



Master Track Prospective Student Information Session

Questions Log

June 29, 2020

Q: When will we find out if we are eligible to participate in the MasterTrack program?

A: You may sign up for the Master Track program now. If you are interested in the MSW as well, you can request to have your experience evaluated now by complete [this form](#).

Q: I am currently studying law in India I would like to do MSW, can you guide on admission and fee?

A: Hello, You can find information about the MSW program here: <https://ssw.umich.edu/admissions/international-students>

Q: I am very interested in social work but do not think I will be able to continue to get a degree through U. Michigan. Would the successful completion of this program still lead to a certificate?

A: Yes, but it is not credit bearing so you cannot get a reduction in credit requirement at another MSW program.

Q: Is there an option to do the MSW online at University of Michigan?

A: We will be launching an online MSW program in May 2021. Completion of this first MasterTrack cohort beginning in September 2020, would put a student on track to thereafter begin the online MSW degree program.

Q: I'm wondering what is the difference between MasterTrack on Coursera and MicroMasters of social work on EdX. I understand the term length and price for verification are different, but is there any difference between these two?

A: The MasterTrack is a more updated version of the MicroMasters certificate program. The MasterTrack is also more synchronous in terms of the courses. It also allows for more interaction between students and faculty.

Q: Is the MSW MasterTrack appropriate for an incoming UM master's student who wants to apply to the MSW program for a dual degree?

A: Not necessarily. If you are interested in a dual degree program, completion of the MasterTrack is not required. You could simply apply to the residential MSW program and also apply to the other dual degree program.

Q: Is the MasterTrack Certificate course on Coursera all online? Will there be any in person meetings?

A: The MasterTrack certificate program is completely online.

Q: Will the MasterTrack Certificate be offered next year?

A: Yes.

Q: If one finishes the certificate and chooses to pursue the online Masters program you're starting in May, how long would it take to complete the rest of the Masters?

A: The online program is part time and is seven semesters long (two years and four months). The online program will include the Interpersonal Practice in Behavioral Health and Mental Health and Substance Abuse pathway.

Q: Do we take all 5 MasterTrack courses at the same time?

A: No they are sequential.

Q: Would I be able to combine the MicroMasters with the online MSW next May?

A: Yes, you can complete the MicroMasters certificate and then apply to the online MSW program beginning in May 2021

Q: Is there aid available for online MSW options?

A: There is no financial aid available for the MasterTrack certificate portion but if you are admitted into the MSW program (whether online or residential), financial aid is available

Q: How many hours per week would each course be?

A: You can expect to spend between 3 and 4 hours per week on the MasterTrack courses, assuming you take them one at a time.

Q: If you complete this MasterTrack Certificate, this would put you in a good spot to start the online MSW potentially? Does it count for credit for the program?

A: You may apply for the online program in advance of starting the Master Track. Our online program application will be available in August. Our first online cohort will begin in May 2021, but you will need to complete the Master Track beginning this fall. Completing the Master Track will reduce the requirements in the University of Michigan MSW program from 60 to 45. The Master Track is not credit bearing, so it will not reduce requirements in other MSW programs.

Q: When does a MSW student pick their pathway?

A: Students will solidify their chosen pathway when they begin the field placement selection process.

Q: Do you gain any credits when completing this program -- or is this a certification only?

A: The MasterTrack program is not credit bearing, it is certification only.

Q: Hello! To whom would you recommend taking the MasterTrack certificate path?

A: Students who would like to improve social work-related skills and also those interested in completing an MSW program with lower cost.

Q: Can the MSW be done fully online?

A: Yes! Beginning in the spring 2021, we are opening a part time, online MSW program. It is connected to this MasterTrack Certificate in that you would start with the Certificate, and then come into the part-time online program (upon being accepted, of course).

Q: How long would it take to finish the degree if you go full time?

A: If you are coming into the program full time in person after completing the MasterTrack certificate, you would finish the degree in 3 semesters (45 credits)

Q: How much schooling do you already have to have before entering into the MSW program? Pre-requisites required?

A: Students must have at least a Bachelor's degree in order to apply. We do have a non BA program for those that do not have a bachelor's degree. You can find more info at <https://ssw.umich.edu/admissions/msw/apply/non-baccalaureate>. We do not have any pre-req. requirements other than having at least 20 credits of liberal arts coursework across three different disciplines.

Q: Are there requirements for enrolling in the MasterTrack certificate?

A: Anyone can engage in the MasterTrack Certificate program.

Q: My understanding the cost of the MicroMaster Certificate program is \$2000. Are there any additional costs such as textbooks?

A: No, there are no additional expenses.

Q: A. Are the MasterTrack certificates credit easily transferable to other schools? B. I'm sure you'll cover this but I saw there is 3 projects, what do these entail? C. Do we need to find an internship site of sorts for it? D. How does that get approved if not in Mich.?

A: a) No. The Certificate does not award "credit", rather it allows you to reduce the number of credits you take if you come to the UM School of Social Work. There are not credits that can be transferred. b) I think you're referring to the projects in the courses (a reference on the Coursera site). Actually each course has a number of projects and assignments that students engage in. They are very aligned with what social workers actually do in practice. c)

Internships are only required for students in the full MSW program. The Office of Field Education would assist students in setting up an approved placement site.

Q: How long after completing the MasterTrack, can you apply for the MSW program?

A: You may apply for the MSW program before, during or after starting or completing the Master Track certificate program.

Q: Is the Interpersonal Practice in Integrated Health the only pathway for online MSW students?

A: Yes, that will be the only pathway offered for the online MSW program. All pathways are available in the residential program.

Q: Would one be in a position to apply for a job where a social work degree is preferred, after completing the MasterTrack program?

A: This could be possible, however the MasterTrack certificate is not equivalent to an MSW degree.

Q: Are the MasterTrack courses graded?

A: Yes, they are graded.

Q: How long does it typically take a student to finish the 45 remaining credits to earn the full MSW? Both part time and full time answers would be appreciated.

A: For Full time you would complete the 45 credits in 3 semesters (in person), Part-time In person- you would complete the 45 credits in 7 semesters

Q: When does the Master Track program open? Or will we be notified by email to enter the program?

A: The first cohort will begin in September 2020.

Q: When do MasterTrack students do field placement? Would this happen once we enroll in the MSW program?

A: Correct, the MasterTrack certificate is completed before beginning the MSW program. You would not complete a field placement within the certificate program, rather once you begin the MSW program.

Q: Are there any career opportunities with just this certificate track or do you need to complete the entire program?

A: Yes! There are a lot of jobs that look for the knowledge/training offered by the MasterTrack. These might be jobs like caseworkers, advocates, coordinators, etc. Keep in mind that the MasterTrack certificate is not equivalent to the MSW degree.

Q: Does the online MSW degree fall under the Rackham Graduate School at UMICH? Or is it part of the School of Psychology?

A: The MSW program is part of the School of Social Work which is separate from the Rackham Graduate School or Department of Psychology.

Q: Can I still fill out the MasterTrack eligibility form if I am an undergrad?

A: Yes.

Q: Sorry if I misunderstood. If I applied for MasterTrack and could start this October and finished after, will I be eligible to apply for Online MSW starting in May 2021?

A: Yes, that is correct. If you start in September/October 2020, you would be done in time to start the online MSW in May 2021 (assuming you are admitted).

Q: Do you need to have an official college transcripts or unofficial?

A: At the time of application you can use your unofficial transcripts, but if you are admitted we would need your official transcripts.

Q: Is there any age limit for applicants?

A: Not at all.

Q: What does the program consider significant human service-related experience?

A: It certainly varies. If you would like to discuss your specific experience, you are welcome to schedule an appointment with one of our admissions counselors at ssw.msw.info@umich.edu

Q: Can you transfer a class in? What if it was taken a few years ago?

A: Do you mean transfer credits from another graduate school into the MSW program? Yes, this is possible. Please email ssw.msw.info@umich.edu to inquire about this.

Q: How many students are admitted to the MSW program each year? How many apply?

A: We usually get 1200-1500 applicants a year, 800-900 students are accepted.

Q: How long is the online MSW program including the practicum?

A: Seven semesters (two years and four months) including the field placement. This does not include the Master Track timeframe.

Q: When do you apply for the SSW Financial Aid for the MSW program? After admittance?

A: You apply for scholarships and grants when you submit the MSW application. The FAFSA application will also need to be completed for need-based scholarships and federal loans.

Q: Is there a certain number of MSW student seats you allow per semester?

A: We anticipate 30 online MSW students per term.

Q: How much is the fee for the MasterTrack?

A: \$2000 total.

Q: What merit scholarships are available to MSW online program students?

A: We offer a number of donor scholarships which are merit based and our special programs. You can find more information at <https://ssw.umich.edu/programs/msw/financial-aid/grants-and-scholarships>

Q: Can one apply to the graduate student instructor/staff assistant positions before beginning your first semester?

A: If you are admitted to the MSW program, I usually tell students to keep an eye out on these job postings in February

Q: Can one apply to the graduate student instructor/staff assistant positions before beginning your first semester?

A: But yes, you can apply for them before you start the first semester

Q: What are the MSW program fees?

A: You can see the current fees by reviewing this link: <https://ssw.umich.edu/admissions/msw/tuition>

Q: Is it possible to connect with a current MSW student to learn more about their experience?

A: Yes! Feel free to send me an email at karimcol@umich.edu and I can connect you :)

Q: So it would be possible to do the MasterTrack on line and complete the degree MSW in Michigan by Summer 2022 by going to the resident program in Ann Arbor?

A: Yes, that is possible. If you had the MT certificate and started in the MSW program in fall 2021, you would be finished in August 2022.

Q: Do you anticipate adding additional pathways to your online MSW program in the future?

A: We sure do. The next addition will be a more macro focused specialization. That will not happen with the first year, however.

Q: Are the master track courses pass/fail?

A: They use numeric grades

Q: If you are a working social worker and are accepted into the MSW after the MasterTrack certificate, are the full 900 hours of placement required or could they be reduced? You mentioned 4 semesters - is that the equivalent to a full year of placement?

A: You would still need to complete 912 hours through your MSW program. You may however be able to complete those hours in your current agency. You have to have a different supervisor, MSW level tasks, and we'll need an affiliation agreement with the organization.

Q: Are there any schools that the MasterTrack recognizes besides U of M? I live in Seattle and would want to attend University of Washington afterwards.

A: This program is only recognized by U of M, it is not credit bearing or transferable

Q: For a student who earns the MSW online, is there any in person meetings on campus?

A: Yes, one long weekend in Ann Arbor, MI to start the program. You also are invited to participate in the graduation ceremony at the end of the program, but it is not required.

Q: Is there any certificate for today's webinar

A: No there is not, this was an informational session regarding the certification and the MSW degree

Q: For example, What do you mean as Human Service experience which will be asked for the reference of eligibility?

A: We are broad in how we assess human service experience. Some individuals have worked for non-profit organization, substance abuse organization, schools, etc. providing service to others. Some student may have been involved in more macro type work (management, leadership, etc. that is connected with disadvantaged populations).

Q: What would you estimate the timelines for completing the master track and completing the MSW program? 12-18 months?

A: The MSW takes 3 semesters full time after the MasterTrack is done. The MasterTrack runs from September/October to early May.

Q: Are the student assistants included with the "75%" receiving some kind of grants and scholarships? How many opportunities for MSW assistantships are typically available?

A: These are University assistantships, that are not included in the 75%. We do not have these for MSW students in the School, but other departments hire Graduate Student Instructors and Graduate Student Staff Assistants. They typically offer a full tuition waiver, health insurance, and a living stipend. You can search these positions at careers.umich.edu.