

Master of Social Work

The School of Social Work is pleased that you are interested in pursuing your Master of Social Work. We use a rolling admissions process and encourage applicants to submit the application and all supporting documents at the earliest date possible. Students can choose from either the MSW in Clinical Social Work or the MSW in Leadership in Organizations and Communities. The following tracks are available.

Advanced Standing MSW Program – 33 credits

This program is available for students who enter with a BSW from a CSWE accredited program within seven years of graduation and meet the admission requirements. An overall minimum GPA of 3.0 or higher and a minimum 3.0 in social work courses are required. Students who have a 2.75 to 2.99 GPA on the last 60 credits leading to the bachelor's degree will be considered for admission on a provisional basis. The advanced standing program can be completed in two semesters or part time (four to six semesters).

Traditional MSW Program – 63 credits

This program is designed for students who don't meet the Advanced Standing requirements. A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university with a GPA of 2.75 or higher is required. Students who have a 2.5 to 2.74 GPA will be considered for admission on a provisional basis. The traditional program can be completed either full-time (four semesters) or parttime (six to eight semesters).

Experienced and Employed Social Service Practitioners

Employed social service practitioners are encouraged to apply to either program. Currently employed practitioners or others who are currently employed should note that the program requires internship hours. Please consider whether or not your place of employment meets the criteria for an employer based internship or if leave can be taken to complete the internship at an approved site.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ADMISSION, APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING:

- Completed and signed application** with \$45 application fee.
- Official Transcripts** from all undergraduate and graduate institutions attended mailed directly to Graduate Admissions, 1 S. Blvd., Nyack, NY. Or electronic transcripts can be sent from the Registrar's Office to admissions.grad@nyack.edu or submitted through Parchment or eScrip-Safe.
- Pre-requisites.** Students who have not earned a BSW will be required to submit Official Transcripts showing completion of coursework including College Writing (3 cr), Statistics (3 cr), Human Biology (3 cr), Sociology (3 cr), Psychology (3 cr) and Humanities and/or History (6 cr). Submit the Pre-requisite form along with the other required admissions documents.
- Academic Reference.** Obtain a reference from a professor who can accurately assess your ability to successfully complete a graduate-level program. References must be sent in a sealed envelope with the writer's signature across the seal or emailed directly to admissions.grad@nyack.edu.
- Professional References (2).** Obtain a reference from a current or former employer who can accurately assess your level of competency and potential to successfully complete a graduate-level program. Obtain a second reference from either a professor or employer. If you have not been employed, provide additional academic references or volunteer/community service references. References must be sent in a sealed envelope with the writer's signature across the seal or emailed directly to admissions.grad@nyack.edu.
- Resume.**
- Personal Statement Response.** See questions on page 2 of Application Procedures.
- Critical Thinking Essay** (Traditional applicants). See questions on page 2 of Application Procedures.
- Case Reflection** (Advanced Standing applicants). See case study on page 3 of Application Procedures.
- Immunization Records.**

Submit all documents to: Admissions, 1 South Blvd., Nyack, NY 10960 or fax to 845.358.3047 or scan and email to admissions.grad@nyack.edu.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

English Proficiency: In addition to the regular admissions requirements, all international students for whom English is not the first language must be certified in English proficiency. The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) are accepted. The TOEFL minimum score of 550 PBT or 80 IBT or 6.5 on the IELTS is required.

International transcripts must be submitted to (WES) World Education Services for evaluation.

International students requiring an F-1 visa must submit additional documents. For more information, go to:
<http://www.nyack.edu/content/international-students>

COMPUTER LITERACY

Students in the Graduate programs will use an online environment for a portion of their learning. Technology skills are necessary for successful completion of the program. Applicants to the program should be able to: send and receive e-mail, open or send an e-mail attachment, conduct research using the Internet, use Microsoft Word, and download files. Students are required to have access to a computer and the Internet.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY

Nyack College is an educational institution that admits academically qualified students without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, age, disability, sex, gender, familial status, pregnancy, predisposing genetic characteristics, military status, domestic violence victim status, or criminal conviction.

RECOMMENDATION WAIVER

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 permits enrolled students access to certain credentials in their file. Because of the importance of preserving the confidentiality of letters of recommendation, the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act permits an educational institution to suggest that an applicant may waive his or her right of access to letters of recommendation. Signing such a waiver is not required as a condition of admission, receipt of financial aid from, or receipt of any other services or benefits from Nyack College. In order that the institution may have valid recommendations, it is suggested that the applicant consider waiving his or her right to see such letters of recommendation. Please be assured that letters of recommendation (along with transcripts and your own application) are used solely to determine an applicant's qualification for admission. Signing the waiver statement on the reference form is all that is necessary on your part.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Include your name on each page with a heading for the topic of each question at the beginning of the response. Please use current APA style and save your document using "*Last name.First name.Essays*" as the filename. Email to: admissions.grad@nyack.edu or fax to: 845.358.3047 or mail to: Graduation Admissions, 1 South Blvd., Nyack, NY 10960.

FOR ALL APPLICANTS

Personal Statement Response – answers should each be one page in length

1. How did you first become interested in the social work profession? How has this changed over time? Discuss your motivation to pursue the MSW degree. What attracts you to Nyack College's MSW program?
2. What experiences have you had in serving others? Has anyone been a role model for you in shaping your decision to be a social worker? Please elaborate.

FOR TRADITIONAL APPLICANTS

Critical Thinking Essay – answer should be one page in length

Please read carefully the two statements that follow and select one for your response. Your response should include your own observations, examples, and/or ideas from authors with whom you are familiar. If you quote an author, remember to provide a proper reference using APA format. References to research or to other literature are not required but are recommended.

1. Social workers challenge social injustice.
 2. Social workers respect the inherent dignity and worth of the person.
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FOR ADVANCED STANDING APPLICANTS

Case Reflection – Please read carefully the following two case vignettes. Select one vignette and, in one page, discuss the social work related issues and concerns that you identify in the case you selected.

Discuss the social work related issues and concerns that you identify in this case.

Case #1: Jordana Fredrique

You are a social worker in a church counseling center in a residential neighborhood. One morning you are contacted by Jordana Fredrique, a white woman, wife of a medical resident who is pursuing a specialty in your city's medical school. Jordana lives across the street from the church and was attracted by the center's sign.

Jordana is 25 years old, identifies as a conservative "Christian, and has been married to David for two years. She tells you that she comes from a Christian religious community that intentionally separated from the materialism of American society and created a community that expressed traditional Biblical beliefs. Her marriage was brokered by her family and her husband's, and she did not meet him until a few days before the wedding.

David wanted a bride that would uphold the values of their community. Simplicity governs their life together, and he expects Jordana to dress modestly, cover her head in public, and conform herself to his decisions. She is expected to remain in their home, and their only joint friends are another couple from the same religious community. At the same time, David socializes with his friends, often staying out late with other residents and medical students.

Jordana confides in you that she wants to wear stylish clothes, try the makeup she sees in women's magazines, and go out by herself to shop at the supermarket or shopping malls. She would like to taste a hamburger from McDonald's. Above all, she would like the freedom to make friends outside of the religious community.

She has just discovered she is pregnant and is afraid that after the birth of her child, she will never get out of the house. She fears that she and her husband will end up living in different worlds. She feels it is "now or never." If she does not begin to achieve some of these goals in the next six months, she will be a traditional, housebound wife for the rest of her life.

Case #2: Establishing a Cancer Treatment Unit

You are the director of social work in a large urban community hospital located in a low-income area serving people from various economic levels. You have been assigned to staff the planning committee charged with creating a plan for the future of the hospital. You grew up in the community and have family and long-standing friends who reside there. You also have relationships with many community human service administrators and staff members.

As the planning process proceeds, it becomes clear that most committee members favor the creation of a specialized cancer treatment unit, which will gain status recognition for the hospital and also attract patients from throughout the state. But such a recommendation will make it impossible to recommend improvements for emergency and ambulatory care that are desperately needed by the neighborhood. A recommendation for a cancer treatment unit will change the nature of the available health care, who will get the jobs, use of community space, kinds of housing which will be available, and so forth.

It becomes clear to you that the local community will gain very little and lose much if a cancer treatment unit is installed. You are torn between loyalties to the hospital, to the community in general, to the social and human service agencies in the community, and to the community's population, including your friends and relatives who need a different type of service.

Loewenberg, F. M., Dolgoff, R., and Harrington, D. (2000). Ethical Decisions for Social Work Practice, 235-236. Itasca, IL: F.E. Peacock. Used by permission.

PREREQUISITES FOR THE MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

- Students who have not earned a BSW will be required to submit Official Transcripts showing completed undergraduate coursework in the areas listed below. This page must be submitted along with other required admissions documents.
- List undergraduate courses, course number and date of completion, as shown on your transcript. If you are currently enrolled in a course, write "in progress". If your credits are based on the quarter system, divide the number of quarter hours by 1.5.
- Record **only** the number of courses needed to meet the requirement, even if you have had more courses than required.
- If you believe a course meets a particular requirement, but the content is not clear from the course title, include a copy of the course description from your undergraduate catalog or a copy of the course syllabus.
- If you do not have sufficient undergraduate work in a particular area and are accepted into the MSW program, you will need to complete coursework prior to starting. The MSW Admissions Committee will only review an application that is missing no more than one prerequisite.

REQUIREMENT	NAME OF COURSES	COURSE #	HOURS	COMPLETION DATE
Biology (3 credits): a. 3-hour human biology course or its equivalent OR b. satisfactory CLEP score on a human biology exam OR c. successful completion of BSSW human biology competency process				
College Writing (3 credits)				
Sociology (3 credits)				
Psychology (3 credits)				
Humanities and/or History (6 credits): philosophy, religion, arts, government, political science, economics, history, literature				
Statistics (3 credits)				

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