



Master of  
**Social Work**



Saint Mary's  
College

NOTRE DAME, INDIANA

# MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

Equip yourself with the knowledge and skills you need to make a difference with a Master of Social Work degree from Saint Mary's College. You'll learn how to implement proven, effective social work practices founded on compassionate values.

This master's program in social work is taught online with a one-weekend campus immersion and is open to both men and women. The approach gives you flexibility in how you learn, so you can fit your degree around your busy schedule.

You'll still have plenty of hands-on experience thanks to field placements in your own community that complement your online coursework.





## WHAT IS A CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER?

A clinical social worker has a MSW, has passed the Licensed Social Worker exam, and completed their state's requirements for eligibility to take the LCSW exam. Once passing the LCSW exam, the social worker is considered a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and can move into healthcare related work settings.

The master's degree is an important step in advancing a student's career to the point where they can practice as a social worker, which is not possible at the BSW level. The MSW is the terminal degree in social work, allowing students with BSWs and other degrees (for example psych, education, etc) a path to practicing as a healthcare social worker, as opposed to (for example) a PhD in psychology which can take 7 years.

The MSW at Saint Mary's puts students on a path to becoming a Licensed Social Worker and eventually gaining the LCSW credential, which is unique in that it allows students to take positions anywhere from a school to a career as a hospital/medical social worker in health care specific settings.

## KEY COURSES

The Saint Mary's College MSW Program curriculum addresses diversity, equity, inclusion, and antiracism.

These two examples of courses that the Saint Mary's College MSW Program developed to increase students' knowledge of how to advocate for social, racial, economic, and environmental justice.

### JUSTICE-BASED SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE COURSE (SW 500) DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (SW 600)

These courses are taught at the forefront of the MSW curriculum in order to assist students in gaining knowledge to advocate for antiracism, diversity, equity, and inclusion and applying this knowledge to their continuing MSW curriculum that includes their field practicum education.

**THESE SKILLS ARE VITAL**

**IN A GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH  
OUR GRADUATES WILL BE ENGAGED  
IN CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE  
NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.**

# MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

## DEGREE DETAILS

### LCSW

After completing the MSW at Saint Mary's, you will be a LCSW (Licensed Clinical Social Worker)

### One-year Advanced Standing

One-year Advanced Standing track for students with a BSW

### Choice

Individualized field placement opportunities that allow students to work in the field and community of their choice

### Two-year track

Two-year track for students without a BSW

### Online

Primarily online with one weekend-long on campus immersion per year

### Personalized

High touch with faculty, small class sizes

## CAREER OUTCOMES

Graduates from this program will be Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) prepared to work in many settings, including:

- Healthcare social work
- Geriatric social work
- Child and family social work
- School social work
- Mental health and substance abuse social work

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*Clinical social workers may develop treatment plans with the client, doctors, and other healthcare workers and may adjust the treatment plan if necessary based on their client's progress. They may work in a variety of specialties.*

U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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I had the opportunity to work in the emergency room, dealing with various crisis intervention issues. This illustrates that a trauma social worker could also be referred to as a crisis intervention social worker.

Additionally, there is a broader field within social work where professionals choose to become CEOs, managers, or pursue roles in human resources. Some even venture into opening their own social work businesses or private practices. This demonstrates the diverse range of opportunities within the field.

ABRIDGED QUOTE FROM

FRANCES “FRAN” BERNARD KOMINKIEWICZ,  
PROFESSOR, PROGRAM DIRECTOR:  
MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW)

# APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

## 2 Year MSW

Up to fifteen credit hours from an accredited undergraduate program may be awarded toward the graduate program at the discretion of the Social Work Department for students who do not have a BSW and are applying to the 2 year MSW.

- Free online application form
- Three letters of reference. One letter from a former faculty member preferred
- Resume or CV
- Completion of application essays and personal statement
- Transcripts from all previous collegiate work
- A minimum undergraduate grade-point average (GPA) of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale for last 60 semester credits
- A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution or a comparable degree from an international institution
- No GRE required
- Prerequisites
  - Introductory Psychology course (3 credits)
  - Human Biology course (3-5 credits; lab not required)
  - statistics course (3 credits)

# PERSONAL STATEMENT

## 2 Year MSW

Your personal statement should be one double-spaced document that is in 12-point font and does not exceed 1500 words. Your statement must address all of the first four of the following topics, and the fifth if applicable:

*Note: Please use headings or numbers to separate each response in your statement.*

1

Describe a social problem of your choice. Explain your recommendations for intervention and social change to address the social problem.

2

Describe how your personal and intellectual qualifications, previous human service experience, and/or future goals are relevant to assisting the most economically and socially disadvantaged groups in our society. Please provide specific examples.

3

Please describe your plan to fulfill the MSW requirements while balancing field practicum education hours and other academic work with your other life commitments.

4

Discuss your professional and learning goals and describe how the Saint Mary's College MSW Program will help you achieve these.

5

If your undergraduate GPA is less than 3.0, please explain the reason(s) why.



# APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

## 1 Year MSW with Advanced Standing

- Free online application form
- Earned Baccalaureate degree in Social Work (within the last seven years or longer with relevant work experience)
- Transcripts from all previous collegiate work
- 3.0 GPA from undergraduate BSW program
- Three letters of reference. One of the three letters should be from a member of the field faculty or directors at your BSW institution, if at all possible.
- Resume
- No GRE required
- Completion of application essays and personal statement
- Prerequisites (all taken within the last seven years):
  - Introductory Psychology course (3 credits)
  - Human Biology course (3-5 credits; lab not required)
  - Statistics course (3 credits)

# PERSONAL STATEMENT

## 1 Year MSW with Advanced Standing

Your personal statement should be one double-spaced document that is in 12-point font and does not exceed 1500 words. Your statement must address all of the first four of the following topics, and the fifth if applicable:

*Note: Please use headings or numbers to separate each response in your statement.*

1

Discuss your professional and learning goals and describe how the Saint Mary's College MSW Program will help you achieve these.

2

Please describe your plan to fulfill the MSW requirements while balancing field practicum education hours and other academic work with your other life commitments.

3

If your undergraduate GPA is less than 3.0, please explain the reason(s) why.

*Note: You **MUST** upload a personal statement to submit and have your application reviewed for admission to the program.*



\$0

**Is the amount your tuition will increase from term to term as long as you remain enrolled in the program.**

**TWO-YEAR MSW  
CREDITS REQUIRED TO GRADUATE: 60**

**ONE-YEAR MSW WITH ADVANCED STANDING  
CREDITS REQUIRED TO GRADUATE: 30**

By entering a graduate program, you are investing in your future. We understand navigating the financial aid process for a graduate degree can be overwhelming.

To make sure you reach your goals, we will help you identify various funding sources, analyze repayment options, and provide you with tools to establish a budget, estimate costs, and plan for your future.

Tuition for the fall 2023 entering class is \$745 per credit hour. For a breakdown of all associated costs and more financial aid information, visit [www.saintmarys.edu/graduate-studies](http://www.saintmarys.edu/graduate-studies).

*Information and statistics portrayed in this publication are current as of print date.*

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My goal is to ensure that students are creating collaborations with social work agencies and placements that are engaging, challenging and supportive.”

**Elizabeth Brueseke**

MSW, LCSW

**BECOME TOP OF YOUR FIELD & AN AGENT OF CHANGE**

At Saint Mary's, you'll join a tight-knit, caring community that is committed to helping each other and making a difference in the world. Throughout your Master of Social Work program, you'll learn from industry experts and receive the support you need to succeed in the classroom and beyond.

Saint Mary's provides you with the tools and confidence needed to be at the top of your field and to become an agent of change.



# Want to learn more about the Master of Social Work program?

Saint Mary's should be your top choice for a Social Work degree.

## CONNECT WITH US

You can chat with us via email, video chat, or phone call.

**We are here to help you.**



### PHONE

(574) 284-5098



### EMAIL

[graduateadmission@saintmarys.edu](mailto:graduateadmission@saintmarys.edu)



### MSW HOMEPAGE

<https://www.saintmarys.edu/graduate-studies/social-work>



### ADDRESS

Office of Graduate Studies  
Notre Dame, IN 46556



### WEBSITE

[www.saintmarys.edu/graduate-studies](http://www.saintmarys.edu/graduate-studies)



### MSW APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

<https://www.saintmarys.edu/graduate-studies/social-work/application-requirements>