





At Michigan Social Work, we are dedicated to developing innovative educational programs that prepare the next generation of social workers for the challenges ahead. Our MSW programs offer a wide variety of curricular pathways that allow you to focus on your specific interests.

We offer part-time, online and advanced standing options, which make a Michigan degree more accessible. You'll learn from our esteemed faculty, who are accomplished teachers as well as leaders in the field of social work and social science research. Our graduates are in demand — creating change, fighting for social justice and improving lives in the communities they serve. We invite you to explore our website, ssw.umich.edu, to learn more about our programs and community.

Beth Angell
Dean and Phillip Fellin Collegiate Professor of Social Work

300+

Scholarship Opportunities for MSW Students

1200

Locations for MSW Field Placement

20+

Student Organizations

9 : 1

Students Faculty

19 Students

Average Class Size

95%

Employment Rate Over Last Five Years

ssw.umich.edu



MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK RESIDENTIAL AND ONLINE



YOUR DEGREE YOUR WAY

Complete your MSW Degree Online or On Campus, Full-Time or Part-Time from 12 months to 28 months

The School of Social Work's reputation is based on both a tradition of excellence and a dedication to developing innovative new ways to earn and use a social work degree. Options abound, allowing you to tailor your MSW studies to fit both your career goals and your current lifestyle. Whether you prefer a traditional residential experience or want the flexibility of an online or part-time program, we have a path that suits your needs.

WHICH IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

The On-Campus Experience

- You want to learn face to face from our impressive faculty and connect in-person with your MSW cohort
- You want to participate in all the activities of a vibrant dynamic college town: football games, arts, restaurants and cafes, meeting and greeting friends in the hall
- You want the in-person experience that goes along with a U-M degree and to live in Ann Arbor (or nearby)

The Online Experience

- You want to learn online in a live format from our impressive faculty and connect virtually with your MSW cohort
- You want a University of Michigan School of Social Work education without the geographic requirement
- You want the convenience of online learning in a comfortable setting of your choice: your home, coffee shop or other location

Both online and on campus students learn from the same accomplished faculty, including some of the top social science researchers and social work practitioners in the world.

We provide field placements that will give you the experiential learning you need no matter where you are.

OUR PATHWAYS BECOME YOUR PATHWAY TO SUCCESS AND SATISFACTION

We ensure that MSW students have a comprehensive understanding of essential social work theories, methodologies and practices. Students then follow one of eight specialized pathways, which will equip them with the specialized skills and in-depth knowledge they need to become effective practitioners and leaders. Students can select electives from other classes across the university. These pathways allow students to tailor their education to their own interests and goals and benefit from our faculty's wide range of scholarly expertise.



On Campus students can study in the following pathways:

- Community Change
- Global Social Work Practice
- Interpersonal Practice in Integrated Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse
- Management and Leadership
- Policy and Political Social Work
- Program Evaluation and Applied Research
- Social Work Practice with Older Adults and Families from a Lifespan Perspective
- Children, Youth, and Families

Online students can study in the following two pathways:

- Interpersonal Practice in Integrated Health, Mental Health & Substance Abuse
- Children, Youth, and Families



Barb Hiltz

Director of MSW Programs
and Clinical Associate
Professor of Social Work

"Our social work curriculum incorporates the latest and best evidence in our field, and will guide you as you develop the skills and knowledge to become an effective and impactful social worker. Our graduates are reshaping systems and society, and making a difference in the lives of individuals, families and communities around the globe."



Antuan Featherstone

Online MSW Program Manager

"Online learning has an incredible way of creating broad access to education and opportunities for students to build connections across diverse backgrounds, interests and work experiences. Online programs allow students to achieve their professional goals and experience academic success while supporting other areas of work and life. In the Online Master of Social Work Program, our goal is to provide students the same level of educational excellence in a supportive, flexible and structured learning environment."

FIELD EDUCATION

Field Education presents you with multiple opportunities to become a part of the professional social work community, where you will learn to integrate classroom knowledge with practice and develop your social work skills. We have placements in 40 different states and Washington, D.C. There are more than 1,200 field placement sites and over 1,500 qualified social work field instructors who will mentor and help prepare students for a career in the profession.

MAKING A WORLD CLASS EDUCATION AFFORDABLE

"The last year and a half have shaped me and have been some of the most rewarding work of my life. I have enjoyed being a positive force in the nursing home and it is this experience that influenced my decision to attend U-M for my MSW and further my career in social work, and more specifically, clinical social work. In my career, I would like to be a change agent and help destigmatize mental health, while also being an advocate for those who are unable to advocate for themselves."

– **Anthony, MSW student and recipient of the Kristine Siefert and Kaylan Dutta Endowed Scholarship Fund**

"The school's intentional focus on addressing systemic inequities and fostering cultural humility resonates with my desire to be an advocate for underserved communities. SSW provides a rich environment where I can engage in meaningful discussions, challenge my perspectives, and learn from peers and faculty."

– **Mary, MSW student and recipient of the Bill Cabin, MSW '04 Fieldwork Support Fund**

"Looking ahead, I am optimistic that, in the near future, I will pay forward the support I have received by assisting other students in achieving their aspirations. My goals are now within reach like never before."

– **Francisca, recipient of the Bright Family Endowed Scholarship and the Marlene Archey-Crim and Jean M. Robinson Endowed Scholarship**

\$12 million
given in financial
aid in 2024-25



Types of Aid:

- Need-Based Scholarships and Grants
- Special Program Scholarships
- Dean's Missions Scholarships
- Donor Scholarships
- Merit Scholarships
- Peace Corps Paul. D. Coverdell Fellows Program
- Americorps/Americorps Vista Scholarship
- Federal Loans
- Federal Work-Study
- Graduate Assistantships



96%
**Completion Rate
for Graduates**
Much higher than the
national average

FIND YOUR NICHE

- Child Welfare Scholarship Program
- Community Scholars: Community-Based Initiative in Detroit
- Community Scholars: National Community Scholars Program
- Detroit Scholars Program
- Geriatric Scholarship Program
- Global Activities Scholars Program
- Jewish Communal Leadership Program
- Masters International Volunteer Program
- Michigan Title IV-E Child Welfare Fellowship
- New Leaders in African-Centered Social Work Scholars Program
- Peace Corps Coverdell Fellows Program
- Trauma Informed Programs and Practices for Schools Scholars Program

DEVELOP THE TOOLS YOU NEED TO REACH YOUR CAREER GOALS

- Networking Opportunities
- Job Search Workshops
- Resume & Cover Letter Writing
- Licensure Counseling and Exam Preparation
- Mentoring and Advising
- Mock Interviewing
- Join our 18,000+ Alumni Network
- As an alum, you will receive social work-specific assistance and guidance from our career services office for life



ADDITIONAL OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES



DUAL DEGREES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Interested in a broad base of knowledge and experiencing more of what the university offers? MSW full-time students may also pursue a dual degree in another program at the University of Michigan.

Official dual degree programs offered include:

- MSW/JD (Law School)
- MSW/MPH (School of Public Health)
- MSW/MPP (Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy)
- MSW/MBA (Ross School of Business)
- MSW/MUP (Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning)
- MSW/MSI (School of Information)

Students may also set up specialized, student-initiated dual degree programs.

SOCIAL WORK ESSENTIALS CERTIFICATE

Explore social work and jumpstart your degree by earning the Social Work Essentials Certificate online. You'll develop advanced critical analysis, problem-solving and research skills, which will prepare you for various types of social work. You can then finish your MSW degree, following any of the curricular pathways, on campus. The certificate reduces your credit hours from 60 to 45, which saves you time and money.

NEW MA DEGREE COMING SOON

While the U-M School of Social Work is known for our innovative MSW program, we are also launching a new 30-credit Master of Arts Degree in Social Impact Leadership in the fall of 2026. The program is designed for recent graduates and mid-career professionals seeking a social work education with a focus on leadership rather than licensure. You will learn skills in finance, management and evaluation within a social impact framework.





From Google to Social Work

Gia embodies the spirit of service and inquiry which has shaped her journey toward an MSW. Prior to coming to the School, Gia had spent five years working at Google to ensure that Google's products reached billions of users with a focus on inclusivity and fairness. Despite her success in tech, she felt called to a different path. Guided by faith, curiosity and a commitment to create a positive change, Gia's journey is anchored in her ongoing question: "How am I meant to serve others and be a light to myself and those around me?"

From Business Owner to a New Career

"The online classes have given me an opportunity that I wouldn't have otherwise had when the social work program was solely residential based. As a business owner, I've found the classes to be really beneficial in allowing me to pursue a new career opportunity while managing all the other demands in my life. I've also been pleasantly surprised at how easily it's been to connect with the other students in my cohort in an online forum."

Janelle
MSW '24



From First Gen to Student Government President

Aaliyah is the first in her family to pursue higher education and she finds strength in breaking generational cycles. She has grown as an advocate for herself, as well as guiding younger family members now considering or navigating higher education. "Being at the School of Social Work has challenged me to grow as both a leader and an advocate. I've learned the importance of listening deeply, building coalitions, and ensuring every voice is not only heard but valued. My peers have inspired me every step of the way. As I move forward, I'll carry these lessons with me into my practice, continuing to fight for equity, justice, and opportunity for all."

At the School, Aaliyah has also served as Student Government President. "My time here has shown me how powerful it is when we lead with inclusion — whether that's making room for new ideas, uplifting underrepresented voices, or finding common ground across differences."



From Social Work Essentials Certificate to MSW Graduate to Social Worker

Michael began his MSW studies by earning a Social Work Essential Certificate online. He then completed his coursework on campus, where he served as president of student government. Michael works as a psychotherapist and social worker with Choice Health Integrated, supporting a variety of individuals – some awaiting organ transplants, others facing mental health and substance use challenges, and those reintegrating after incarceration.

"My field placement at Michigan Medicine was transformative in refining my clinical skills and expanding my understanding of the complex psychosocial dynamics experienced by patients managing chronic illnesses. It also encouraged me to examine my own implicit biases while upholding the NASW Code of Ethics and maintaining ethical, client-centered practice. These experiences equipped me to excel as a social work practitioner and inspired me to pursue advanced education to enhance my capacity to deliver comprehensive mental health therapy and holistic support to vulnerable populations."

From Ann Arbor to Ecuador

After completing her first year of her MSW studies, Jordan served in the Peace Corps as a youth and families development volunteer in a small town in Ecuador. She was instrumental in developing a youth house that offered a public library, weekly art classes, singing and dancing lessons, and various workshops for both parents and their children. "Taking classes in interpersonal practice, policy analysis, and community-level change in my first semester gave me a strong foundation for my Peace Corps service, which required work in all three areas. I credit the skills I learned and the experience I gained in my first year of graduate school to many of the successes I had throughout my service."



**IN THE
HEART OF
CAMPUS**



RESEARCH

Jamie Mitchell

Associate Professor of Social Work
Gender and Health Research Lab

"For me, mentoring students is about demystifying the process of getting from where you are to where you want to be. I never want students to feel as if they have to read between the lines; if you want to know how to succeed in a given area, here are the steps."



WORK SIDE BY SIDE WITH FACULTY ON RESEARCH PROJECTS

David Córdoba

Professor of Social Work
Prevention Research and Health Equity Lab

"I see it as my responsibility to provide opportunities for students to further develop their research skill set, with a shared goal of advancing science and identifying solutions to health and mental health challenges."



The School of Social Work is home to some of the brightest minds in the field. Our faculty are not just dedicated teachers but also influential researchers who are tackling some of the toughest issues of our time. The School has a robust research office as well as a wide range of research labs and centers focused on issues that include child and adolescent development, wealth inequality, and mental health innovations. Our faculty possess a variety of expertise but they all share a dedication to educating the next generation of social workers.

As an MSW student, you'll find your professors not just inspiring, but approachable and accessible. If you are interested in research, you'll find ample opportunities to learn more, participate in projects and build your professional network.

GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

CONNECTING MSW STUDENT TO INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK OPPORTUNITIES

"Each day was full of new insights! This Global Course Extension has not only expanded my academic and professional horizons, but also allowed me to critically reflect on the interconnectedness of the social work profession across global contexts. It has inspired me to continue applying a global perspective to my work moving forward, and I feel incredibly grateful for the relationships built and the lessons learned along the way."

Ariana
MSW '24

GLOBAL LEARNING HAS UNLIMITED BOUNDARIES AND A LONG HISTORY AT THE U-M SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK





**STUDENT
LIFE**



YOU INFLUENCE THE U



**Largest
Football Stadium
in the US**

THE U INFLUENCES YOU

CAMPUS

WELCOMING UNIVERSITY

As a graduate student at the University of Michigan you will join a vibrant community of renowned faculty and intellectually adventurous students who learn in an environment of limitless possibilities.

GO
BLUE



#2
Best College Town
in the US
— Wallethub, 2025



ANN ARBOR

Ann Arbor – where the streets are brimming with an amazing array of restaurants, cafes, galleries and boutiques, plus arts and entertainment and 200+ parks to explore – making for a vibrant, inspiring scene where people engage in the art of living.

#1
Most Educated
City in America

– WalletHub, 2025

FRIENDLY
TOWN

U-M ranked
#3 Public University
in the US

– U.S. News & World
Report, 2025





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100% RECYCLED

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