Admission Requirements for MSW Program

NOTICE: Individuals interested in attending the UNC School of Social Work apply for admission to the UNC Graduate School. Applicants must (1) complete the Graduate School application and pay the $85 fee, (2) submit all required documents electronically, and (3) have official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) test scores sent to the Graduate School. Please check the School of Social Work’s website (http://ssw.unc.edu/) for the current application instructions and notices of changes in the admissions process or policy.

Applicants can apply to only one social work program per year. Applications MUST be submitted by the deadlines noted below. Please note the deadlines vary by program.

**Full-time Programs – Application Deadline – January 14, 2014:**
- Advanced Standing Program (for BSWs) - 12-month program enrolling in May, 2014, in Chapel Hill
- Full-time Program - 2 academic years enrolling in Aug., 2014, in Chapel Hill

**3-Year Distance Education Programs – Application Deadline – February 11, 2014**
- Triangle Distance Education Program - 3 academic years enrolling in Aug., 2014, in Chapel Hill
- Winston-Salem Distance Education Program - 3 academic years enrolling in Aug., 2014, in Winston-Salem

We encourage early applications! Applicants to full-time programs who want to be considered for University Merit Awards or the Weiss Urban Livability Masters Fellowship should submit applications by December 10, 2013.

**Application Requirements**

1. **Applicant submits the following required documents online to the Graduate School Admissions Office**
   - Graduate School application (online at www.gradschool.unc.edu)
   - Application fee of $85 (paid online)
   - Unofficial copy of all transcripts (official transcripts will be required if an offer of admission is made)
   - Personal narrative (admission requirements and guidelines for the personal narrative, resume, and recommendations are available at http://ssw.unc.edu/admissions/masters/apply_now)
   - Resume
   (These documents are uploaded together with the online application—electronic submissions only!)

2. **Other Required Documents** – Applicant is responsible for requesting these documents to be sent directly to the Graduate School Admissions Office:
   - Official GRE scores from Educational Testing Services; UNC Graduate School is Institution # 5816. (See http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/scores/send/ to request GRE scores). GRE scores must be current (no more than 5 years old).
   - Minimum of three (3) letters of recommendation (Applicants who attended school within the past 5 years should include at least one academic reference.)

See reverse for other requirements, GRE requirements and North Carolina residency information.
3. **Other Requirements and Special Circumstances**

- **If applying to a 3-year Distance Education program:**
  - One-page response to questions about your employment and communication with your employer about arrangements for time away from work.
  - Interviews are required for all distance education applicants.

- **If applying to an Advanced Standing program:**
  - Recommendation letter from BSW program director or field education director
  - **Applicants who have been out of school more than 7 years:** Before completing the Graduate School application, applicants who have been out of school for more than 7 years must complete a supplemental form describing their social work experience and continuing education activities to be considered for the Advanced Standing Program. For more information, please contact Sharon Thomas, Assistant Dean of Recruitment, Admissions, & Financial Aid, at sharon.thomas@unc.edu in the School of Social Work Admissions Office.
  - **Applicants who are offered admission:** Once an offer of admission is made, applicants will be required to submit a copy of their field instructor’s final evaluation of the BSW placement.

- **If applying as an international applicant:**
  - Financial Certificate and supporting documents
  - TOEFL scores
  - Interviews are required for all international applicants

**GRE Requirement and Waivers:** Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores are required for admission. The GRE General Test must be taken within 5 years of application. Applicants planning to take the GRE should take the exam early enough so their scores will reach the Admissions Office by the application deadline (have scores sent to Institution # 5816). In addition to the verbal and quantitative sections, the analytical writing section is also reviewed. The computer-based version of the GRE is administered by most Sylvan Learning Centers.

**Requesting a GRE Waiver:** Applicants who hold a PhD in a field related to social work (e.g., public health, psychology) from an accredited U.S. institution and who have completed graduate-level research and statistical courses, can request an exemption from the GRE requirement. To request a waiver, applicants must submit a written request providing a detailed accounting of their (a) educational experiences, (b) professional experiences, and (c) involvement in research and/or relevant professional activities over the past 5 years. In addition, applicants must submit their current CV and academic transcripts (unofficial copies are acceptable); please attach these documents to the waiver request. Waiver requests must be submitted by mail or e-mail by December 1st to:

  Sharon Thomas, MSW, Assistant Dean, Recruitment, Admissions, & Financial Aid
  UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work
  325 Pittsboro St., CB #3550
  Chapel Hill, NC 27599
  sharon_thomas@unc.edu

For more information on the GRE waiver policy, please visit [http://ssw.unc.edu/admissions/masters/apply_now](http://ssw.unc.edu/admissions/masters/apply_now).

**Note about Residency:** Any student with an “undetermined” or “nonresident” status who is admitted to and enrolled in a graduate degree program administered through the UNC Graduate School who wishes to be considered for in-state residency status for tuition purposes must complete a North Carolina Residency application. Students must apply online (paper applications are not accepted). For more information, see [http://gradschool.unc.edu/studentlife/resources/residency/](http://gradschool.unc.edu/studentlife/resources/residency/).