

**Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work MSW Program**  
**Supplemental Information for Advanced Standing Applicants**  
**ADVANCED STANDING CRITERIA AND INSTRUCTIONS – Fall 2012**  
**Mānoa campus-based option**

Applicants admitted into Advanced Standing in the MSW Program will enter into the second (concentration) year of the program. Advanced Standing requires: 1) the student complete at least 30 credit hours to receive a Master of Social Work degree; 2) twenty-four of the required 30 credit hours be at the 600 level or above; 3) electives cannot be any of the required foundation-year courses; 4) successful completion of SW 650, Research Designs & Data Analyses for the Evaluation of Practice Effectiveness; and 5) successful completion of the ASIST integrative seminar and practicum (SW 680, 3 credits, to be taken in the *summer* prior to entry into the MSW Program).

**To be eligible for Advanced Standing in the MSW Program**, the following criteria must be met:

- 1) The applicant must meet the admissions criteria for the MSW Program.
- 2) The applicant must have graduated from a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Applicants who are still in their BSW program should apply following the first quarter or semester of their senior year. Admission to Advanced Standing would be conditional, pending receipt of the final grades and confirmation of the degree. Students who have a BSW degree from a school outside of the United States and want to be considered for Advanced Standing will need to make use of CSWE's services of reviewing supporting materials to determine if the student's undergraduate social work program meets CSWE's accreditation standards. CSWE's determination must reach the School of Social Work by the MSW application deadline. This can be a lengthy process and involves a fee. For further information on this service, please see <http://www.cswe.org/CentersInitiatives/TrainingCareers/22207.aspx>.
- 3) Receipt of the Bachelor of Social Work degree has not been more than **seven** years from the time that the Master of Social Work degree is to be *conferred*.
- 4) The applicant must have a cumulative Grade Point Ratio (GPR) of 3.0 or higher (4.0 = A scale) and cannot have any grade lower than a 3.0 in courses required in the BSW program.

**To apply for Advanced Standing in the MSW Program**, applicants must follow the general *MSW Application Instructions* with the following specifications and additions and submit all required application materials by the application deadline:

- 1) Use Personal Statement guidelines for Advanced Standing Applicants (provided on next page).
- 2) At least one of the three (3) Letters of Recommendation must be obtained from a teaching or practicum faculty, or the program/dept. chair of the applicant's BSW program.
- 3) Include a copy of the portion of the university or program catalog that provides information on the applicant's undergraduate social work program degree requirements (not required from UH Mānoa BSW graduates).
- 4) Include a copy of senior practicum evaluations and learning contracts. Applicants in the process of completing their BSW should send a copy of their first term senior practicum evaluation and learning contract. *If practicum evaluations and learning contracts are not available, the applicant must obtain a letter from the Practicum Director or Practicum Instructor attesting to the applicant's practicum performance.*

## PERSONAL STATEMENT GUIDELINES FOR ADVANCED STANDING APPLICANTS

Please provide us with a personal statement addressing the areas identified below. Preparation of this material will help you to reflect and better define your plans for professional social work education. It will also help us to know something about you and assist us in assessing your potential and readiness for Advanced Standing in the MSW Program.

**The personal statement should be no more than 4-6 pages in length  
and must be double-spaced and typed.**

### AREAS TO BE ADDRESSED

Be sure to include your name on each page.

1. What life experiences have led you to select social work as a profession? In what ways do you feel your experiences have prepared you for this profession? How are you personally and professionally ready to enter the Advanced Standing program? (i.e., Describe how you see yourself as adequately prepared for MSW practice with one year of graduate work instead of two.)
2. Discuss your view of the importance of culture and diversity issues in social work practice. Elaborate on experiences that you have had working with diverse populations. Describe the impact that you believe these experiences will have on your practice as a professional social worker and how you will be prepared to do a concentration-year practicum in a multicultural environment such as Hawai'i.
3. What are your objectives for graduate level study in Social Work? What are your long-range professional goals? What field of practice concentration (e.g. child and family, health, mental health, gerontology) do you plan to pursue in the Advanced Standing program? Why is the School of Social Work at the University of Hawai'i of particular interest to you?
4. Describe briefly some of the major social issues and problems related to your area of concentration about which you are particularly concerned in your community and country. Include your perception of the role of social work in dealing with these issues and problems.
5. From your work, volunteer, or practicum experiences, describe a practice situation including: a) assessment approaches, b) interventions, and c) evaluation methods that you applied. Demonstrate knowledge, values, and skills you acquired in your undergraduate generalist social work education.