

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 clinically focused MSW program is asynchronous and taught online with an optional one-weekend campus immersion. The approach gives you flexibility in how you learn, so you can fit your degree around your busy schedule. It is open to both men and women.

You'll still have plenty of hands-on experience thanks to field placements in your own community that you will work with the MSW Program Director of Field Education to locate. Your coursework complements your placement allowing you to put theory into practice.



What is a Clinical Social Worker?

A clinical social worker has a MSW, has passed a base license exam, and has completed their state's requirements for eligibility to take a clinical exam. Upon passing the clinical exam they are able to practice as a clinical social worker, allowing them to work in a variety of settings.

The Master's Degree is the terminal degree in social work, meaning it is the highest degree in the field. It signifies a level of mastery and expertise, preparing you for advance practice, professorship, and other specialized roles.

The MSW at Saint Mary's readies students to take the base licensing exam and eventually gain the clinical credential, which is unique in that it allows social workers to take positions in a wide variety of settings such as schools, healthcare, government, non-profit and more.



OUR COURSES

In addition to studying foundational social work topics, you will specialize in clinical social work to prepare to work in hospitals, mental health clinics and a variety of different client settings—with an optional added emphasis on aging and addictions available to meet the needs of the rapidly growing population of seniors.

You will also focus on these key courses, developed to increase students' knowledge of how to advocate for social, racial, economic, and environmental justice that are taught at the forefront of the MSW curriculum. Here, students gain knowledge of core CSWE competencies related to justice for all populations and apply this knowledge to their continuing MSW curriculum—including their field practicum.

- Justice-Based Social Work Practice (SW 500)
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (SW 600)

These skills will help our graduates succeed in clinical social work anywhere in the world.



Master of Social Work Degree Details

LICENSING

After earning an MSW from Saint Mary's, students can follow their state's rules to become eligible for the Licensed Social Work exam. More details are available at aswb.org.

ONE-YEAR TRACK

Students with a BSW can enter the program on a one-year advanced track.

TWO-YEAR TRACK

Students without a BSW will enter the program on a two-year track.

CHOICE

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

FLEXIBLE

Our program is online with one weekend-long, on-campus optional immersion per year.

PERSONALIZED

This is a high-touch program with engaged faculty and small class sizes.

Become top of your field and an agent of change

At Saint Mary's, you'll join a close-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.

- Full-time and part-time options are available
- Open to both men and women
- Receive help obtaining a clinical placement

“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
MSW DIRECTOR OF FIELD EDUCATION



Application Requirements

TWO-YEAR MSW

- A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited US institution or a comparable degree from an international institution
- Transcripts from all previous collegiate work
- The most competitive candidates will have maintained at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA in their undergraduate program
- Three letters of recommendation. One letter from a former faculty member is required
- Resume or curriculum vitae
- Personal statement
- No GRE required
- Prerequisites:
 - Introductory Psychology course (3 credits)
 - Human Biology course (3-5 credits; lab not required)
 - Statistics course (3 credits)

Up to 15 credit hours from an accredited BSW program may be awarded toward the graduate program at the discretion of the MSW program for students who do not have a BSW and are applying to the two-year MSW.

ONE-YEAR MSW WITH ADVANCED STANDING

- Earned bachelor's degree in Social Work
- Transcripts from all previous collegiate work
- The most competitive candidates will have maintained at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA in their undergraduate BSW program
- Three letters of recommendation. One letter from a former faculty member is required
- Resume or curriculum vitae
- Personal statement
- No GRE required
- Prerequisites:
 - Introductory Psychology course (3 credits)
 - Human Biology course (3-5 credits; lab not required)
 - Statistics course (3 credits)

WHO QUALIFIES FOR ADVANCED STANDING?

Advanced Standing is awarded only to those with a(n): 1) CSWE-accredited baccalaureate social work degree; 2) CASWE-accredited baccalaureate social work degree (from the Canadian social work accreditor, recognized through an MOU with CSWE and CASWE); and 3) internationally earned ISWDRES-evaluated degree comparable to a baccalaureate social work.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Your statement must address all of the first four of the following topics, and the fifth if applicable. 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.



Career Outcomes

Graduates from this program will be on track to be licensed in their states/ counties and 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 USE SOCIAL WORK
- PRIVATE PRACTICE
- ASSESSMENT AND DIAGNOSIS

All Saint Mary’s graduates have access to the Career Crossings Office for life! No matter where you are in your career, you can always reach out to us for guidance.

“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

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 2025 entering class was \$745 per credit hour. For a breakdown of all associated costs and more financial aid information, visit www.saintmarys.edu/MSW-tuition. Scholarships are available for full and part-time students.

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

\$0

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

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

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

TEXT

(574) 485-0088

ADDRESS

Saint Mary's College
Office of Graduate Admission
Notre Dame, IN 46556

EMAIL

graduateadmission@saintmarys.edu



WEBSITE

www.saintmarys.edu/graduate-studies/social-work

The Saint Mary's MSW program
is ideal for those looking to
make a meaningful impact.

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SCHOLARSHIPS FOR
ALL ADMITTED
FULL-TIME STUDENTS
FOR FALL 2026

** Scholarships for admitted part-time students are prorated.*



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