

## C. Master of Social Work

During the Master of Social Work program, students will have the opportunity to strengthen and deepen their knowledge and skills in their chosen area of practice so that they may respond more effectively to social issues at the personal, family, cultural, community, and socio-political levels.

Course objectives are congruent with the overall objectives of the program, and practice experience and applied elements form an integral part of each course. Specific skill development in each student's area of interest will take place in assignments and the field practicum and thesis options.

The MSW courses and field education aim to:

- foster the development of professional social workers who are knowledgeable, skilled, and committed to social justice
- prepare graduates to make ethical decisions and perform professional tasks informed by research evidence and an understanding of socio-political contexts
- develop student leadership skills in facilitating organizational, community, and policy change
- promote critical inquiry and consider diverse perspectives
- develop student knowledge and skills to integrate an intersectional analysis and approach to social work practice
- strengthen existing partnerships with community social service and health-related agencies through collaboration on field practicums, curriculum, and student placement opportunities

## Admission to the Master of Social Work

### Prerequisites

There are two entry points to the MSW Program.

**BSW Entry** – full-time, one-year professional graduate degree program offered to students with a first level social work degree from a university program accredited by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE).

Applicants must satisfy the following minimum requirements:

1. A Bachelor of Social Work degree from a recognized university with a minimum GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.3 scale). Students in their final year of a BSW program are eligible to apply and may be given provisional acceptance pending completion of degree requirements by May 30 of the year of entry to the MSW program. Applicants who do not satisfy these minimum requirements are not considered further in the selection process.
2. A minimum of 1500 hours or one-year, full-time equivalent of social work-related work experience. This may be paid or volunteer work, but must not include field placement, practicums, co-op, or internship work. Experience must be clearly demonstrated through the submission of a curriculum vitae.

Enrolment is limited to 16 students. Applicants will be assessed on academic and professional readiness. Satisfying the minimum requirements will not guarantee admission.

The application deadline is January 30th each year. All application materials and supporting documents must be received by the Admissions Office on or before the deadline.

### Admission Criteria

Personal Statement	50%
Curriculum Vitae	25%
References	15%
GPA	10%

Note: The School of Social Work reserves the right to interview an applicant should it be necessary to evaluate professional readiness for the program.

**Non-BSW Entry** – full-time, two-year graduate degree program offered to students with a complete undergraduate degree program (120 credit hours) from a recognized university and in the social sciences.

Applicants must satisfy the following minimum requirements:

1. A completed undergraduate university degree (120 credit hours) in the social sciences from a recognized university with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better on the most recent 60 undergraduate credit hours is required.
2. Successful completion of two introductory social work courses, SCWK 2013 Introduction to Social Welfare and SCWK 2023 Introduction to Social Work, or evidence of completing equivalent course work.

Applicants who do not satisfy these minimum requirements are not considered further in the selection process.

3. Preference will be given to applicants with a minimum of 1500 hours of one-year, full-time equivalent of social work-related work experience. This may be paid or volunteer work, but must not include field placement, practicums, co-op, or internship work. Experience must be clearly demonstrated through the submission of a curriculum vitae.

Enrolment in the two-year MSW program is limited to 16 students. Applicants will be assessed on academic and professional readiness. Satisfying the minimum requirements will not guarantee admission.

Students in the first year of the program must successfully complete all course work with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 to be able to progress to the second year.

The application deadline is January 30th each year. All application materials and supporting documents must be received by the Admissions Office on or before the deadline.

Admission Criteria	
Personal Statement	40%
Curriculum Vitae	25%
References	15%
GPA	10%
Grade for SCWK2013	5%
Grade for SCWK2023	5%

Note: The School of Social Work reserves the right to interview an applicant should it be necessary to evaluate professional readiness for the program.

### Application Procedures

Applications become available online on October 1st each year. A completed application includes:

- a completed general application form for admission to the program found at [stu.ca/ApplyNow](http://stu.ca/ApplyNow)
- a non-refundable application fee of \$100
- a personal statement. See the Guidelines for Personal Statement section below
- a detailed curriculum vitae outlining all relevant work, research, and volunteer experience for the past five years
- two completed reference forms that must be sent directly to the Admissions Office ([admissions@stu.ca](mailto:admissions@stu.ca)) by the referee. You can download the reference forms at [stu.ca/admission-msw](http://stu.ca/admission-msw). If you are currently in university, or if you have been out of university for two years or less, submit one academic reference from a university instructor and one reference from a supervisor from your most recent paid employment. If you have been out of university for more than two years you may provide two references from employers, with one being from your most recent employer.
- official transcript. If you have a STU transcript you will not need to submit it as our Admissions Office has access to it.

### Notification of Admission Status

Applicants will receive written notice of their admission status by March 1st.

### Registration

Following acceptance to the program, MSW students must register for the program by the deadline specified in their letter of offer. Any student not registering by the registration deadline will be required to re-apply for admission. To register, follow the steps below.

1. Contact your assigned faculty advisor to discuss and review your program of study.
2. Obtain written approval of your program of study from your faculty advisor well in advance of registration.

## Educational Equity Admissions Policy

The School of Social Work recognizes that some applicants may experience structural barriers to education opportunities due to identification with a specific group, including stereotypical assumptions and structural disadvantages that privilege some groups over others. St. Thomas University and the School of Social Work are committed to the principles and practices supporting educational equity. The School affirms the principle that individuals from all marginalized groups should have the opportunity to learn and contribute to a more inclusive profession of social work that better reflects the diversity of Canadian society.

For the purpose of this policy, persons eligible to apply using the Equity Policy include:

- Canadian Indigenous Peoples including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit.
- Visible minority persons other than Canadian Indigenous Peoples, who because of their colour are a visible minority in Canada.
- Immigrants who are Permanent Residents and who do not record Canadian Citizenship by birth.
- Refugees that have been accepted for residence in Canada, and that left their country of origin because of persecution for belonging in a particular social, cultural, religious and/or national group or for holding particular political beliefs.
- Persons with disabilities who consider themselves as disadvantaged by reason of any physical, mental, intellectual, sensory or learning impairment.
- 2SLGBTQ+ persons that self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender/transsexual, two-spirited, queer or intersex.

Applicants must meet the minimum academic requirements and self-identify in the online application. Each applicant is considered individually on the basis of their qualifications, rather than in relation to other applicants.

## Guidelines for Personal Statement

Your personal statement should be no more than 1,500 words, double-spaced, and in 12-point font. Please respond to the following:

- A. Describe the experiences, skills, qualities, and/or personal identities (e.g., disability status, racialized identity, gender, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, etc. ) that you bring that would be helpful in working with diverse populations.
- B. Drawing from your work experience, indicate with examples what interests you about structural approaches to social work. How do you expect to learn and achieve your career goals within the context of the MSW program at St. Thomas University?
- C. Indicate your current scholarly and professional interests and how the MSW program at St. Thomas University will help you achieve these. This information will be used to inform advance practicum and thesis options.
- D. Clearly indicate whether you are applying to the thesis or advanced practicum option.

# Master of Social Work Program Structure

## BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK ENTRY

The Master of Social Work program is a full-time, one-year, professional-based graduate degree program offered to students with a first level Social Work degree from a university program accredited by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE).

CASWE Standards for Accreditation recognizes a Bachelor of Social Work as providing students with knowledge and skills for generalist practice. CASWE distinguishes curriculum at the Master's level as providing provides knowledge and skills in research and scholarship, professional leadership, social work supervision, advanced practice and/or areas of specialization. The learning objectives for the MSW reflect an advanced level of knowledge and skills in selected major areas of social work practice.

The MSW at St. Thomas University focuses on advanced clinical practice with a structural lens providing students with:

- advanced theory and practice skills in professional leadership and social work supervision
- advanced direct practice skills development

The program's objectives are consistent with the mission and social justice statements of St. Thomas University and its School of Social Work. Courses are based on the application of structural social work theory which places major emphasis on understanding the structural roots of personal and social problems. The program prepares social workers to analyze and challenge sites of privilege, as well as to assist individuals and groups experiencing the effects of marginalization and oppression.

The program consists of thirty-three credit hours:

- eight three-credit hour courses
- option of completing either a thesis or an advanced field practicum for an additional nine credit hours.

### Thesis Option - 9 credit hours

The Master thesis must demonstrate mastery of advanced clinical social work practice located within the relevant literature. The thesis will be based on independent study and research which is of theoretical, historical, or empirical focus.

### Advanced Practicum Option – 9 credit hours

The advanced field practicum requires the student to complete 450 hours of field practice experience where the focus is on specialized skills and knowledge in social work practice, as arranged by the School of Social Work.

## Program Regulations

Students are accepted into the MSW on a full-time basis. There is a three-year limit (9 academic terms) to complete the degree requirements of 33 credit hours.

### Fall Semester

SCWK 6013 Advanced Theory for Direct Practice I (3 cr)

SCWK 6053 Research and Evaluation in Social Work I (3 cr)

SCWK 6043 Advanced Theory for Social Policy (3 cr)

Elective Course (3 cr) Course may be taken within Social Work or in another unit.

### Winter Semester

SCWK 6023 Advanced Theory for Direct Practice II (3 cr)

SCWK 6063 Research and Evaluation in Social Work II (3 cr)

SCWK 6033 Advanced Theory for Social Administration (3 cr)

SCWK 6093 Seminar for Research Proposal (Thesis Option) (3 cr)

### Spring Semester

SCWK 6119 Field Education Seminar (Advanced Field Placement Option) (3 cr)

SCWK 6129 Advanced Field Placement (9 cr/450 hours)

SCWK 6129 Thesis (9 cr)

## NON-BSW ENTRY

The Non-BSW entry is a full-time, two-year professional graduate degree program offered to students with a complete undergraduate degree program (120 credit hours) from a recognized university and in the social sciences.

CASWE distinguishes curriculum at the Master's level as providing provides knowledge and skills in research and scholarship, professional leadership, social work supervision, advanced practice and/or areas of specialization. The learning objectives for the MSW reflect an advanced level of knowledge and skills in selected major areas of social work practice.

The MSW at St. Thomas University focuses on advanced clinical practice with a structural lens providing students with:

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## Program Structure – Foundational Classroom and Field Instruction

The two-year MSW program is comprised of a foundational year of studies in social work (30 credit hours), followed by one year of advanced social work course work in the Master of Social Work program.

The 30-credit hours foundation year of studies includes the following curriculum:

### **Semester 1 – Fall Term**

SCWK 5116 Generalist Social Work Practice Skills (6 cr)

SCWK 5036 Theory for Social Work Practice (6 cr)

### **Semester 2 – Winter Term**

SCWK 5313 Social Policy in the Canadian Context (3 cr)

SCWK 5943 Social Work Values and Ethics (3 cr)

SCWK 5013 Group Work Theory & Design (3 cr)

### **Semester 3 – Spring Semester**

SCWK 5059 Field Instruction (9 cr/450 hours)

Students in the first year of the program must successfully complete all course work with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 to be able to progress to the second year.

The program structure for the second year is the same as the one-year Master of Social Work.

## D. School of Social Work Policies

Please see: <https://stu.ca/socialwork/policies/> for all School of Social Work policies.

## E. Social Work Courses

Social Work courses are only open to social work students admitted to the social work programs. Courses for the MMBSW are only available to MMBSW students. Courses for the MSW are only for MSW students.

### **SCWK-2013. Introduction to Social Welfare**

An examination of the history, philosophy, and development of social welfare as a social institution in New Brunswick and elsewhere. Analysis of the institution and its relationship to the history, philosophy, and values of the profession of social work.

### **SCWK-2023. Introduction to Social Work**

An introduction to the values, ethics, history, and methods of professional social work practice, with particular emphasis on the profession in New Brunswick. An introduction to generic practice and social work with various client groups.

### **SCWK-3053. Field Instruction I**

This course will provide practical experience in the field, in an approved setting, three days per week. Students are expected to develop knowledge and skills in small teams utilizing a community based approach to practice under the supervision of a faculty liaison. Prerequisite: Available to BSW students only.

### **SCWK-3163. Addressing Diversity in Social Work Practice**

Using critical, anti-oppressive, decolonizing, and Indigenous frameworks, this course analyzes structural social work practice in the context of diversity, recognizing social justice as being inextricably linked to social work. (3 credit hours)