ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Make a greater impact in helping vulnerable individuals, families, and communities by earning a Master of Social Work degree. Slippery Rock University’s (SRU) Master of Social Work (MSW) is a 60-credit program, with a combination of on-campus and online classes. Built on the foundation of SRU’s successful Bachelor of Social Work, the program prepares students to provide social work interventions according to the profession’s best practices, and to be effective leaders in public and private organizations. SRU’s MSW prepares students for generalist practice and an area of specialized practice, Advanced Clinical Practice with Children, Adults and Families.

The need for social service managers and clinical social workers has grown by 25% between 2012 and 2022 and will continue to grow faster than average into 2032 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The national mean annual wage in 2022 for social workers was $61,420 with social workers in Pennsylvania earning an annual mean wage between $73,390 and $83,430. The top 10% of social workers in the United States can earn $95,560.

Many social workers begin their careers working directly with vulnerable people such as children and adults who have behavioral health problems, people across the age spectrum who have suffered abuse, and people who have traumatic injuries or chronic illnesses. A career in social work can also lead to a wide variety of career paths such as health system administration, health insurance management, legislative advocacy, policy analysis, even elected office.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Slippery Rock University’s Master of Social Work offers:

- a 60-credit professional degree that can be completed in two-years attending full-time; or one calendar year for students with advanced standing (39 credits)
- part-time students, especially those who are employed, will have individualized paths to complete their degrees according to their needs and goals
- a certificate in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) obtained simultaneously
- advanced clinical electives to expand knowledge and skills in areas including crisis intervention, forensic social work & animal-assisted intervention
- a competitive curriculum for a competitive advantage in the job market
- an opportunity to earn a certificate in Animal-Assisted Social Work (AASW) -- courses are designed with single weekend attendance to make the summer course(s) more feasible for out-of-state students -- flexible scheduling

ACCREDITATION

SRU is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. The University’s bachelor’s and master’s of social work programs are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education’s Board of Accreditation.

Accreditation of a baccalaureate or master’s social work program by the Council on Social Work Education’s Board of Accreditation indicates that it meets or exceeds criteria for the assessment of program quality evaluated through a peer review process. An accredited program has sufficient resources to meet its mission and goals and the Board of Accreditation has verified that it demonstrates compliance with all sections of the Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards.

Accreditation applies to all program sites and program delivery methods of an accredited program. Accreditation provides reasonable assurance about the quality of the program and the competence of students graduating from the program.

LICENSING

A person with a master’s in social work from Slippery Rock University may apply for a license in the state of Pennsylvania.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Successful applicant profiles will include a strong academic record, volunteer or work experience in health or social services, and letters of recommendation that endorse the applicant’s leadership.

All applicants must submit a completed online graduate application and non-refundable application fee:

1. Official undergraduate degree transcript(s) and any graduate transcripts
2. Two electronic recommendation forms
3. Resume
4. Personal Statement: Write an essay 1 1/2 - 2 pages describing yourself and the qualities that will make you an effective social worker; your experiences related to social work; your career goals

TUITION AND ASSISTANTSHIPS

Information on current tuition and graduate assistantships can be found on the main Graduate Admissions website at www.sru.edu/graduate. Financial Aid brochures are available through the Financial Aid Office at www.sru.edu/FinAid or the Office of Graduate Admissions.
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

CURRICULUM GUIDE - MSW
TWO YEARS - FULL-TIME (60 CREDITS)

Fall, Year 1  | Spring, Year 1  | Summer, Year 1
--- | --- | ---
SOWK 615: Clinical Social Work & DSM* Elective | SOWK 730: Practice Skills following Crisis OR SOWK 731: Practice in Forensic Social Work | Elective
SOWK 630: Clinical Practice with Children & Families* | SOWK 730: Practice Skills following Crisis OR SOWK 731: Practice in Forensic Social Work* | Elective
SOWK 650: Generalist Field I | SOWK 730: Practice Skills following Crisis OR SOWK 731: Practice in Forensic Social Work* | Elective
SOWK 635: Clinical Practice with Adults* | SOWK 730: Practice Skills following Crisis OR SOWK 731: Practice in Forensic Social Work* | Elective
SOWK 705: Research Methods in Social Work Elective | SOWK 710: Qualitative Research Elective | Elective
SOWK 750: Specialized Field I Elective | SOWK 750: Specialized Field II Elective | Elective
SOWK 750: Specialized Field I Elective | SOWK 750: Specialized Field II Elective | Elective

*Indicates practice class that must be taken concurrently with field practicum.

IMPORTANT CURRICULUM GUIDE NOTES
This Curriculum Guide is provided to help SRU students and prospective students better understand their intended major curriculum. Enrolled SRU students should note that the My Rock Audit may place already-earned and/or in progress courses in different, yet valid, curriculum categories. Enrolled SRU students should use the My Rock Audit to better understand their intended major curriculum. Enrolled SRU students should note that the My Rock Audit may place already-earned and/or in progress courses in different, yet valid, curriculum categories. Enrolled SRU students should use the My Rock Audit to better understand their intended major curriculum.

PASSHE - Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Institutions

CURRICULUM GUIDE - ADVANCED STANDING
ONE YEAR - FULL-TIME - SUMMER START (39 CR)

Summer, Year 1  | Fall, Year 1  | Spring, Year 1  | Summer, Year 1
--- | --- | --- | ---
Elective | SOWK 615: Clinical Social Work & DSM | SOWK 730: Practice Skills following Crisis OR SOWK 731: Practice in Forensic Social Work | Elective
Elective | SOWK 635: Clinical Practice with Adults* | SOWK 730: Practice Skills following Crisis OR SOWK 731: Practice in Forensic Social Work* | Elective
Elective | SOWK 620: Human Rights, Social Justice & Policy | SOWK 710: Qualitative Research | Elective
Elective | SOWK 750: Specialized Field II | SOWK 750: Specialized Field II | Elective

*Indicates practice class that must be taken concurrently with field practicum.

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ACADEMICS AND COURSE SCHEDULING:
Dr. Tami J. Micsky
MSW Program Director
117 Dinger Building
724.738.4493
tami.micsky@sru.edu

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ADMISSIONS:
Office of Graduate Admissions
105 North Hall, Welcome Center
Slippery Rock, PA 16057
www.sru.edu/graduate
724.738.2051 or 877.SRU.GRAD
graduate.admissions@sru.edu

The educational policies and procedures are continually being reviewed and changed in keeping with the mission of the university. Consequently, this document cannot be considered binding and is intended to be used as only an informational guide. Students are responsible for being informed of official policies and regulations for meeting all appropriate requirements.

Revised September 20, 2023