

MSW Application FAQ for Social Work

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The **Advanced Standing Full and Part-Time Master of Social Work** program is open to graduates of recognized universities with:

- a BSW or an equivalent honours undergraduate social work degree;
- at least a B+ average in the last two years of study
- a minimum of two years of related social work experience (paid and/or voluntary) is preferred (but not required).

Individuals who do not have a BSW but have completed the first year of a two-year MSW degree (including Practicum) are eligible to apply as well. The first year of MSW work is the basis of admission only and will not count towards credit towards the York MSW.

The **Two-Year MSW program** is geared towards applicants with a passion for social work and who currently have:

- an honours degree in a related discipline from a recognized university, with a minimum B+ average in the last two years of study. Related disciplines include:
 - Sociology
 - Psychology
 - Women's Studies
 - International Development Studies
 - Social Cultural Anthropology
 - Criminology
 - Religious Studies
 - Children's Studies
 - Human Geography
 - Nursing
 - Interdisciplinary Studies

In some cases, applicants would be assessed, on a case-by-case basis, on the percentage of courses that apply to human services.

** Note we do **NOT** provide pre-screens. The only way to get an assessment is to apply.

- an undergraduate research methods course. Examples at York include:
 - AP/SOCI 2030 Sociological Methods
 - GWST 4555 Feminist Methodologies
 - PSYC 2030 Introduction to Research Methods
 - ENVS 3010 Qualitative Methods in Environmental Studies
- relevant professional, volunteer, or personal experiences that demonstrate a commitment to social justice and the potential for social work practice. A minimum two

years of experience in social work/social justice (paid and/or voluntary) is preferred (but not required).

All Applicants must provide:

- A written statement (2 pages, i.e., 500 words) discussing the rationale for applying to the social work program at York University, and specifying areas of practice and research interests
- Curriculum vitae or resume
- Three letters of reference, one should be academic, one should be professional, and the third can be either (although academic is preferred)
- MSW Admission – Supplementary Information Form (to be completed and uploaded via *MyFile* - www.yorku.ca/MyFile)
- Transcripts from each post-secondary institution attended (submitted electronically as part of the application. If applicant receives an offer of admission, official sealed copies of transcripts, i.e., those sent directly from the institution to York University, will be required)

*****All required documents are to be submitted electronically as part of the application*****

MSW ADMISSIONS DEADLINE: MID-DECEMBER 2020

UPCOMING RECRUITMENT SESSIONS: TBD

APPLICATION FAQ

When does the application process begin and end?

Applications for the MSW will open early October and the application will close mid-December. Applications received after the deadline **will not be considered**.

I have X research course. Does this count?

The course should cover basic research methods like how to form a researchable question, ethics, and basic sampling techniques. If it covers those topics it will count. Statistics course often don't cover this. **It can be a full or half course if it's completed by successful completion of the course. Note, we do not provide students who are considering application advanced confirmation of meeting this requirement.**

I won't be done my undergraduate degree before the deadline to apply, can I still apply?

There's no graduate program that makes you wait a year before applying. Submit your transcripts "as is". If you're accepted, you'll be asked to submit your official transcripts after you've graduated which will indicate your new status.

I have X degree. Is it considered related?

Most social sciences are considered related, e.g., psychology, sociology, anthropology, women's studies. In cases where degrees are borderline, we would often look to the specific courses that were taken. We don't generally assess this in advance of the application. Science degrees are generally not considered related and would not be eligible. If your degree isn't related you may wish to consider the post-degree BSW.

Can I take the Two-Year Program, for applicants without a BSW on a Part-Time basis?

We don't have a part-time option for that program. You may wish to consider the post-degree BSW.

How many letters of reference do I need?

Three: one academic, one professional, one of your choice. Some people find that as mature students they have difficulty finding an academic reference. A strong application will have at least one academic reference as they can speak to your academic abilities. You may wish to consider volunteering for a professor for a period of time with the understanding that they will provide a reference letter for you at some point.

Does my professional reference use the same form as the academic reference?

References are done electronically when you enter their names and email addresses and all the forms are the same. Many referees also attach a letter, but that's optional.

What do I put on my statement and how long is it?

It's (2 pages, i.e. 500 words) discussing the rationale for applying to the social work program at York University and specifying areas of practice and research interests.

We do not have a template for applicants as this might hinder creativity and diversity with how applicants write their statements.

What is the competitive average?

The minimum is a B+ over the last two years (20 half – courses) of study; however, the Two-Year Full-Time MSW has so many applicants the competitive average for that program is an A.

How are the various elements of the package ranked?

The selection committee doesn't consider any one element of your application more valuable than another. An application that may have some weaker areas might be admitted based on strengths in other areas. If you meet the minimum standards you have a chance of being admitted into the program.

Does X count on my resume?

Everything you put on your resume counts as experience and specifically the more experience in social services helps to build a stronger application. Paid work tends to be more highly valued than unpaid/volunteer, however, include both in your application. Please specify the period (by year and months) of your various related paid or unpaid experience in social services. If you

have part-time paid and/or volunteer experience, please also specify how many hours per week or month you work or volunteer.

When will I hear back?

Application review results for the fall session are expected to be available by mid-late March for the MSW Advanced Standing Program and the 2-Year MSW program.

What does the application process involve?

The application to the program is a two-step process.

The first step will be completing the initial application online where you will be asked to input a method of payment. You will get confirmation of payment number with this process.

Within 5-7 business days an email from York University will be sent to confirm your application has been received and will provide you with your York University Student ID number. If you have been a York Student, or are currently a York student, the number will be the same.

You will be given the link to the **MYFILE** where you will complete the second step of the application. The link is below.

<https://apps4.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/AAS.woa/wa/DirectAction/student>

Once you login to the MYFILE please read and follow the directions carefully. Bear in mind, staff cannot see what you see, so you must diligent.

In the MYFILE, you will have to upload your CV, Statement of Interest, and complete Supplementary Information Form. You will have input the email addresses of your referees and they will be prompted to complete an email reference form/letter. We do not accept hard copy letters. Unofficial transcripts can be uploaded to the MYFILE. **** Please note that only transcripts will be used to calculate applicants gpa, as grade reports tends to not include important information from your institution. If you are a current York University student, then you will not be expected to provide transcripts as we have those on file.