

**The University of Mississippi
School of Applied Sciences
Department of Social Work**

BSW Admission Policy

Students may declare a major in social work without formal application to the program. They will be considered pre-majors. Students declaring a major prior to formal admission to the program will be assigned an academic advisor in the social work department. At the initial advising meeting, students will complete the social work contract, review the NASW Code of Ethics, and review the policy for progression through the program. After successful completion (successful completion is defined as earning a “C” or better) of SW 315, SW 321, and SW 330 the student makes formal application to the department for admission to the program prior to enrolling in SW 335, Practice I.

Admission decisions for the BSW program are based upon a review of academic performance, relevant work or volunteer experience, a personal statement and resume. The Admission Committee consists of three to five Social Work faculty appointed by the B.S.W. Program Director. If needed, a student may be asked to complete a formal interview with the Admission Committee, The Committee will focus on academic achievement as well as criteria that demonstrate a commitment to social work values, beginning understanding of the social work profession, professional attitude and behavior, emotional maturity, and ability to express oneself clearly both orally and in writing.

Following review by the Committee, the applicant will be notified in writing of the Committee’s decision. Admission options include full admission, conditional admission, or denial of admission.

Notification of Students

Students will be informed of the status of their application prior to the beginning of the semester to which they applied. The Student will receive an email to their Ole Miss email address (**the Ole Miss issued email address is the official means of communication within The University of Mississippi**) that includes whether they have been accepted, conditionally accepted, or not admitted. The email also will include information for students regarding how they should respond or proceed.

Description of Types of Notification

1) Acceptance

In the cases where students are accepted they will be notified of the acceptance and will be directed to make an appointment with their advisor to plan for the next semester and for their entire social work program.

2) Conditional Acceptance

A student who does not meet fully meet admission requirements, but appears to be a promising social worker may be conditionally admitted to the program at the discretion of the Admission Committee. The student will be sent an email informing her/him of the conditional acceptance, the reasons for conditional acceptance and his/her responsibilities regarding being admitted. The responsibilities may include the development of a written contract that addresses how the unmet admission criteria will be

ameliorated. If so, the student will be informed of how to proceed with the appropriate parties. For example, if a student had a pre-requisite course still outstanding, the academic advisor and student would monitor the completion of the requirement. If the student was conditionally accepted due to concerns regarding maturity, emotional stability, or any behaviors incompatible with social work, the Admissions Committee would develop a behavioral contract with the student. This student also will be directed to make an appointment for course planning with their assigned advisor.

3) **Non-Admission**

In the case where a student does not meet the admission criteria listed above, the student may be rejected. The student will receive an email detailing the reasons for rejection and whether the committee feels the reasons for rejection can be ameliorated if the student wishes to work on the defined issues and reapply at a future date. Any student who wishes to take further social work courses after being rejected but having the intent to reapply will be strongly encouraged to meet with the Program Director to develop a plan that has the highest potential for admission at a second application. Students for whom making changes that will result in later acceptance does not seem possible will be clearly informed of this in their email.

Students who feel they were unfairly treated during the admission process are urged to meet with the Program Director to discuss their treatment. Further, students who feel unfairly treated have the right to appeal any decision made through the academic appeals process.

Requirements for formal admission include:

1. Overall GPA of 2.0 and successful completion of all pre-requisite courses and SW 315, SW 321, and SW 330.
2. Request for voluntary disclosure of misdemeanor, felony, or substantiated case of abuse of a child or vulnerable adult; the purpose is to discuss the possible impact of a felony or other legal misconduct on the ability to complete an internship, take the license examination, or practice social work. Conviction for past criminal activity or conduct will not be used as a criterion for admission into the BSW Program. However, past or future criminal activity or conduct may limit or inhibit a student from securing a social work internship, which is required for completion of the BSW degree. In addition, the student may be ineligible to receive state licensure to practice social work;
3. Completion of the application, including an essay/personal statement identifying why the student wants to be a social worker;
4. Updated resume;
5. Completion of an interview with the admissions committee at the discretion of the committee;
6. Consensus of admissions committee for recommendation of unconditional admission, conditional admission (with clearly identified concerns and a plan developed for addressing the concerns), or no admission (unsatisfactory GPA, application, or legal concerns that render the applicant unsuitable).

7. Submission of the complete application to:
 - University of Mississippi
 - Social Work Department
 - BSW Admissions**
 - 211 Longstreet Hall
 - P.O. Box 1848
 - University, MS 38677-1848
8. Submission of the application after successful completion of SW 315, 321, and 330.
9. Deadlines for admission:
 - a. November 1, for admission the following spring semester.
 - b. April 1, for admission the following fall semester.

PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL STATEMENT

The application process for admission to the social work major includes a two-page, double-spaced essay, in 12pt font and 1" margins to address the following:

1. Describe how you became interested in social work, and the personal or professional experiences that influenced your decision.
2. Describe your career goals and expectations/hopes for your first professional position after obtaining the BSW degree from the University of Mississippi.
3. What personal attributes do you possess which you believe might make you an effective social worker? What personal limitations might make it difficult for you to have a successful social work career? Talk about how you came to discover these things about yourself and how you plan to improve these limitations.
4. Describe how your personal values are compatible with social work values and ethics. Discuss your personal values as they relate to working with diverse populations.
5. Describe the current activities in which you are involved (i.e. classes, clubs, organizations, and volunteer experiences) that you believe will benefit your future career in social work. Discuss these benefits and their impact on you.

The essay will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Essay structure: begins with introduction, followed by a minimum of five paragraphs corresponding with numbers 1-5 above, and a conclusion.
- Quality of organization and clarity of ideas expressed
- Use of appropriate grammar and free of spelling errors/typos
- The use of at least one citation and reference in correct APA format