



Financial Aid Information for Incoming Online MSW Students

Financial Aid Award Process

Master of Social Work students often fund their education through a combination of sources including need and merit-based grants and scholarships from the U-M School of Social Work (SSW), federal loans (Direct Loans & Grad Plus Loans), work-study awards, and personal funding. Review the information below for details on how funding is awarded to incoming students based upon the curriculum schedule they are following.

Feel free to review federal funding {loans and work-study} eligibility at studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans/plus/grad-professional#eligibility

Need and Merit-Based Grants and Scholarships

Admitted students who have submitted an SSW financial aid application will receive an award letter via email including the need and/or merit-based grants and scholarships awarded to them from the SSW **for all seven terms of enrollment**. Students with demonstrated need will be eligible for grant and scholarship aid (amount to be determined based on application) for the first four terms of enrollment and a tuition offset award for the final three terms. When factoring in the tuition offset award, total tuition cost for the online part-time program is equivalent to three semesters of full-time on-campus tuition.

Please note: The majority of SSW grant and scholarship aid is need-based and awarded to students when they enter the MSW program.

Federal Direct Loans & Work-Study

The University of Michigan Office of Financial Aid (OFA) will review submitted [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) applications for eligible students who have been admitted to the School of Social Work. Note that the FAFSA will only cover one academic year at a time (Fall, Winter, Spring/Summer). Students will need to submit a new FAFSA for each new academic year of enrollment. Completing the FAFSA allows students to be considered for Federal Direct Loans and Work-Study.

Please note that work-study positions may not be available for students unable to come to campus. Students are welcome to explore available work-study positions at studentemployment.umich.edu

At the Time of Admission into the MSW program

For students beginning the program in the Fall, OFA will send Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan (maximum: \$10,250/term) & Work-Study (typically \$1500/term) award notices to students via email and it will show **only the Fall and Winter terms**. For students beginning the program in the Winter, OFA will send Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan (maximum: \$10,250/term) & Work-Study (typically \$1500/term) award notices to students via email and it will show the **Winter term only**. For students beginning the program in the Spring/Summer, OFA will send Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan (maximum: \$10,250/term) & Work-Study (typically \$1500/term) awards to students via email and it will show the **Spring/Summer term only**.

MSW students typically receive the same Federal Direct Loan (\$10,250) for every term of enrollment in the program unless they have a significant change in their expected family contribution (EFC) on the FAFSA application.

Student Budget

Online degree students are charged per credit hour as a part-time student. Students can find curriculum schedules at sww.umich.edu/programs/msw/online. For estimated tuition and fee costs based on these curriculum schedules, students should visit sww.umich.edu/admissions/msw/tuition/online.

Financial Aid Disbursement and Tuition Payment

At the beginning of each term, a student's account is billed for tuition and fees (see student budget section). This is reflected in Wolverine Access under Campus Finances. Soon after tuition and fees are charged, all grant, scholarship, and loan aid for a term is applied to the student account toward tuition and fee charges. If the grant, scholarship and loan aid is higher than the tuition and fees charged, the student will receive a reimbursement by check or direct deposit. These funds can be used for student budget items including books, room and board, car expenses, etc. If the grant, scholarship, and loan aid does not cover the total amount of tuition and fees charged, students will have an outstanding bill that must be paid at the beginning of the semester by the stated due date or according to any approved University payment plan. To set up direct deposit, the student should go to Wolverine Access, Student Business and then Payroll and Compensation.

Additional Funding Opportunities

Direct Plus Loan

Many MSW students who are interested in additional funding apply for a Direct PLUS Loan. Incoming MSW students can apply for this loan beginning in mid-April. The University Office of Financial Aid will receive your Direct PLUS Loan application and review it beginning in July once the University Regents have set the final tuition amount for the year. Applicants for the Direct Plus Loan must be eligible to complete a FAFSA application. Direct PLUS Loan approval is contingent upon a review of credit history. If approved, the Direct PLUS Loan can cover the entire unmet cost of attendance in the student budget. **Please note:** International students and students with DACA status are not eligible to apply for Direct Plus Loans. Feel free to review eligibility requirements at studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans/plus/grad-professional#eligibility

Graduate Student Instructor/Graduate Student Staff Assistant Positions

Some students in the MSW program may pursue Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) or Graduate Student Staff Assistant (GSSA) positions throughout their time in the MSW program. These positions often provide a full tuition waiver, health insurance, and a monthly stipend in any term a student holds one of these positions. GSI or GSSA positions are typically only available outside of the School of Social Work and students can search for open positions at careers.umich.edu.

School of Social Work Donor Scholarships

Most donor-funded scholarships are provided to students at the time of admission and decisions are based on a review of application materials and the SSW Financial Aid application. Some donor-funded scholarships require separate application. These applications are posted in August each year. Occasionally, a donor-funded opportunity may become available at a different time of year. Information on these opportunities, should they occur, will be communicated to students via e-mail and posted on the SSW website at sww.umich.edu/admissions/msw/financial-aid/grants-and-scholarships.

School of Social Work Scholarship Re-Review

If students are concerned about their financial aid package, they may apply to be considered for additional School of Social Work grant and scholarship aid. A SSW Re-review application may be submitted after a student has received their SSW grant and scholarship award letter, special program application decisions, and Federal Direct Loan and Work-Study award. To inquire about this application, contact the Office of Student Services and Enrollment Management at sww.msw.info@umich.edu or 734-936-0961.

Child Care Subsidy

Students who have young, dependent children in child care may qualify for this subsidy. The subsidy provides funds to assist students with the cost of child care licensed by the State of Michigan. Students who wish to apply for the subsidy must meet several eligibility criteria and must submit both a federal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and an application for the subsidy. Please find more information and the application at finaid.umich.edu/child-care-subsidy/.

U-M Tuition Payment Plan and Account Information

Go to the [Student Financial Services](#) webpage for information about your U-M account, eBill, installment payment plans, and FAQs related to payment and student accounts.

Please note the payment plan is not available for Spring/Summer term.

The University will offer Tuition Refund Insurance. The plan provides funds to pay back loans, grants and scholarships for students who must completely withdraw from a term due to a physical or mental health illness or injury. For more information about tuition insurance, please visit uhs.umich.edu/tuition-insurance.

Financial Planning

Cerise Carrington, Financial Aid, Admissions and Student Services Officer is available to assist MSW students with budgeting and financial planning while in the MSW program. Email oss.appt.schedule@umich.edu or call 734-936-0961 to schedule an appointment.

The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) has developed [GradSense](#), a unique on line education platform that provides students with financial information about a range of topics including the value of pursuing an advanced degree, paying for your education, estimating cost of living, and preparing a budget for your time in graduate school. Through interactive visualization tools and engaging infographics, students are invited to better understand a variety of issues related to borrowing and spending, potential future earnings, and money management.

Visit GradSense at gradsense.org

Contacts

School of Social Work Funding, Financial Planning, or General Questions?

SSW Office of Student Services and Enrollment Management:

734/936-0961 | ssw.finaid@umich.edu | 1748 SSWB

Federal Loan or Work-Study Questions?

UM Office of Financial Aid: 734/763-6600 | financial.aid@umich.edu | 2500 Student Activities Bldg.