Applicants admitted with Advanced Standing in the MSW Program enter into the second (specialized/advanced) 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) 24 of the required 30 credits be at the 600-level or above; 3) electives cannot be any of the required foundation/generalist-year courses; and 4) successful completion of SW 650, Research Designs & Data Analyses for the Evaluation of Practice Effectiveness.

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 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:


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 no grade lower than a B- in any Social Work course.

To apply for Advanced Standing in the MSW Program, applicants must follow the general MSW Application Instructions and submit all required MSW application materials with the following specifications and additions 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 from 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.
MSW 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 double-spaced and typed.
- Be 4-6 pages in length.
- Include your name on each page.

Number your answers (e.g., 1, 2, 3, etc.)

AREAS TO BE ADDRESSED

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. The NASW Code of Ethics states: “Social workers should obtain education about and seek to understand the nature of social diversity and oppression with respect to race, ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, marital status, political belief, religion, immigration status, and mental or physical disability.” Discuss your views on the importance of cultural & social diversity 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.

3. What are your objectives for graduate study in social work? What, if any, are your long-range professional goals? What work do you see yourself doing and where do you see yourself practicing social work five years from now? (What community? What agency/service? What population? What issues?) What field of practice interests you (e.g., child and family, health, mental health, substance abuse, the justice system, gerontology)?

4. Describe briefly some of the major social issues and problems related to your specialization area 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, and 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.

6. Why is the School of Social Work at the University of Hawai‘i of particular interest to you?

7. For Distance Education applicants only:
   Why is the UHM MSW Distance Education Option of particular interest to you?

Rev. 9-2019 for Fall 2020 Advanced Standing applicants