



# Master of Social Work



**PennState**  
World Campus

**A world of possibilities.  
Online.**

## Table of Contents

Master of Social Work .....	3	Frequently Asked Questions .....	6
Curriculum .....	4	Begin Your Application Today .....	7
Why Penn State? .....	5	Contact Us.....	8



“Penn State’s Master of Social Work (MSW) program, offered online through Penn State World Campus, is committed to preparing clinical social workers with the values, knowledge, and skills needed to effectively serve a diverse society. Our online program provides flexibility to balance education with personal and professional lives while fostering community-building and rich relationships between faculty and students. We provide a general social work foundation and the choice of two clinical specialization areas: Mental Health and Substance Use or Children and Families. Our focus is developing and empowering future professional leaders who are committed to inclusivity, alleviating critical social problems, and enhancing human well-being and social justice.

Penn State World Campus is consistently ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the top providers of online education. This infrastructure, combined with faculty passion and commitment, provides an ideal environment for learning and growth. The program is designed to prepare students with a mastery of the social work competencies, knowledge, and skills needed for success in a diverse employment market – centered on helping individuals, families, communities, and organizations.”

— **Rukmalie Jayakody**  
**MSW Program Director**

# Earn your Penn State Master of Social Work — Online

Penn State's 60-credit Master of Social Work (MSW), offered online through Penn State World Campus, can prepare you for a career as a clinical social worker with the values, knowledge, and skills to serve the needs of our diverse society.

As a student in the program, you can learn to:

- › effectively **engage, evaluate, and intervene** on behalf of individuals, families, groups, communities, and organizations
- › address growing societal needs related to **children and families or mental health and substance use**
- › **study models and practice skills covering the lifespan**, including trauma-informed therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, play therapy, family and group therapy, holistic therapy, and telehealth/digital practice
- › **combine progressive clinical computer simulations and instructional techniques with applied field experiences** in real-world settings
- › **demonstrate mastery of the knowledge, skills, ethics, and values** necessary for clinical social work practice

[worldcampus.psu.edu/msw](http://worldcampus.psu.edu/msw)



# Curriculum

Penn State's MSW course work examines social work across the lifespan and emphasizes cultural competence in effectively working with diverse populations across varying geographic settings.

The curriculum is divided into two levels — generalist and advanced. The required generalist curriculum includes knowledge, values, processes, and skills essential for the practice

of social work. It includes social work methods, human development theory, social policy, and research methods. This foundation of knowledge is built upon by the advanced curriculum found in both the Children and Families specialization and the Mental Health and Substance Use specialization.

You will also be required to complete 12 credits of field education practicum courses.

*The Penn State Master of Social Work program is currently in pre-candidacy for accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Board of Accreditation (BOA).*



# Why Penn State?

## Clinical Focus

Penn State's program is a clinically focused Master of Social Work (MSW) degree grounded in social work ethics and values of diversity, equity, and the pursuit of social justice. As a student in the program, you will choose to specialize in Mental Health and Substance Use or Children and Families.

## Flexibility and Convenience

Penn State knows that professionals need flexible and convenient learning options to continue meeting their commitments outside the classroom. You can choose to take a full-time course load or work with an adviser to set your part-time schedule; however, you can feel confident that no matter how you progress through the program, you can complete the same rigorous end-of-program competencies.

## Student Engagement

Our faculty and staff are fully committed to your success. While course work is delivered asynchronously, faculty are deeply committed to advising and mentoring our students to

foster supportive relationships that will continue post-graduation. You will have access to many traditional student support services, including career services, technical support, the University Libraries system, and clubs and organizations, as well as a dedicated student affairs team specifically for World Campus students.

## Cutting Edge

We understand the need for progressive learning options, using technology not just for convenience, but also to support learning outcomes. The MSW program utilizes advanced clinical computer simulations and instructional techniques to prepare you for social work practice in real-world settings.

## Experienced Faculty

Penn State's MSW program connects you with faculty with diverse backgrounds and intellectual perspectives. To help you develop advanced knowledge in social work, you will collaborate with a variety of experts who have experience in clinical treatment, child welfare, mental health, substance use, trauma, policy, and research.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Is this the real Penn State?

Yes. Penn State World Campus was launched in 1998 as Penn State's virtual campus administered online. It has since grown into one of the most highly regarded online campuses — extending Penn State's long-standing reputation as a leader in higher education to students around the world.

## How much is tuition?

Tuition is based on cost-per-credit and is associated with your program of study. Tuition rates are assessed every semester of enrollment, giving you the flexibility to pay as you move through the program. Please visit our website for the most up-to-date tuition rate.

## How do online learners network?

In your courses, you will interact with peers from around the world. As you communicate regularly with classmates

and faculty members, you'll gain insights that you can immediately apply to your job. As a Penn Stater, you will also have access to a proud network of more than 750,000 alumni.

## What does the online classroom look like?

Our philosophy for designing online courses is to use the latest technology to best deliver the content in the most flexible way. We use a single, centralized platform where you can log in to your classroom to get assignments, interact with faculty and peers, reply to message boards, and more.

## What will my diploma look like?

Your diploma will be the same one earned by resident students at Penn State. There is no indication on your transcripts or diploma that you earned your degree online.



# Begin Your Application Today

To be considered for admission, prospective students should submit an online application form and a complete application portfolio. Admissions decisions for the Master of Social Work are based on a review of your complete application portfolio and the quality of your credentials relative to those of other applicants.

Your master's degree application portfolio must include:

- › application form (completed and submitted online)
- › copy of official transcripts from each undergraduate and graduate institution attended
- › TOEFL or IELTS score, if applicable
- › references
- › résumé or curriculum vitae (CV)
- › goal statement



GRE/GMAT test scores are not required.

For application deadlines and additional details about the program, visit:

[worldcampus.psu.edu/msw](http://worldcampus.psu.edu/msw)



# Contact Us

## Admissions Questions

[worldcampus@psu.edu](mailto:worldcampus@psu.edu)

Phone: 814-863-5386

[worldcampus.psu.edu/admissions](http://worldcampus.psu.edu/admissions)



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