



Department of Social Work Master of Social Work Fact Sheet Accredited by CSWE June 2013

In 2010, the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) began to offer the Master of Social Work (MSW) degree. The MSW prepares individuals for advanced practice and leadership within the Paso del Norte border region and beyond. The Program's Concentration is "Social Work in the Border Region." Students are trained to address the many social and health needs of families and communities in this bi-cultural, bi-national region, including issues related to child welfare, family violence, drug and alcohol abuse, medical social work, immigration and criminal justice.

The MSW degree plans require 60 credits for Full-Time and Part-Time students and 30 credits for Advanced Standing students. The Full-time and Part-Time degree plans are designed for students who:

- 1) Have a baccalaureate degree in a major other than social work, *or*
- 2) Do not meet the requirements of the Advanced Standing option.

The Advanced Standing Program is designed for individuals who earned a BSW from a CSWE-accredited university/college within five years of their anticipated admission to the program and have a minimum GPA in their social work courses of a 3.5.

In addition to required courses, students can take 6 credit hours (two courses) of electives from the courses offered in the MSW program or in related fields such as Sociology, Health Sciences, Chicano Studies, Women's Studies, Anthropology or Political Science (see "MSW Curriculum" at the *Master of Social Work* link). All degree plans require field education: Full-Time and Part-Time require four semesters for a total of 960 hours in the field. Advanced Standing students require two semesters for a total of 480 hours in the field.

All classes are offered late afternoon (starting at 3:00 or 3:30) or evenings (starting at 6:00 or 6:30); Saturday classes may be offered as needed. Because the program is relatively small, there is typically only one section of a class offered in a given semester. Requirements for these programs can be found in the "How to Apply" document on the *Master of Social Work* link.

The department will accept applications for the June, 2016 class from September 1, 2015 through January 15, 2016. We have implemented an *Early Admission* option for those students who are committed to attending UTEP's MSW program and have a high score on their application rating. The deadline for *Early Admission* is December 1, 2015. If one applies for the early deadline but is not granted early admission, his/her application will be re-considered with those applying for the January 15th deadline. While late application submissions will be reviewed, applicants would most likely be placed on a waiting list until openings occur from those who were admitted by the January 15th deadline.

A rolling admission process is used so applicants are encouraged to submit their applications early. Please be aware that some of the degree plans only accept a limited number of students; these plans could close to those who complete their application by the January 15th deadline if the openings are filled by *Early Admission* applicants. Acceptance into this program is based on an assessment of a set of criteria that captures a holistic picture of an applicant's abilities. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required. Criteria included in the assessment are as follows (see "How to Apply to the MSW Program" under the *Master of Social Work* link for more details about criteria):

- Cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above*. In addition, Advanced Standing applicants must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 in social work courses
- Three references from professionals or college professors
- Undergraduate course in biology, anatomy or physiology with a grade of C or better (pre-requisite)
- Undergraduate course in statistics within 5 years of admission to the MSW program with a grade of C or better (pre-requisite)
- Work or volunteer experience in a social work related field
- Participation and leadership in community and professional organizations

For more information about the program, please visit our website (<http://socialwork.utep.edu>). Click on the "Prospective Student" link, then "Master of Social Work." You will find five links with information about the Master of Social Work program. If after reviewing the material and you still have questions, please contact Dr. Spencer Zeiger, Interim Coordinator of the MSW Program preferably by email at sjzeiger@utep.edu or by phone at (915) 747-5795.

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*Special attention will be given to the GPA achieved during the last two years of an applicant's undergraduate degree.