Then What Happens?
After licensure materials are received by the School of Social Work, the school social work coordinator prepares a letter of recommendation which outlines what requirements have been met and what, if anything, needs to be done before licensure is recommended. If your recommendation was made with conditions, proof of meeting these conditions along with a DPI Form U must be presented to Lisa Cauley. After review, a letter clearing your recommendation will be sent to DPI.

MSW applicants may be eligible for advanced/specialty licensure if they meet the above requirements, complete 60 hours of approved master's level coursework, and demonstrate competencies in defined areas. MSW level licensure may be recommended if less than 60 hours have been completed.

For further information about school social work licensure or applications, and for information concerning alternatives to the UNC-Chapel Hill course requirements, please contact:

Lisa Cauley, MSW
School Social Work Coordinator
(919) 962-4366
E-mail: ltc geleceği@email.unc.edu

Sharon Holmes Thomas, MSW
Director of Recruitment, Admissions and Financial Aid
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Student Services Manager
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Goals of the Program
School Social Workers in North Carolina are licensed at the BSW, MSW, Advanced/Specialty, and PhD levels.

The goals of the UNC School of Social Work’s School Social Work Program are to
- prepare master’s level social workers who can help children and their families overcome barriers to learning through interventions in the home, school and community;
- enable matriculating students, graduates and other qualified MSW’s meet the NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI) requirements for school social work licensure;
- encourage communities throughout the state to develop and maintain effective school social work services.

Note: MSW applicants who have not met all of the school social work graduate-level licensure requirements may obtain school social work employment in North Carolina pending completion of the requirements for full licensure. Any social worker paid on the teacher salary schedule that has established a legal residence in North Carolina and is employed full-time by a North Carolina public school is eligible for in-state tuition for courses relevant to licensure or professional development (GS 116-143.5).

What Do I Need to Do?
Program Requirements
Licensed School Social Workers must be competent in the following areas:
- social work practice (especially direct and indirect services to children and families)
- school social work practice
- knowledge of community organization and organizational development
- educational issues.

Graduate-level licensure in school social work at the advanced level requires applicants to complete the following:
- Successfully complete a Council on Social Work Education accredited MSW program or be a candidate for such a degree.
- Successfully complete MSW coursework in services to families and children, mental health or related areas. Since specialization content and format vary from one MSW program to another, transcripts are reviewed for evidence of significant direct practice coursework with supportive content in indirect practice.
- Submit a current résumé and provide verification of post-MSW employment; the DPI Form NE is used for verification purposes.
- Submit a brief statement outlining their professional social work experience with children and their families.
- Complete a practicum or an acceptable alternative. Successfully complete at least 400 clock hours of practicum in a school social work placement or a closely-related setting (3.0+ on a 4.0 scale or a P in the UNC graduate system). If the applicant is not a UNC-Chapel Hill student or graduate, verification of the school social work practicum or a related placement must be provided.
- Successful completion of an approved, graduate-level course in school social work policy and practice. Applicants who have not completed this coursework may complete Social Work 850 at UNC-Chapel Hill or an equivalent course at another CSWE accredited MSW program. In order to make it possible for applicants to complete this requirement, the School of Social Work offers a Web-based course in conjunction with the on-campus course.
- Successful completion of an approved, graduate-level course in education such as educational policy, services to special children and their families, school law or testing and measurement. The UNC School of Education and the School of Social Work jointly determine the list of approved courses.
- If you meet all of the licensure requirements and are not employed by a local school district, contact Lisa Cauley and send the following: 1) your completed DPI application forms, 2) the appropriate application fee, 3) an original or clear copy of your MSW graduate and undergraduate transcripts, 4) a current résumé, and 5) a statement outlining your experience with children and families relevant to school social work. If you are employed by a local school district, submit your DPI application through your district, then send Lisa Cauley copies of items 1, 3, 4, and 5. If you already hold a provisional license, send a copy of your DPI provisional license and items 3-5.