ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK | UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

NOTE: Admission and program requirements are subject to change without notice.

HUMAN BIOLOGY

Applicants applying to the Social Work Program will have their transcripts reviewed for successful completion (C or 2.0 or higher) of a human biology course. All applicants must satisfy the human biology prerequisite requirement prior to matriculating into the Social Work Program. A minimum of three (3) quarter credit hours is required.

Applicants are encouraged to complete the biology prerequisite as soon as possible. Currently Biology 118, 119, 180 and Genomics 261 at the University of Washington and TSOCWF 350 or TESC 240 at University of Washington Tacoma provide appropriate content for this requirement. For a list of approved courses at the community college level or for more information visit http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/social-work/approved-human-biology-courses. Note that Advanced Placement (AP) credit earned in high school will not satisfy this requirement. In addition, courses in human nutrition do not satisfy the human biology requirement at UW Tacoma.

If you believe you have completed an adequate amount of human biology content within another academic course, please contact the program at 253-692-5820. Note that applicants will be required to submit course syllabi as part of the approval process if the human biology course was taken at a college or university outside the state of Washington or if it does not appear on the approved human biology list online at http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/social-work/approved-human-biology-courses.

STATISTICS COURSE REQUIREMENT

Familiarity with the basic techniques of social work research will be important for entering students, as graduate coursework includes significant attention to research findings and models, and the vital connection between research and practice. Social workers utilize research in at least two ways: 1) as consumers of research who apply findings of research studies to improve the delivery of services to client systems, and 2) as practitioners of research, primarily in the areas of practice and program evaluation. A minimum of four (4) quarter credit hours is required.

Therefore, students admitted to the Master of Social Work Program at the University of Washington Tacoma are required to successfully complete a basic statistics course (in any discipline) prior to matriculation in the program. Credit will be given for the successful completion of a statistics course taken within the last five years from the date of admission at a college or university and completed with a C or 2.0 or better. Statistics credits may not be applied to the MSW degree. If you successfully completed a statistics course more than five years ago, you may qualify to take a Statistics Waiver Quiz.

Applicants who have concerns or questions about meeting this requirement are encouraged to call the Social Work Program office.

LIBERAL ARTS POLICY

The Social Work Program requires that an applicant to the program has a liberal arts background. For purposes of admission to the Social Work Program, a liberal arts background is defined in the following way:

A liberal arts background shall consist of a minimum of five (5) quarter credits or three (3) semester credits in each of the general distribution areas: humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. In addition, 60 quarter credits or 40 semester credits total coursework from the combined humanities, social science, and natural science areas are necessary to qualify as completing a liberal arts background for admission. Applicants who are admitted without having a liberal arts background are encouraged to correct this deficiency before enrolling in the program. In any event, such deficiencies must be corrected by the end of the first quarter of the graduate program.

The following general list of liberal arts distribution areas will be used to determine where a course belongs: humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. The Social Work Program office will review the applicant's transcript to determine whether or not the liberal arts requirements are satisfied.


Natural Sciences. Astronomy, Atmospheric Sciences, Biological Structure, Biology, Botany, Chemistry, Engineering, Fisheries, Forest Resources, Genetics, Geology, Mathematics, Microbiology, Nutritional Sciences, Oceanography, Physics, Speech and Hearing Sciences, Statistics, Zoology.