

TSU-MSW Program

Student Handbook

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Email Forthcoming

Welcome to the Tennessee State University Master of Social Work (TSU-MSW) Program! Housed in the College of Public Service and Department of Social Work and Urban Studies, the TSU-MSW Program is designed for those interested in a social work education that prepares students for both direct and indirect service delivery in the public sector. Geared toward the working professional, the TSU-MSW Program offers some courses on-campus in the evening and others online, producing a hybrid model that appeals to a wide variety of student needs and learning styles. Our concentration in Advanced Generalist Practice prepares students to work in all levels of social work practice.

The TSU-MSW Program began in fall 2009 as part of the Mid-Tennessee Collaborative Master of Social Work (MTC-MSW) Program with the admission of students to the Foundation program and we added advanced standing students the following year. In 2021, after 12 years of collaboration, the MTC-MSW Program dissolved and TSU established their own MSW Program as a single institution. Much of the MSW program remains the same as it did in the collaborative, but the flavor of the TSU-MSW Program is different - guided by the mission of Tennessee State University and drawing from the history of TSU as the only public HBCU in Tennessee.

The TSU-MSW Program can be completed on a full-time or a part-time basis, with options for a 1, 2, 3, or 4 year program of study. Students who have a Bachelor of Social Work degree from an accredited undergraduate social work program and meet additional requirements are eligible for advanced standing, which can be completed in 1 year (full time) or 2 years (part time). Students with a Bachelor’s degree in other disciplines/areas and meet additional requirements are eligible for the foundation program, which can be completed in 2 years (full time), 3 years (full time and part time), or 4 years (part time). Planning your course of study is facilitated by an assigned faculty advisor, who is there to assist you with meeting the program requirements and is directed by your career interests and life responsibilities.

Agency-based field education is a vital part of social work instruction and is a signature pedagogy of social work education. The TSU-MSW Program is pleased to be able to offer a wide variety of agencies that can serve as field education sites. Students complete 900 hours during two internship experiences in the foundation program and 500 hours during a single intership experience for advanced standing students. These internship experiences allow the student to apply and integrate information from the classroom into the field in a structured and supervised way. MSW students in field enjoy a large amount of support with a Field Instructor, Field Liaison, and Field Education Coordinator who work collaboratively to provide the best field experience for you.

As you begin this most important journey of becoming a masters-prepared social worker, you will be challenged in ways you may not expect. Use the support that is available to you through the TSU-MSW Program. Our university motto is “Think. Work. Serve” and you will see this motto playing out in every faculty and staff member you encounter. Reach out for help early and often so we may assist you in overcoming any barriers you experience in your education.

TSU-MSW Faculty, Staff, and Administration

THE MISSION AND GOALS

**Tennessee State University**

Founded in 1912, Tennessee State University is Nashville’s only public University and is a

premier, historically black University and land-grant institution. Currently, the University

consists of eight (8) academic colleges and schools. Through its eight colleges and schools, TSU

offers two associate degrees, 40 bachelor’s degrees, 24 master’s degrees, one educational

specialist, and seven doctoral degrees.

Tennessee State University’s mission: “Tennessee State University, through its legacy as an HBCU and land grant institution, transforms lives, prepares a diverse population of leaders, and contributes to economic and community development by providing affordable and accessible educational programs at various degree levels and promoting academic excellence through scholarly inquiry, teaching, research, lifelong learning, and public service.”.

**TSU-MSW Program**

The mission of the TSU-MSW Program is dedicated to the enhancement of human well-being, diversity, and social justice through developing and improving systems of public social services, especially for the vulnerable and oppressed, by offering graduate training in Social Work with a hybrid model of delivery.

The goals of the program are informed by the program’s defined mission, the character of the region served, the historical black college and/or university (HBCU) experience, and the body of social work literature on the efficacy of the advanced generalist model for professional social work practice. To fulfill the above mission, the goals of the TSU-MSW program are:

1. To prepare a diverse student population for advanced generalist social work practice based on professional values and ethics to serve client systems of various sizes and types.
2. To promote the development of social policies and services to reduce the impact of poverty, oppression and discrimination.
3. To develop analytical skills and critical thinking that will encourage active participation in the development, evaluation, and improvement of social work knowledge and skills through research aimed at advancing social work practice.
4. To promote the development of a multiple theoretical orientation applicable across system sizes.
5. To provide an understanding of diversity and cultural humility with an emphasis on social/economic/environmental justice, empowerment, and improving the well-being of all people.
6. To socialize students to the profession of social work and the organizational environment through evidence-based practice.

THE COMPETENCIES AND PRACTICE MODELS

**TSU-MSW Program Competencies**

The TSU-MSW Program’s mission and goals inform the design and organization of the

curriculum. Courses in the foundation and concentration curricula contribute to students’

achievement of the following competencies, which, in turn, advances the TSU-MSW Program’s

attainment of its goals.

1. Demonstrate Ethical & Professional Behavior

2. Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice

3. Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice

4. Engage in Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice

5. Engage in Policy Practice

6. Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

7. Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

8. Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

9. Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

**TSU-MSW Program Generalist Social Work Practice Model**

The TSU-MSW Program assumes two levels of professional preparation: foundation-level

generalist social work practice and concentration-level advanced generalist social work practice. The generalist social work practice model introduces students to theoretical perspectives, practice frameworks, and ethics central to social work practice, exposes students to the competencies of social work practice, and creates a base of knowledge, values, and skills for all levels of social work practice. This foundation-level serves as a springboard from which students advance into the concentration coursework.

Students may be eligible to receive credit for foundation coursework using undergraduate courses if they possess a Bachelors degree in Social Work from a CSWE accredited institution and a cummulative undergraduate GPA of at least a 2.75. If a student is accepted as an Advanced Standing student, they receive credit for the 30 hours of foundation coursework and enter the program in the concentration year.

**TSU-MSW Program Advanced Generalist Social Work Practice Model**

The advanced generalist level is distinguished from the generalist level by increased complexity and range of knowledge, depth of analysis, and expertise in skills reflected in preparation for advanced practice roles. This program prepares students for advanced generalist social work practice as the sole concentration.

Advanced generalist practice is practice that is autonomous, focused on public social service

settings, and concerned with the enhancement of human well-being, diversity, and social justice,

especially for vulnerable and oppressed populations. Advanced generalist practitioners should be able to analyze and resolve more complex ethical and value conflicts, apply empirically-based

interventions to micro, mezzo, and macro practice situations, and use research methods to

evaluate their own practice and to contribute to the profession’s knowledge base. Advanced

generalist practitioners should be able to integrate knowledge, theories, and practice in such a

way as to eventually model and instruct others in the profession.

Signature features of the advanced generalist practitioner include:

* increased knowledge of theories & models for practice with individuals/families/groups/ organizations/communities
* increased skills to address complex direct practice issues including individual/family/ group techniques
* increased awareness of the needs, potentials, and influences of systems of public social services
* increased ability to use, engage in, and analyze theoretical & practice research and evaluation
* abilities to conduct discipline and systematic eclectic practice via extrapolation, synthesis and refinement of generalist competencies
* increased skills to address complex indirect practice issues including supervision/ administration/policy practice and program evaluation
* increased capacity to build or link scarce resources in the environment
* added emphasis on client system strengths and empowerment

TSU-MSW PROGRAM ADMISSIONS

Individuals interested in applying for the TSU-MSW Program must submit an application through the SocialWorkCAS system and identify Tennessee State University as an institution for which they would like to apply. Information about the application process is available online at:

<https://www.tnstate.edu/socialwork/msw/apply.aspx>

Admission to the TSU-MSW Program requires:

1. A completed and verified MSW application in SocialWorkCAS
2. An essay
3. Transcripts from all institutions attended as part of the undergraduate degree
4. (3) professional recommendations, including letters of reference
5. A minimum cummulative undergraduate GPA of 2.65

Applicants interested in obtaining Advanced Standing must have:

1. Completed a Bachelor of Social Work degree from a CSWE-accredited program
2. Attained a minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.75

Prospective students and applicants who do not meet the above requirements can request an exception by contacting the MSW Coordinator. The Admissions Committee, consisting of TSU-MSW faculty, will review the candidate’s application and supporting documents to make a final determination with regard to the exception. In some cases, an interview with this candidate may be requested to provide additional information for the decision. Admissions Committee decisions are final and may come with a specific condition (or conditions) that must be honored to remain in the TSU-MSW Program.

International students who hold a baccalaureate degree from a social work program outside the U.S. must have their transcript reviewed by CSWE for a determination of equivalency. International students who hold a masters degree from a social work program outside the U.S. must have their transcript reviewed by the TSU-MSW Program for a determination of equivalency.

Applicants should be aware that, consistent with CSWE standards, the TSU-MSW Program

does not grant academic credits for life, volunteer, or work experience.

Applicants who have successfully completed graduate coursework at an accredited college or

university in social work may be able to transfer up to twelve (12) credits of coursework. Applicants who have successfully completed graduate coursework at an accredited college or

university in a discipline other than social work may be able to transfer up to nine (9) credits of elective coursework. Once accepted, students should discuss transfer credit opportunities with their advisor and/or the MSW Coordinator.

THE TSU-MSW PROGRAM CURRICULUM

The TSU-MSW Program’s curriculum prepares students to engage in advanced generalist social

work practice. The curriculum is designed so that by the time students graduate they will have

acquired the knowledge, skills, and professional values to allow them to meet the needs of the

region and enhance human well-being, diversity, and social justice through developing and

improving systems of public social services, especially for children and families. Classroom and

field-based learning reinforce each other, allowing students to develop the competencies required

of advanced generalist social work practitioners.

The first 30 credits of the TSU-MSW Program’s curriculum constitute students’ foundation

education experience. Foundation-level courses and field education equip students with the

knowledge, skills, and professional values that form the core of generalist social work practice.

The advanced generalist concentration curriculum, which entails the last 30 credits, builds on students’ foundation learning and offers more advanced course work and field education experiences.

**TSU-MSW Program Foundation Curriculum**

SW 6000 MSW Practice I (3 hours)

A social work methods course designed to enable the student to understand and apply social

work methods within the context of the generalist perspective with individuals and families.

Prerequisite: Admission to MSW Program

SW 6010 Practice in Human Behavior and the Social Environment (3 hours) (online delivery)

An introduction to the theories and knowledge of the human bio-psycho-social development

including theories and knowledge about the range of social systems in which individuals live

(families, groups, organizations, agencies, and communities). Prerequisite: Admission to MSW

Program

SW 6020 MSW Research in Practice I (3 hours)

This is a basic research and statistical methods course, utilizing research in general inquiry and

practice evaluation in social work with the generalist perspective. Prerequisite: Admission to

MSW Program

SW 6030 Social Welfare Policy and Practice (3 hours) (online delivery)

The historical development, philosophical orientation, and analysis of U.S. social welfare policy

and services, including the global context. Prerequisite: Admission to MSW Program

SW 6100 MSW Practice II (3 hours)

A social work methods course designed to enable the student to understand and apply social

work methods within the context of the generalist perspective with groups, agencies, and

communities. Prerequisites: MSW Practice I & HBSE

SW 6110 Social Justice & Practice (3 hours) (online delivery)

An overview of the professional commitment of social work to oppressed peoples. Prerequisite:

HBSE

SW 6120 MSW Research in Practice II (3 hours)

An advanced discussion of program evaluation strategies and single system design issues. The

student will conduct a research project. Prerequisite: MSW Research I

SW 6130 Practicum IA (3 hours)

A 200 hour field practicum experience within the generalist perspective. May be taken

concurrently with Practicum IB. Prerequisites: MSW Practice I, HBSE, Research I, & Policy

SW 6140 Practicum IB (3 hours)

A 200 hour field practicum experience with the generalist perspective. May be taken

concurrently with Practicum IA. Prerequisites: MSW Practice I, HBSE, Research I, & Policy.

**TSU-MSW Program Concentration Curriculum**

Students must have taken their Foundation courses or been admitted with Advanced Standing to register for concentration courses. Single course exceptions can be made for foundation students in Good Standing with the Graduate School and a plan to complete Practicum IA and IB the following semester(s).

SW 6200 Advanced Practice with Individuals (3 hours)

Advanced practice with individuals including client system assessment, intervention, and

evaluation. Prerequisites: Practicum IA (SW 6130) & IB (SW 6140) OR Advanced Standing

admission

SW 6210 Advanced Practice with Families (3 hours)

Advanced practice with families including client system assessment, intervention, and

evaluation. Prerequisites: Practicum IA (SW 6130) & IB (SW 6140) OR Advanced Standing

admission

SW 6220 Advanced Group Practice (3 hours)

Advanced practice with groups including client system assessment, intervention, and evaluation.

Prerequisites: Practicum IA (SW 6130) & IB (SW 6140) OR Advanced Standing admission

SW 6230 Advanced Macro Practice (3 hours)

Advanced practice with organizations and communities including system assessment,

intervention, and evaluation. Prerequisites: Practicum IA (SW 6130) & IB (SW 6140) OR

Advanced Standing admission

SW 6240 Social Policy Analysis in Practice (3 hours) (online delivery)

A study of the design, implementation, and analysis of social policies and their impact on social

work practice. Prerequisites: Practicum IA (SW 6130) & IB (SW 6140) OR Advanced Standing

admission

SW 6300 Empirical Social Work Practice (4 hours)

A seminar in the integration of program competencies, theoretical perspectives, the application of research findings, and empirical outcome evaluation techniques to advanced generalist social work practice. Prerequisites: Advanced Practice with Individuals, Advanced Practice with Families OR Advanced Group Practice, Advanced Macro Practice, & Social Policy Analysis

SW 6310 Practicum IIA (4 hours)

A 250 hour field practicum experience. May be taken concurrently with Practicum IIB.

Prerequisites: Advanced Practice with Individuals, Advanced Practice with Families OR

Advanced Group Practice, Advanced Macro Practice, & Social Policy Analysis

SW 6320 Practicum IIB (4 hours)

A 250 hour field practicum experience. May be taken concurrently with Practicum IIA.

Prerequisites: Advanced Practice with Individuals, Advanced Practice with Families OR

Advanced Group Practice, Advanced Macro Practice, & Social Policy Analysis

**TSU-MSW Program Special Topics and Elective Courses**

Students entering the foundation/regular program must complete (9) credit hours of special topics or elective courses. Students entering the concentration year as advanced standing must complete (6) credit hours of special topics or elective courses. These courses allow students to tailor their learning toward their practice interests and career goals. Special topics and elective courses rotate yearly and may change frequently with each semester, delivering different course offerings to satisfy these requirements.

SOWK 5000 Special Topics (3 hours) (online delivery)

These special topics courses are delivered each semester and are traditionally focused on areas of social work practice and/or specific skills needed to provide service in the social service and public sectors.

Advanced Mezzo Course (3 hours) (on ground delivery)

In the concentration curriculum, students are given a choice between SOWK 6210 Advanced Practice with Families and SOWK 6220 Advanced Group Practice. A student may choose to take both of these courses and use one of them as an elective.

SOWK 6400 Independent Study (3 hours) (online delivery)

This elective course is designed to give students an opportunity to thoroughly explore a specific area of social work practice through the completion of a publishable systematic literature review, refereed conference presentation, or comparable academic product. A minimum number of students is required for this course to be activated.

Other Department/Program Courses (3 hours) (varying formats)

Some graduate courses in other departments or programs have been identified as suitable electives for MSW students to enhance knowledge and skills in a specific area of social work practice. Students must be approved by their advisor and the selected department/program to enroll in these courses.

TSU-MSW PROGRAM PLAN OF STUDY AND ADVISEMENT

**TSU-MSW Program Foundation Plan of Study: Full-Time**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| TSU-MSW Foundation Plan of Study (Full-Time) | | | | | |
| Fall Semester |  | **Spring Semester** |  | **Summer Semester (optional)** |  |
| MSW Practice I | 3 | MSW Practice II | 3 | Special Topic/Elective\* | 3 |
| Practice in HBSE | 3 | Social Justice/Practice | 3 | Practicum IB\* | 3 |
| MSW Research/Practice I | 3 | MSW Research/Prac II | 3 |  |  |
| Social Welf Policy/Prac | 3 | Practicum IA | 3 |  |  |
| Special Topic/Elective | 3 | Practicum IB | 3 |  |  |
| Total Hours | 15 |  | 15 |  | 6 |

\* Students can choose to take a Special Topic/elective and/or Practicum IB in the summer semester to reduce courseload during Fall or Spring semesters. Students are encouraged to discuss these options with their advisor.

**TSU-MSW Program Concentration Plan of Study: Full-Time**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| TSU-MSW Concentration Plan of Study (Full-Time) | | | | | |
| Fall Semester |  | **Spring Semester** |  | **Summer Semester (optional)** |  |
| Adv Direct Practice with Ind | 3 | Special Topic/Elective | 3 | Special Topic/Elective\* | 3 |
| Adv Practice with Families  OR Adv Group Practice\*\* | 3 | Empirical Social Work Practice | 4 | Practicum IIB\* | 3 |
| Advanced Macro Practice | 3 | Practicum IIA | 4 |  |  |
| Social Policy Analysis/Prac | 3 | Practicum IIB | 4 |  |  |
| Special Topic/Elective | 3 |  |  |  |  |
| Total Hours | 15 |  | 15 |  | 6 |

\* Students can choose to take a Special Topic/elective and/or Practicum IIB in the summer semester to reduce courseload during Fall or Spring semesters. Students are encouraged to discuss these options with their advisor.

\*\* Students choose between Advanced Practice with Families and Advanced Group Practice or can choose both with one considered a Special Topic/elective. Students are encouraged to discuss this option with their advisor.

**TSU-MSW Program Foundation Plan of Study: Part-Time**

Students completing the part-time program are encouraged to speak with an advisor to determine the best plan of study for them. There are several variables that can be tweaked to create different options. Below is just one option.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| TSU-MSW Foundation Plan of Study (Part-Time) | | | | | |
| Fall Semester |  | **Spring Semester** |  | **Summer Semester** |  |
| MSW Practice I | 3 | MSW Practice II | 3 | Special Topic/Elective | 3 |
| Practice in HBSE | 3 | Social Justice/Prac | 3 |  |  |
| Total Hours | 6 |  | 6 |  | 3 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| TSU-MSW Foundation Plan of Study (Part-Time) | | | | | |
| Fall Semester |  | **Spring Semester** |  | **Summer Semester** |  |
| MSW Research/Practice I | 3 | MSW Research/Prac II | 3 | Practicum IB | 3 |
| Social Welfare Policy/Prac | 3 | Practicum IA | 3 |  |  |
| Total Hours | 6 |  | 6 |  | 3 |

**TSU-MSW Program Concentration Plan of Study: Part-Time**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| TSU-MSW Concentration Plan of Study (Part-Time) | | | | | |
| Fall Semester |  | **Spring Semester** |  | **Summer Semester** |  |
| Adv Direct Practice with Ind | 3 | Special Topic/elective | 3 |  |  |
| Social Policy Analysis/Prac | 3 | Special Topic/elective | 3 |  |  |
| Total Hours | 6 |  | 6 |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| TSU-MSW Concentration Plan of Study (Part-Time) | | | | | |
| Fall Semester |  | **Spring Semester** |  | **Summer Semester** |  |
| Adv Practice with Families  OR Adv Group Practice | 3 | Empirical Social Work Practice | 4 | Practicum IIB | 4 |
| Advanced Macro Practice | 3 | Practicum IIA | 4 |  |  |
| Total Hours | 6 |  | 8 |  | 4 |

**TSU-MSW Program Student Advisement**

Student advisement is an important component of the TSU-MSW Program. The purposes of

advisement are to:

* Advise the student through the process of obtaining a MSW degree.
* Work with the student around any academic problems that may arise.
* Assist the student in exploring possible directions for his or her professional career.

Once admitted, students are assigned an academic advisor who is a faculty member in the TSU-MSW Program. Faculty advisors will have posted office hours during which they are available to meet with students for advisement in a face-to-face or virtual format. They also can answer questions or assist you by email. All students are encouraged to routinely meet with their advisor every semester and at any time in between when there is a personal problem, an academic issue, or a need to discuss professional or career options. Further, advisors are often the faculty members most likely to serve as professional references for students during and after the program. Taking the time to establish a good relationship with your advisor is a critical step in your professional career so avail yourself of this resource!

TSU-MSW PROGRAM FIELD EDUCATION AND PORTFOLIO

**TSU-MSW Field Education**

Field education is one of the cornerstones of professional social work education. During their field practicum, MSW students have the opportunity to apply what they are learning in the classroom to real world situations. They also can bring their field practicum experiences back to the classroom for reflection, examination, analysis, and synthesis.

Students who enter the MSW Program without advanced standing, complete two field experiences: a 6-credit foundation placement and an 8-credit advanced generalist practice placement. Students who enter with advanced standing complete a single, 8-credit advanced generalist practice placement. In addition to agency-based supervision, a faculty member serves as a liaison between the program and the placement to foster the integration of field and classroom learning.

Students should be aware that, consistent with CSWE standards, the TSU-MSW Program does not grant academic credits for life, volunteer, or work experience or for graduate-level internship experiences completed in a field or discipline other than social work.

Orientation to the TSU-MSW Program's field education component is provided to students each Fall semester. For further information on field education policies and procedures, including a listing of the specific criteria to be met before beginnihg a field placement, see the Field Education Manual.

**TSU-MSW Program Portfolio and Portfolio Presentation**

As a non-thesis program, the culminating experience for the TSU-MSW Program will be comprehensive portfolio completed in the student's final semester of study and presented to a group of faculty and student evaluators. The portfolio integrates classroom and field-based learning experiences as they align with the core competencies of ethical social work practice. Information about the portfolio will be provided in the SOWK 6300 - Empirical Social Work Practice (4) course during that final semester.

TSU-MSW PROGRAM GENERAL INFORMATION

**Social Work Program Advisory Board**

A board of community social service professionals serves in an advisory capacity to the Social Work Program at TSU, providing current professional community input to the program. These community members advise Social Work Program faculty and administration on needs, trends, and issues of particular relevance to the local area. Part of this Advisory Board includes two TSU-MSW Program students to foster transparency and address the needs of students as members of this community.

**Student Rights and Responsibilities**

The TSU-MSW Program is committed to ensuring that MSW students are treated fairly and with respect and dignity during their graduate education. Students deserve to have their work evaluated in a non-biased and timely fashion. They should receive appropriate recognition for their contributions to work they do with faculty members. No student in the TSU-MSW

Program should be subject to bias or discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, or disability.

Additional information regarding students' rights and responsibilities can be found [HERE](https://www.tnstate.edu/mediation/documents/2011-2012%20Student%20Handbook.pdf).

**Grievance Procedures**

Tennessee State University and the TSU-MSW Program is committed to a policy of fair treatment of its students in their relationships with fellow students, faculty, staff and administrators. Students are encouraged to seek an informal resolution of the matter directly with the faculty member, MSW Coordinator, Chair of the Department, or Dean of the College when possible. For matters where a resolution is not feasible, a Student Complaint Form can be completed through [this link](https://www.tnstate.edu/campus_life/complaint.aspx).

**Student Participation**

The TSU-MSW Program fully supports students' rights and responsibilities to formulate and modify policies affecting academic and student affairs. MSW students are encouraged to be full participants in exercising the rights and responsibilities available to them.

**Social Work Club**

The TSU-MSW Program joins the BSW Program in hosting a Social Work Club. This Club meets regularly and engages in civic-minded activities, supports events central to the Social Work Program, and elects student representatives for the Faculty and Advisory Board meetings.

**Faculty Meetings**

Two student-elected TSU-MSW students are invited to attend all faculty meetings as a way to ensure that student interests are voiced and heard by faculty in the TSU-MSW Program. Students are elected by the Social Work Club, one student currently enrolled in foundation courses and one currently enrolled in concentration courses.

**Advisory Board Meetings**

The two TSU-MSW students elected to attend faculty meetings by the Social Work Club are also invited to attend the Advisory Board Meetings.

**Academic Integrity**

MSW students are expected to intellectually honest and forthright in their academic and field placement activities. All work MSW students complete for all courses should be their own. MSW students are expected to give credit to the sources used in their work by including appropriate citations and identifying direct quotations with quotation marks and providing complete reference information.

The TSU-MSW Program has a policy for academic integrity, including the potential penalties for academic misconduct, and will adhere to those policies. Academic misconduct includes the following behaviors: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, or facilitating any such act. The following definitions apply:

1. Plagiarism. The adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, statements, images, or works of another person as one's own without proper acknowledgment.
2. Cheating. Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. The term academic exercise includes all forms of work submitted for credit or hours.
3. Fabrication. Unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
4. Facilitation. Helping or attempting to help another to violate a provision of the institutional code of academic misconduct.

**Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you have a disability that may require assistance or accommodations, or if you have any questions related to any accommodation for testing, note taking, reading, etc., please speak with the instructor as soon as possible.

To register with the university for accommodations, contact the [Office of Disability Services](https://www.tnstate.edu/disabilityservices/).

**Equity and Inclusion**

The TSU-MSW Program is a community of people with respect for diversity that emphasizes the dignity and equality common to all individual faculty, staff, and students. We support a living, learning, and working environment free from discrimination and harassment, where all members of the TSU community feel welcomed and valued.

For information on policies regarding equity and inclusion at TSU, contact the [Office of Equity and Inclusion](https://www.tnstate.edu/eeoaa/).

**Social Work Professional Organizations**

TSU-MSW Program students are encouraged to join a social work professional organization. Below is a list of possible organizations from which to choose, although students should also explore organizations that match their specific practice or career interests:

National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW) http://www.nabsw.org/

NABSW is the national organization established in 1968 specifically to address social issues that affect the social, economic, psychological, and physical well-being of the Black community. There are chapters across the U.S., as well as in the Caribbean and Africa. Through participation in NABSW's national and international conferences, social workers can stay connected with each other and stay informed on state-of-the-art practice approaches and ideas. NABSW is a rich source of professional and cultural resources to help social workers in reaching their full potential in the profession and in enriching the lives of those with whom they work. Students are encouraged to become members and to form student chapters; NABSW's Office of Student Affairs is available to facilitate students' participation.

National Association of Social Workers (NASW) http://www.socialworkers.org/

NASW is the national organization for professional social workers with over 150,000 members and 56 chapters throughout the United States and abroad. The organization has programs in professional development, standards, and action. It seeks to achieve sound social policy affecting those who are served. Its activities and membership services are structured to help all social workers to advance their practice in the field of helping people. The organization is committed to a high standard of practice and guides its members to this standard through the Code of Ethics Q.ittp://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/default.asp). NASW meetings are held annually, both on the national and state levels. Local branch meetings are held monthly. Low student membership rates are offered for those pursuing an education in the field of social work. Liability insurance, sometimes required during a student's practicum semesters, may also be obtained from NASW. Members of NASW also receive the professional journal Social Work, which is committed to improving practice and extending knowledge in social work and social welfare. The journal is published bimonthly and is indexed/abstracted in: Criminal Justice Abstract, Social Citation Index, Social Work Research and Abstracts, Social Sciences Index, and various other publications.

International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) http://www.ifsw.org/

The International Federation of Social Workers brings together social workers and their professional organizations from around the globe. The organization works to foster social justice, social development, and international cooperation. It strives to identify and disseminate info1mation about best practices. It is committed to enhancing the profession of social work. Each year, the organization holds a thematically-focused annual meeting.

Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare (TCSW) 􀁧ttp://www.tcsw.org/

The TCSW grew out of the activities ofreform leaders at the beginning of the 20th century.

Originally called the Tennessee Conference on Charities and Corrections, the TCSW celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2013. Today the TCS W is statewide organization composed of six

regional networks that focus on a variety of topics. The organization engages in advocacy, and educational activities directed at "improving the social and economic well-being of

Tennesseans." Regular training sessions on issues related to public policy and service

effectiveness are offered across the state. In addition to its annual conference, the TCSW also holds regional conferences.

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) http://www.cswe.org/

CSWE is a national nonprofit organization that was established in 1952. Its membership

includes individuals as well as undergraduate and master's-level social work programs. CSWE is the accrediting body for social work educational programs. The organization also engages in research on the profession, especially those issues that relate to professional social work

education. CSWE publishes the Journal of Social Work Education; the CSWE Press publishes book relevant to social work educaj:ion, including textbooks for classroom use. CSWE holds an annual meeting that offers social worker academics a chance to learn about new research and

instructional methodologies.

Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) http://www.sswr.org/

SSWR was established in 1993 to promote the engagement of practicing social workers, social work academics, and social work students in research. SSWR is dedicated to fostering the well­being of people and communities through the conduct of research and the application of research findings. At each year's annual meeting, excellence in faculty and doctoral student research is acknowledged.

**Helpful TSU Links**

[TSU-MSW Program Webpage](https://www.tnstate.edu/socialwork/msw/)

To access information about the TSU-MSW Program, click the link.

[Tuition and Fees](https://www.tnstate.edu/bursar/fees.aspx)

Tuition and fees often change each academic year. To access the current tuition and fee schedule, click the link.

[Financial Aid](https://www.tnstate.edu/financial_aid/)

There are many loan, stipend, assistantship, scholorship, and fellowship programs to assist students in paying for their education. To access these programs, click the link.

[Residence Life](https://www.tnstate.edu/housing/)

Students attending school at TSU can seek housing on campus. Click the link to learn more.

[Graduate School Contact Information](https://www.tnstate.edu/graduate/contact.aspx)

Students may have questions about graduate school or need to discuss a problem with admissions, registration, or student access. Click the link to see a full list of contacts.

[Graduate Student Resources (Graduate School)](https://www.tnstate.edu/graduate/prospectivestudents.aspx)

The Graduate School has student resources that may be helpful to you. Click the link to learn more.

[Research Symposium](https://www.tnstate.edu/researchsymposium/index.aspx)

TSU hosts an annual research symposium to highlight student and faculty research. Students are encouraged to submit an abstract of their research to present at this conference. Students interested in presenting at the conference should discuss this with their research professor, advisor, or MSW Coodinator. Click the link to learn more about the Research Symposium.

[Applying for Graduation](https://www.tnstate.edu/records/commencement/graduationapplication.aspx)

It is the student’s responsibility to apply for graduation. Students must first meet with their advisor to review Degree Works. This ensures they have met all program degree requirements for graduation. To apply for graduation, click the link.