leadership at the University of Michigan? In your response, please discuss past experiences (personal or professional) that guide your interests, what you hope to gain from the program, and your future career goals in social impact leadership.
3. *We understand the increasing role and importance of artificial intelligence and are navigating our own use of it in our everyday work in the School of Social Work. We would like to hear from you about your own use of artificial intelligence.* If you used AI, how did you approach the task, and what process did you use? If not, share your thoughts about why you chose not to use it? In your response, please describe your critical assessment of the role of AI in the social impact sector, including potential benefits and challenges.

B) **Video Question:** We are interested in learning more about you beyond your written statements. Please record a short video response (no more than 3 minutes) to the topics below. You can take notes to prepare for your video response, but please try not to read directly from a script. When recording your video, please use a blurred background or a neutral/plain wall background.

- Please share a specific example of where you showcased initiative, flexibility, adaptability, curiosity, and self-reflection. Reflect on why these skills are important, what you learned from the experience, and how you will build and grow from this experience in the MA in Social Impact program.

Resume

Upload your resume to the relevant section (page) of the MA-SIL application. Your resume should showcase your experience. In particular, highlight the following:

- Education and any specialty training or certificates
- Professional experience, especially in social services, nonprofit, policy advocacy, or community work
- Leadership roles and responsibilities
- Volunteer experience
- Relevant projects or initiatives you've led

Financial Aid Application for Grants/Scholarships from SSW Resources (*optional*)

This form is required for merit- and/or need-based aid consideration. If you indicate on your MA-SIL application that you will apply for financial aid, this form will be added to the end of the MA-SIL application.

You are required to submit the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) for need-based aid consideration.

Note: most grant/scholarship aid provided by the School is need-based aid.

Additional Information/Required Materials for Some Applicants

If there are gaps or deficiencies in your academic record, including incomplete grades or withdrawals from courses, please address these in the Additional Information section of the application.

English Proficiency

Applicants whose native language is not English must demonstrate [English proficiency](#).

If you are bilingual or polylingual and English is one of your primary languages, please select 'English' in the 'Native Language' field and enter your additional primary languages in the Language Proficiencies section, which will appear later in the MA-SIL application.

International Applicants

International applicants are those persons who are **not** U.S. citizens or Permanent Residents of the United States. For important information on additional requirements for international applicants, review the [International Applicants](#) section of our website.

Undocumented or DACAmented Applicants

Review information at <https://ssw.umich.edu/academic-programs/msw/apply/daca>

Interviews

Interviews are generally not required except when requested by the Admissions Review Team. Applicants may not request an interview.

Conduct Policy

In the interest of a fair and inclusive admissions process, the University of Michigan School of Social Work does not ask MA in Social Impact Leadership applicants to disclose conduct, including felony convictions or pending felony charges at the time of application. We strongly support applications from all interested prospective students.

Applicants that are offered admission to the School are required to complete a Conduct, Felony & Criminal History Disclosure Form as a condition of enrollment if they have been:

- Expelled, suspended, or placed on probation by any secondary school or college attended in the past 10 years, for reason of academic dishonesty or because of an offense that harmed or had the potential to harm others.
- Have been convicted of a felony within the past 10 years.
- Have pending felony charges.

The School of Social Work is transparent regarding the challenges that students with criminal histories and/or academic misconduct may face as they pursue their social impact education and career. This information is important and in the best interest of a student as they consider the pursuit of the MA degree. Students with criminal histories may be precluded from participating in leadership opportunity project experiences, which are required to graduate.

Submission of Application Documents

The School of Social Work promotes a self-managed application process. **The applicant is responsible** for the timely submission of all required materials according to stated deadline dates.

If you are unable to upload supporting documents to your MA-SIL application, please send electronically to:

 ssw.oss@umich.edu

E-Transcripts may be sent to:

 ssw.transcripts@umich.edu

Recommendations may be sent directly by the recommender to:

 ssw.recommendations@umich.edu

DO NOT SEND DUPLICATE COPIES of materials.

IMPORTANT:

- ✦ Save a copy of your application and supporting documents for your records.
- ✦ Save copies of all uploaded documents. These will not be available to you after submission of your application.
- ✦ Your application must be submitted and complete with all required supporting documents by the application deadline. Incomplete applications will not move forward in the application review process.
- ✦ The School reserves the right to withdraw an application and/or revoke an offer of admission if full and accurate information is not provided to the School in a timely manner.

Questions?

Contact the Office of Student Services & Enrollment Management at

ssw.oss@umich.edu

(734) 936-0961