The master of Social Work program at the University of Saint Joseph offers a values-centered approach, combined with community-based clinical practice, that provides students real-world field experience.

WHAT MAKES THE USJ MSW DIFFERENT?

• OUR INNOVATIVE STUDENT UNIT MODEL OF FIELD EDUCATION partners with select agencies and provides the clinical supervisor at each site for our MSW students. Traditional MSW programs place students with volunteer social workers, but the USJ program model guarantees the quality of case assignments and clinical supervision.

• Graduates will be WELL PREPARED FOR CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE. The curriculum is focused on developing skills and knowledge, including direct practice experience applying evidence-based practice models.

• The curriculum offers three specializations in areas of high demand: HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH, CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES, and VETERAN’S SERVICES.

• FOCUS ON COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES – Students will apply knowledge of evidence-based practices and develop skills in community-based research.

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• We OFFER A SMALL, PERSONAL PROGRAM that is committed to the values of academic excellence, integrity, diversity, and hospitality. We have high expectations, and we provide strong support.

• Our outstanding faculty are experts in their areas, conducting community-engaged research and contribute to the advancement of the field.

• We OFFER FLEXIBLE CLASS SCHEDULES, varied course formats, and several completion pathways for students, including those who are employed full time, to complete their MSW degree.

A COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM

Designed to prepare social workers for community-based clinical practice in emerging practice areas as well as those facing clinician shortages due to high demand, the MSW program offers students a learning opportunity that is unique to the University of Saint Joseph. Students participate in field education where university-employed clinical preceptors supervise them on site within the partner organizations. This model provides dynamic opportunities for collaborative student learning, evidence-based practice, and community-engaged research.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Social Work is one of the fastest growing professions in the United States. Through the master’s in Social Work at the University of Saint Joseph, you will be prepared for community-based clinical practice in settings such as:

• Health Care and Human Services
• Mental Health Services
• Elder Care
• Veterans’ Services
• Children and Family Services
• Criminal Justice
• Education

Whether you are seeking a career change or interested in advancing your career in social work, numerous opportunities are available to you upon completion of this degree.
**Master of Social Work (MSW) Program**

**PROGRAM FORMAT: MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK**

The master of Social Work follows a cohort model. Students may choose a traditional full-time or part-time course of study or, if they qualify, for the Advanced Standing program which allows them to complete their degree requirements in one year when enrolled full time or in two years when enrolled part time.

Classes are offered in a hybrid format: students use online materials and attend on-campus seminars to apply learning and to develop practice skills with their cohort. Classes are scheduled primarily on evenings and weekends.

In the advanced curriculum, students acquire the advanced knowledge and skills necessary to practice community-based clinical social work. Each student selects a specialization in one of three areas:

- Health/Mental Health
- Veterans’ Services
- Children and Families

**PROGRAM OPTIONS**

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**ADVANCED STANDING**

APPLICANTS MUST HAVE A BSW FROM A CSWE-ACREDITED PROGRAM IN THE UNITED STATES WITH DOCUMENTED STRONG ACADEMIC AND FIELD PERFORMANCE. STUDENTS WILL BEGIN THEIR PROGRAM WITH A TWO COURSE SEQUENCE IN AUGUST PRIOR TO THE START OF THE ADVANCED YEAR COURSES.

| 1-YEAR   | 3 |
| 2-YEARS  | 6 |
| 3-YEARS  | 8 |

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO EARN MY DEGREE?**

With a BSW from an accredited program, a student may be able to complete a degree in as little as one year. For all other students, we offer a two-year and a three-year option.

**WHAT CAREERS ARE AVAILABLE TO GRADUATES OF THE MSW PROGRAM?**

Graduates will be prepared to practice clinical social work in various settings. Clinical social workers help people solve and cope with problems in their everyday lives. In some settings, they diagnose and treat mental, behavioral, and emotional issues. Hospitals, community health settings, schools, veteran’s services, inpatient and outpatient mental and behavioral health care programs, private practice groups, and child welfare programs are just a few of the settings where clinical social workers are found.

**WHEN I GRADUATE FROM THE PROGRAM, AM I ELIGIBLE FOR LICENSURE AS A SOCIAL WORKER?**

Each state has separate requirements, but all states license clinical social workers and most have licensure for other categories of social workers such as BSW. All states require applicants for a social work license to have graduated from a CSWE-accredited program. The University’s MSW curriculum is designed to prepare graduates for the examination required to become a licensed clinical social worker. Generally, states require a minimum number of post-MSW direct practice hours and clinical supervision hours to be completed before a social worker can take the clinical licensure examination. For updated information on program accreditation and licensure, visit our website: www.usj.edu/msw.

**CAN I CONTINUE TO WORK AND COMPLETE MY MSW DEGREE?**

Yes. The program is designed to accommodate working students. Classes feature flexible formats using online and campus-based classroom instruction. Some of our internship sites allow students to complete hours during evening and weekend times. The MSW program is rigorous, however, so students should discuss the program with family and employers to gain their support in managing a demanding graduate program.

**CAN I COMPLETE MY INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENT AT MY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT?**

All internships will be in specially designed student units located in partner agencies. While a student unit may be housed at your work site, in most cases, you will complete internship requirements in a different location. Your clinical supervisor cannot be the work supervisor and the internship activities must be substantively different from your regular work assignments.

**WHAT CONCENTRATIONS AND SPECIALIZATIONS DOES USJ OFFER?**

The program is committed to developing community-based clinical social workers. This is the only concentration offered. Students may elect to take a specialization in Health/Behavioral Health, Veteran’s Services, or Children and Families.

**WHAT TYPE OF UNDERGRADUATE COURSES DO YOU REQUIRE FOR ADMISSION TO THE MSW PROGRAM?**

Applicants to the regular MSW program may have varied educational backgrounds. We look at the applicant’s academic ability and potential for critical thinking as this is an essential tool to effective clinical practice. Applicants must complete a course in statistics, however, those who have not done so at the time of application may begin the program but must complete the course prior to starting the second year classes.

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

- USJ graduate school application, which is available at www.usj.edu/grad-application
- $50 non-refundable application fee
- Sealed transcript of your bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution and any additional graduate coursework
- An Admission Statement that outlines personal and professional goals
- Three professional references that attest to your readiness to succeed in graduate education
- On-site interview with program faculty
- Submit record of Immunization to USJ Health Services

**NEXT STEPS**

- Visit the program website: www.usj.edu/msw for more information about the curriculum and field education.
- Attend an open house or another event. To view upcoming events, visit www.usj.edu/graduate.
- Submit an application, available at www.usj.edu/graduate.
- Email the Graduate Office at graduate@usj.edu with general questions about the program or application process.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Office of Graduate and Professional Studies
Tel: 860.231.5488
Fax: 860.231.5479
Toll-free: 1.855.857.4723 (1.855.857.4723)
graduate@usj.edu