



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Winter 2026 School of Social Work (SSW) Commencement



Sunday, December 20, 2026
1:00 pm
Hill Auditorium
(825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48109)



There is **no** rehearsal. It is important that graduates plan to arrive at Hill Auditorium at **12:00 pm** to receive instructions and be assembled in ample time for the procession. Upon arrival, go to the lower level where you will gather to robe, receive a name card for the announcement of your name and photographer's use, get instructions on where to go for the group photo, and to assemble in alphabetical order for the procession. **Students must submit an RSVP for all guests who plan to attend the ceremony (see below).**

The entrance doors to the Hill Auditorium will **not** be open until **12:00 pm** and seating for guests will begin at 12:00 pm. Guest seating will be on the main floor and the mezzanine level. Should your guests need assistance/direction with seating, please have them speak with one of the ushers. Approximate length of program/ceremony: 1 hour and 30 mins.

NOTE: Please inform family and friends to remain seated in the auditorium until after the recessional and the platform party, faculty and all of the graduates have exited the auditorium. After the ceremony, you should plan to have your family and friends meet you at a designated area outdoors or in the main lobby away from the doors to the auditorium so that guests can exit the auditorium in a timely manner.

STUDENT GUEST RSVP: Each MSW graduate may have up to **EIGHT (8)** guests for SSW Winter Commencement. Please register your guests, family, or friends planning to attend the SSW ceremony (in person) by listing their full name using the link below. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

[Link to Guest Ticketing Reservation Form](#)

Please register your guests, family, or friends planning to attend the SSW ceremony by **12:00 Noon on Tuesday, October 27th, 2026.** **Following October 27th, we will open registration for additional guest tickets if space is available.** Watch for an email in **early-November** with additional guest registration information.

The registration confirmation email you receive once you fill out the form is the ticket. Be sure to forward a copy of the registration confirmation to each of your guests or print a copy to give to them.

SSW RECEPTION: Light refreshments will be available in the Michigan League 2nd floor Ballroom immediately following the ceremony. The Michigan League (911 North University Avenue) is next to Hill Auditorium.

LIVESTREAM: The School of Social Work Commencement will be livestreamed on the [SSW website](#) for individuals who do not plan to attend the ceremony in person. Graduates who will not be attending commencement in-person will have their name read and a slide with their photo shown during commencement and via the livestream. Graduates will be asked to complete a form to indicate their plan to attend in-person.

We cannot guarantee a slide will be included for students who do not inform us of their plan to NOT attend in-person via the Graduate Survey by November 18th, 2026. Please email ssw.graduation@umich.edu asap if you have questions.

TRAVEL FOR THE CEREMONY: Check the [Ann Arbor Visitors' Bureau website](#) for hotel information. It is advisable to make reservations as early as possible due to the wider University ceremony held the same day.

PARKING FOR THE CEREMONY/RECEPTION: The Thayer street parking structure located at 216 S. Thayer Street will be open to the public for parking at no charge. The Fletcher street parking structure located at 201 Fletcher Street will also be open to the public for parking at no charge. Accessible parking is available in both structures. There is also metered parking available on side streets near Hill Auditorium. View the [Interactive Campus Map](#) on the Campus Information website.

ACCESSIBILITY: The University of Michigan School of Social Work strives to ensure that all graduates and guests can participate fully in commencement. **Graduating students/students with guests** who have a concern or special need in relation to access (wheelchair use, difficulty navigating steps, require accessible and/or special seating, require other support services, etc.) to the Hill Auditorium, please contact the Office of Student Services and Enrollment Management at ssw.graduation@umich.edu **at the earliest date possible, and no later than Tuesday, November 17th, 2026**. There is ample accessible seating for family/guests.

Real-Time Captioning and Sign Language

Real-time captioning is available for those with hearing impairments. In addition, a sign language interpreter will be present during the ceremony.

NAME IN PROGRAM & COMMENCEMENT WEBSITE: All December 2026 graduates who applied for graduation by **November 23rd, 2026** will have their name in electronic commencement program and on the commencement website. If you have questions or concerns email ssw.graduation@umich.edu.

GRADUATION ATTIRE: All degree candidates who participate in Commencement must wear academic attire. Graduation attire consists of a Masters gown, Masters hood, cap & tassel. The Masters gown has a different sleeve style than the bachelor's gown. The hood is an academic cowl worn by master and doctoral graduates. If you have a black mortarboard cap of your own, it is acceptable to wear. The colors of the hood & tassel differ based on the particular college/school within the University.

The Office of Student Services and Enrollment Management has a limited number of masters caps, gowns and hoods that have been donated by previous graduates for students to borrow. **Beginning Monday, November 30th, 2026** graduates may stop by the Office of Student Services and Enrollment Management, Room 1748 SSWB, to borrow attire on a first-come first-served basis. Students will need to be present to try on attire as it is height specific. NOTE: Students will need to purchase their own tassel, as we do not have these available to borrow.

If preferred, students may purchase their own attire for approximately \$60-\$80 for a complete set. Items may also be purchased separately. **Be sure to ask for the "Social Work" hood and tassel.** The color of the tassel is "citron."

Attire is available for purchase at the following locations:

Michigan Union Barnes & Noble – 530 S. State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Pierpont Commons Barnes & Noble – 2101 Bonisteel Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI 48109

[Oak Hall Cap & Gown Online Ordering](#) – Check back regularly if not currently accepting orders for December

Rally House – 303 S State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48109

If you have questions/concerns about graduation attire or accessing attire, email ssw.graduation@umich.edu.

CORDS

The SSW provides all students social justice service cords to honor the work each student completes. Individual pathways do not have distinct individual cords. Some specialty scholar programs may choose to purchase cords on an individual basis apart from the SSW-provided cords. *The SSW also does not give specific recognitions for GPA including magna cum laude or summa cum laude.*

RETURN OF BORROWED ATTIRE OR DONATION OF GRADUATION ATTIRE:

Graduation attire borrowed from the SSW **must be returned to the Office of Student Services and Enrollment Management no later than January 11th, 2027**. For graduates' convenience, a drop off box will be available in the graduate robing area at Hill Auditorium and at the commencement reception to drop off your attire immediately

following the ceremony/reception. **Be sure to fill out the attire return form, so we know you returned your attire.**

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING ALL OR PART OF YOUR GRADUATION ATTIRE for the use of future graduates if you purchase your attire. You can put it the drop off box with a note or bring it by the Office of Student Services and Enrollment Management during regular office hours.

PHOTOGRAPHER: A photographer will be available to take individual pictures as graduates cross the stage at the SSW ceremony. A 'Commencement Name Card & Graduation Foto Information' card will be available for each graduate when they arrive in the Hill Auditorium graduate robing area. The QR code for photos will be on the back side of your name card. You will need to use the photographer QR code to electronically fill out your information so the photographer can identify, contact you, and send you the proofs for possible purchase. Photo instructions will be emailed to graduates prior to commencement. There is no obligation to purchase the pictures. Graduates who do not receive a photo proof within two (2) weeks of the ceremony should contact: Graduation Foto, Toll Free: (800) 482-0321, Telephone: (734) 677-3400, Fax: (734) 677-3208, Email: cs@apmphoto.com

DIPLOMA: The University provides a free standard size (8 ½" x 11") diploma to each MSW graduate. Diploma covers are not provided to students. The diploma is mailed to the graduate's permanent address or one specified on the diploma application which the graduate completes through Wolverine Access. Diplomas **are not prepared** by the University of Michigan Records/Diploma Department, and a guaranteed delivery schedule is not possible. Diplomas will be mailed by the University Registrar's Office within four months of graduation. Review [diploma information](#) on University Registrar's website.

COMPUTING SERVICES AFTER GRADUATION: Graduating students will no longer be able to use some U-M computing services after they officially graduate (approx. 4-6 weeks after the term ends). Please review Information and Technology Services [Information for Graduating Students](#). All U-M alumni may use email forwarding at no charge for as long as they choose. Alumni also will maintain the use of their Google Apps UMICH email and calendar.

NOTE: December graduates will be deleted from School of Social Work official listservs by the end of January 2027.

LOAN REPAYMENT/PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS INFO: Student borrowers in federal loan programs are required to complete online [Loan Exit Counseling](#) when they graduate, leave school or drop below half-time enrollment. Students may also be eligible for the [Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program](#). Contact Cerise Carrington, Director of Financial Aid (cmcar@umich.edu) with questions regarding loan repayment and loan forgiveness information.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK CAREER CENTER: The School of Social Work's Career Center, 1696 School Social Work Building, assists students and alumni with their job search process, resume/cover letter reviews and social work licensure questions. Licensure test preparation software is available to help students and alumni study for licensure exams. Please call (734) 763-6259 or email ssw-cso@umich.edu to schedule an appointment. Join us on [The School of Social Work's LinkedIn](#).

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK OFFICE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE): Become a lifelong learner at SSW-- and if licensure is in your future, earn continuing education hours toward your license renewal. The CE office offers a free Alumni Webinar Series to alums, as well as discounts on select [CE certificate programs](#). [Join the CE mailing list](#) to receive information about our latest offerings or visit the [Continuing Education](#) webpage.

UNIVERSITY CAREER CENTER: The University Career Center, 3200 Student Activities Bldg., offers services and resources to aid in the career exploration and job search process for UM students in every academic discipline. Their work often involves collaboration with academic units, employers and alumni/ae. Graduate students are encouraged to take advantage of every resource offered by The Career Center. Their Reference Letter Center can help you manage your reference letters, whether they are used for job applications, admission for advanced education or other purposes. Check out the [University Career Center website](#) for more information.

CONSIDER AN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS (NASW) MEMBERSHIP AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE STUDENT DISCOUNT!:

Social workers join NASW to advance in their careers, connect with colleagues, and protect their practice — all while advocating for the profession and important social issues. NASW members enjoy benefits and networking at the national and chapter level, for one annual fee. Social work is complex, and resources for clients can be limited. When social workers unite by joining NASW, the social work profession has a larger voice and more influence with elected leaders, policy makers, and employers to make critical changes that support the profession and society.

Consider joining NASW before graduation to qualify for 3 years of discounted membership dues:

BSW and MSW student members who maintain continuous membership after graduation qualify for a transitional period with discounted membership dues. Eligible NASW transitional members may apply for discounted professional liability insurance for the first two years of professional practice.

- **MSW students are eligible for three years of transitional membership**, with dues of \$116 in years one and two, and dues of \$179 in year three

[Learn more about NASW membership](#) on the NASW website.

MICHIGAN ONLINE FOR ALUMNI!:

Even if you're graduating you can always keep learning with Michigan Online! Michigan Online offers over 280 courses and series to university alumni - regardless of when you graduated. Created by world-renowned faculty and staff at the university, these courses and series help further your education, advance your career, and dive deeper into professional development. To begin accessing courses, log in to online.umich.edu using your U-M username and password. Once you've logged in, you can get started right away by exploring courses in the dropdown menu at the top of the site.

Need help logging in? No problem. Visit the [Alumni Association help page](#) for assistance.

Contact the Office of Student Services and Enrollment Management if you have questions about commencement:

- Email: ssw.msw.info@umich.edu
- Phone: 734) 936-0961 (please leave a message)
- Chat: You can access our Chat by going to our webpage at ssw.umich.edu and clicking on the 'Chat with Student Services' button in the lower right corner. The button will be visible when Chat is available.

Watch your email for updates!

Congratulations and Best Wishes!