Temple University’s Master of Social Work program is dedicated to societal transformation by eliminating social, political, and economic injustices for poor and oppressed populations and advancing the quality of life for all.

Transform yourself.
Transform your community.
Transform the world.
Why a Temple MSW?

Diverse Student Body

Faculty Engaged in Teaching, Practice, Research and Service

Diverse Faculty Interests

- Aging
- Criminal Justice
- Fatherhood
- Disabilities
- Gender Identity
- Girls’ Violence
- HIV Prevention

- Homelessness
- Immigrants & Refugees
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Latino Populations
- Mental Health
- Sexuality
- Substance Abuse
- Transgender Health Care

Strong Clinical and Macro Curriculum
Why a Temple MSW?

- **Connections.** Our students have access to one of the largest alumni groups in the area.
- **Excellence.** Our curriculum prepares students for the LSW (licensure) exam and we have one of the highest exam pass rates.
- **Partnerships.** We work with over 500 human service and social change organizations to provide internships and training opportunities for our students and have an international Partnership with Erfurt University (Germany) as well as educational trips to other locations.
- **Innovative.** We are continuously renewing our curriculum
- **Flexibility.** The MSW program is available online, full-time (Main Campus) or part-time (Main Campus, Center City).
What is your TUSSW story?

“During the fall of 2009, I had decided to obtain a Master’s in Social Work to become an advocate for people who could not advocate for themselves. As a result of obtaining my MSW, I went on to launch a program for at risk girls in the city of Philadelphia.”

Shameka Sparrow, class of 2011

What is your TUSSW story?

“Initially, I had committed to an MSW program at another university, but was heartbroken when their class schedule could not accommodate my work schedule. I was a Temple undergrad, class of 2015, and after re-visiting Temple’s CPH SSW web page, I applied on a whim two days before the application deadline. I was drawn to Temple’s flexible academic schedule, outstanding field placement opportunities, and expansive course catalog…and of course, the chance to be a part of Temple’s thriving student body. Returning to Temple for my MSW has been truly fantastic educational opportunity that has challenged me both as a student and a member of the Philadelphia community. Go Owls!”

Liz Touchstone, class of 2018
What is your TUSSW story?

“I originally was in school to be an animator. However, I was inspired by many of the African-American Civil/Human Rights activities of the 1960s to get involved in social activism. Thus, I changed my career path to Social Work in my third year of undergrad and set my sights on Temple University. The rest is history.”

David R. Sparrow, class of 2011

What is your TUSSW story?

“In 1989, my domestic partner, and later wife, received a scholarship at Univ. of Penn and we were living in Southern Illinois at the time. I needed a job in Philadelphia and chose Temple for its historic commitment to social change. We moved here, I got to be a faculty member and found a wonderful home at work!”

Bernie Newman, Faculty since 1989
Foundation Curriculum

Generalist Focus

- Focus on breadth of content
- Holistic perspective – “the big picture”
- Ability to work with various issues of concern
- Ability to work with diverse client systems
- Ability to influence change at multiple levels
- Ability to apply intervention strategies
- Ability to use a common set of skills across systems of practice

Courses (30 credits)

- Social Justice (3 credits)
- Human Behavior and the Social Environment (HBSE) I & II (6 credits)
- Social Welfare Policies and Services I & II (6 credits)
- Foundation of Social Work Research (3 credits)
- Practice of Social Service Delivery I & II (6 credits)
- Foundation Field Practicum I & II (6 credits)
Advanced Curriculum

**Focused Choice**

- Focus on greater depth of content
- Method of Practice—Concentration (pick 1):
  - Clinical Practice
  - Macro Practice
- Area of Practice—Specialization (pick 1):
  - Children, Youth and Families
  - Health/Mental Health
  - Individualized Option
- Electives: Graduate level courses in social work or other departments
- Integrative Seminar – capstone course taken in last semester

**Courses (30 credits)**

- Concentration: practice method (9 credits)
  - Advanced Practice I & II*
  - Evaluation of Practice (research)
- Specialization: field of practice (6 credits)
  - HBSE Course
  - Social Welfare Policy Course
- Two semester advanced field placements (6 credits)
  - By concentration & specialization
- Electives (6 credits)
- Integrative seminar (3 credits)
Our MSW Program Offers:

Five decades of training professionals for public sector leadership

Curriculum that prepares students to affect social change at all levels of practice

Innovative curriculum tailored to individualized career goals and interests:

- Selection of Concentration
  - Clinical Social Work Practice
  - Macro Social Work Practice
- Selection of Specialization
  - Children and Families
  - Health/Mental Health
  - Individualized Option
“I feel what has changed the most is my views about myself. In week one I had seen myself as only a spectator with little to no power. I no longer see myself this way, I have learned that only I can limit my power.”

-MSW Student, Social Welfare Policies & Service

“...The way I read and process news and information has dramatically changed as a result of this class and our last class. I look at things in a more technical way...I know I need to consider things like a policy’s efficiency, equity or effectiveness when presenting a solution to a problem.”

-MSW Student, Social Welfare Policies & Services II
MSW Program Overview
Fully Online Option

Designed for Working Professionals
- 3-year, part-time program

Balance of Live and Independent Classroom Work
- Synchronous classes held one day each week
- Asynchronous work completed during balance of each week

Connection to Temple University Social Work
- Advising sessions
- Professional development opportunities

Meet Your Professors, Staff, and Colleagues in Person
- 3-day residency requirement between first and second years
Advanced Standing Option

Eligibility

- Students who graduated with a BSW within the past 5 years
- Students who earned at least 3.25 cumulative GPA overall and within the social work major

How It Works

- 25.5 credits transfer from the BSW degree to the MSW degree
- “Bridge” coursework begins in June
- Students move directly into advanced year coursework
- Duration is 1 year (full-time) to 18 months (part-time)
Field Education
Field Placement

Key to Professional Skill Growth:

- Assessing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating work with client systems
- Becoming proficient in cross-cultural competencies
- Working in organizational, community, and institutional contexts
- Understanding the relevance of policies and research
- Using supervision effectively
- Working through value conflicts and ethics dilemmas

Pass/Fail

Monitored by a Field Liaison
Field Placement Sites

Populations:
- Children
- Youths
- Adults
- Older Adults

Types of Settings:
- Non-profit agencies & government offices
- Outpatient & inpatient settings
- Drug and alcohol, criminal justice, health care, mental health care, and school settings (and many more)

TU SSW Office of Field Education application and information site (https://sites.temple.edu/sswfieldeducation/)

Current and prospective students can submit questions.
Field Education Plans

Two Field Placements:

- Foundation Year (450 Hours)
- Advanced Year (600 Hours)

Time Options:

- Fall-Spring
- Spring-Summer
- Summer Block

Employment-based field placements are possible.

Placement Process:

- Office of Field Education can place students
- Students can find a placement and work with the Office of Field Education to ensure it meets all TU SSW and CSWE standards
Application Process
Program Specific Final Deadlines

Summer Term – April 1
• Advanced Standing MSW

Fall Term – May 1
• Regular Entry MSW
• Online Regular Entry MSW
Application Checklist

• **SocialWorkCAS Application** – An online application platform, all application materials will be submitted through this platform

• **Official Transcripts** – Transcripts from all institutions attended must be submitted directly to:

  SocialWorkCAS Transcript Processing Center  
  PO Box 9212  
  Watertown, MA 02471

• **Resume** – Ensure that it is up to date, include employment, internship, and volunteer experiences
Application Checklist

• **Goal Statement** – A personal statement of about ~1,000 words that helps us learn a little more about you, it should cover the following:
  • Discuss what about the School of Social Work’s missions statement is compelling to you
  • Describe some significant experiences in your life in which you’ve worked with people of diverse backgrounds and their impact/relevance to you
  • Consider your plan for balancing the MSW program with your other personal and professional commitments

• **Letters of Reference** – Three academic or professional references are required, avoid using family members, peers, colleagues, friends, clients, etc.
  • if you graduated within the past five years, please include at least one academic reference
Additional Requirements for Advanced Standing Students

Advanced Standing applicants are required to submit a copy of their final evaluation from their senior field placement.

Additionally, one of the three required letters of reference should come from a faculty member within their BSW program.
Additional Requirements for International Students

- **TOEFL Examination** – for applicants whose native language is not English (and who have not completed their degree from an English-speaking institution) a TOEFL is required
  - Minimum score of 79 is required
  - Should be submitted directly to SocialWorkCAS via code: B596

- **World Education Services (WES) Evaluation** – required for any applicant who completed coursework outside of the United States
  - Can be requested and submitted directly through SocialWorkCAS
Stay Connected

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Sign up for our Owl News: https://list.robly.com/subscribe?a=5a15a01038e8c258bb952a85ced744e9