



Master of Social Work (MSW) Program Information

Are you interested in helping others and your community? Do you wish that you had the skills needed to serve individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities? If so, social work may be the profession for you!

Social work promotes human and community well-being. Guided by a person-in-environment framework, respect for human diversity, and knowledge based on scientific inquiry, the purpose of social work is actualized through efforts to eliminate poverty; enhance quality of life for all persons – locally and globally; prevent conditions that limit human rights; and ensure social and economic justice.

With an MSW degree, you can pursue clinical social work practice in a variety of settings including schools, non-profit organizations, community centers, hospitals and clinics, nursing facilities, courts, correctional facilities, government organizations, and in private practice. Social Workers can use their MSW degree to work as social work practitioners, counselors, supervisors, program managers, administrators, consultants, trainers, project coordinators, educators, researchers, and policy advocates.

Testing and Training International (TTI) offers a CSWE accredited Master's in Social Work (MSW) program in collaboration with Daemen University. The program features separate men's and women's cohorts with classes scheduled around Yomim Tovim and the Jewish calendar.

The program is offered fully online. While the majority of the classwork is done independently (asynchronous), there are some live (synchronous) classes where students and faculty interact together. This is especially important in social work practice courses where students will engage clinical skill and techniques. It is anticipated that students will have up to four (4) hours of synchronous class time each month, depending on the course and class size.

The Daemen University MSW Program prepares students to practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities, with special emphasis on advanced clinical practice with children and families. Students engage in interactive content and gain an in-depth understanding of social work theories, methodologies, and techniques.

Along with their classes, students gain practical experience by applying their skills under the direction of a licensed social work professional at field placement sites within their community. Daemen University works with each student to find appropriate field placements. Students working in social work-related organizations may be able to complete their field placement through their place of employment provided that they complete separate responsibilities under a different supervisor.

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PROGRAM DESIGN

Daemen University offers a two-year program for students who have graduated with a Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college and university (inclusive of a Bachelor of Talmudic Law or Talmudic Studies).

The first year of the program introduces student to the social work profession, with special emphasis on foundational knowledge, values, and skills. Students gain an in-depth understanding of social work practice methods, human behavior and development, ethics, research, policy, and diversity content. They are also introduced to organizational and community roles and functions.

In addition to first year coursework, students will complete a 450-hour field placement (approximately 15-18 hours per week) under a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) or Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). Foundation year field placements can take place within not-for-profit agencies, faith and community organizations, schools, clinics, hospitals, the criminal justice system, foundations and governmental institutions, among other locations, with students focusing on building generalist practice skills.

The program's second year concentrates on advanced practice with children and families with an emphasis on clinical assessment, diagnosis, use of evidence-based interventions, and practice evaluation. Students will learn specific techniques for working with adults, children, and adolescents as well as the assessment of psychological or mental disorders. Students also receive training on child- and family-related policies and regulations.

During the second year, students will complete a 500-hour (approximately 18-20 hours per week) clinical field placement under a Licensed Clinical Social Work (LCSW) professional. This placement will focus on the development of advanced clinical skills including use of standardized assessment tools, differential diagnosis, and evidence-based interventions.

Daemen University also offers a one-year advanced entry/standing opportunity for students who graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work (i.e., Bachelor of Social Work/Bachelor of Arts in Social Work) from a regionally accredited college and university. Note: students who have not had a two-course sequence in research will be required to complete a course in applied research and data analysis.

MSW Program courses are fully online and are taken two (2) courses at a time over an eight (8) week period. Students can expect up to twenty (20) hours of course-related work per week, in addition to a simultaneous field education experience between 15-20 hours a week.

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FAST FACTS

- Two-year program (full-time) 60 credits required for completion
- Advanced Entry/Advanced Standing Program (full-time) 30-33 credits required for completion
- Fully on-line
- Experienced, professional, and culturally sensitive professors
- Foundation Field Hours: 450 hours (15-18 per week) under a Licensed Master Social Work (LMSW) or Licensed Clinical Social Work (LCSW) Professional
- Advanced (Clinical) Field Hours: 500 hours (18-20 per week) under a Licensed Clinical Social Work (LCSW) Professional
- Daemen University staff work with students to secure appropriate field placements.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Two Year MSW Program

- Bachelor's degree from regionally accredited college or university
- An overall GPA of 2.7 or higher
- Transcripts from all previous colleges or universities attended
- Three letters of recommendation (Two Academic; One Employer/Volunteer)
- Suggested: Completion of course in Human Biology and Social Statistics

Advanced Standing MSW Program

- Bachelor's degree (Social Work) from regionally accredited college or university
- An overall GPA of 3.0 or higher
- A Social Work GPA of 3.2 or higher from a CSWE-Accredited Program
- Transcripts from all previous colleges or universities attended
- A copy of final undergraduate field education evaluation
- Three letters of recommendation (Two Academic; One Employer/Volunteer)
- Suggested: Completion of course in Human Biology and Social Statistics

JOB OUTLOOK

The Social Work profession is expected to grow by nine percent from 2021 to 2031, faster than the average for all occupations. There are more than 74,700 openings for social workers projected each year, on average. There is also a high demand for licensed clinical social workers in New York State and across the country.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Can you give me examples of some of the courses offered?

A: Foundation Year courses include:

- Foundations of Micro/Mezzo Social Work Practice (Individuals, Families, and Groups)
- Foundations of Macro Social Work Practice (Organizations, and Communities)
- Human Behavior in the Social Environment
- Theories of Organizational Behavior
- Oppression, Power, and Change
- Social Welfare History and Policy
- Social Work Research
- Applied Research and Data Analysis

Advanced (Clinical) Year courses include:

- Advanced Clinical Practice
- Clinical Practice with Children and Adolescents
- Psychopathology
- Child and Family Policy and Practice
- Children and Families I and II
- Electives (Intervention and/or Populations)

Q: How much time should I be prepared to give to my school and class work?

A: At the graduate level, students should be prepared to spend up to ten hours a week - per class - in independent preparation (i.e., reading/viewing course materials, completing assignments). In addition to their coursework, students are expected to complete 15-18 hours per week at their Foundation year field placement and 18-20 hours per week at their Advanced (Clinical) Year field placement.

Q: When does Field Placement begin?

A: Field placement takes place in conjunction with your courses. This enables students to apply what they are learning in the classroom to the real-world setting - deepening the learning. In the first year, students will complete 450 field hours (approximately 15 to 18 hours per week) under a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) or Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). In the second year, students complete 500 field hours (approximately 18 to 20 hours per week) under a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW).

Q: Can I choose my field placement?

A: Students complete an application and identify their interests in terms of population, intervention types, and placement location. Daemen University staff will work with the student to identify an appropriate placement that meets student interests and needs.

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Q: Is it possible to complete my field placement at my place of employment?

A: Yes, provided that:

- The employer agrees to the field placement and can provide appropriate learning opportunities and supervision to you;
- You are engaged in social work practice (Generalist Practice in the Foundation Year and Clinical Practice in the Advanced Year) as part of the placement;
- Your fieldwork is separate from your regular work responsibilities and hours; and
- You are supervised by a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) or Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) who is not your regular manager.

Q: Do I need to get a license?

A: While you are not required to secure a license to work as a social worker, there are benefits to doing so including the ability for an organization or you (as a Private Practitioner) to bill for your services.

Q: What kind of license will I secure?

A: There are different levels of licensure available and it varies by state. In New York State, for example, social workers are able to apply to become a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) or a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) - with and without Psychotherapy Privileges.

Q: How do I secure my license?

A: Individuals must complete an examination available through the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) and meet other criteria for each level of licensure. Requirements vary by state. In New York State, for example, you are eligible to apply to take the ASWB Licensed Master of Social Work (LMSW) examination after successfully completing your MSW Program.

Q: How does the MSW Program help students secure licensure?

A: To prepare students for ASWB licensure examinations, Daemen University requires a zero credit (free) Licensure Preparation course as part of its curriculum. Students review examination content and complete practice questions in the course. They are also provided training on ASWB exam strategies.

Q: What is the total cost of the program?

A: For individuals participating in the two-year program, there is a one-time only fee of \$6,000 for Testing and Training International (TTI). TTI will collect half of the TTI fee (\$3,000) before start of the program and the remainder will be collected six months into the program.

For individuals participating in the one-year Advanced Entry/Advanced Standing curriculum, there is a one-time only fee of \$3,000 for Testing and Training International (TTI). TTI will collect half of the TTI fee (\$1,500) before start of the program and the remainder will be collected six months into the program.

TTI members receive a 40% on Daemen University graduate tuition:

- Total cost of two-year program is approximately \$44,000 for tuition and fees.
- Total cost of one-year program is approximately \$21,000 for tuition and fees.
- Estimates do not include books or other needed supplies.

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Non-members are welcome to join TTI and will pay \$875.00 upon registration as well as the program fee listed above.

Q: How do I apply?

A: You can call the TTI Admissions Office to request an application or download it from our website. Upon receipt of your application, you will be contacted by Mrs. Lewenstein, the Program Director. Following a phone or Zoom interview, your application will be assessed by TTI. Once reviewed by TTI, you will be provided with the link to officially apply to Daemen University. They will determine final eligibility and make a decision about admission into the program.

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