Graduate credentials are becoming increasingly important in the social work profession. Social workers practice in many areas, including education, health, mental health, child welfare, substance abuse treatment, criminal justice, and veterans services. The specialization received with a master’s degree is an asset to both the practitioner and the client in empowerment practice. Also, with this specialization comes the availability for increased choices for employment. Currently the employment outlook for social workers across multiple settings is projected to grow by 14-20 percent by 2026.

It is the mission of the St. Ambrose University School of Social Work to prepare competent and ethical social work professionals who advocate a just society.

Consistent with the purposes of social work and Catholic Social Teaching, the St. Ambrose University School of Social Work seeks to advance the well-being of people, to promote social and economic justice and to protect human rights. Emphasizing client system empowerment, the School prepares graduates to practice competently, ethically and with critical understanding of diversity, human behavior and social contexts.

Students acquire a comprehensive knowledge base, practice skills, and ethical standards for professional practice. These competencies enable graduates to provide resources and opportunities for people to live with dignity and freedom in their transactions with each other and social institutions locally, nationally, and globally.

The SAU Master of Social Work program prepares empowerment social workers to use a life-long praxis process in order to ensure collaborative, client-centered, multi-level, contextualized practice. Empowerment social workers promote professional social work and advocate for social, economic and environmental justice.

The MSW Part-Time curriculum is a combination of hybrid courses and field instruction. Hybrid courses will use a variety of teaching techniques that facilitate online learners. Field instruction places students in agency-based social work settings under the supervision of experienced social workers. Field placements may be completed in the student’s home community, depending on availability.

**Program Highlights**

- 3-year Part-Time hybrid (online and in-seats)
- Advanced Standing curriculum (for those with a BSW and proven academic success)
- Small classes
- MSW/MBA and MSW/MPH dual degrees
- Online learning options for electives
- Specialization in empowerment practice
- Focus on wide range of skills for maximum career flexibility
- Field placements in schools, health care, education, mental health, child welfare, substance abuse treatment, criminal justice, and veteran services
- Free license preparation
- License pass rate well above the national average
- Study abroad options in Ecuador & India
- Inter-professional education with other Health Sciences
- Certification in School Social Work for Iowa and Illinois
Admissions Requirements

> Application guidelines at www.sau.edu/msw
> St. Ambrose graduate application
> Official transcripts from all institution(s) of enrollment
> Social Work application
> Three letters of reference
> Personal statement
> Hold an undergraduate degree from an accredited university and an emphasis in the liberal arts with a 3.0 grade point average or better.

Goals and Objectives

The program emphasizes strength-based social work with populations with diverse identities in a variety of social service settings. This provides opportunities to learn and implement a range of empowerment social work practice approaches. The MSW program is committed to the education of empowerment practice social workers with a commitment to social justice. Other valuable advantages of choosing St. Ambrose University for graduate social work education include:

> The social work faculty includes internationally known empowerment scholars.
> The MSW program learning environment encourages students to be actively involved in shaping their learning experience.
> Energetic faculty are committed to guiding student development and providing quality education. Faculty scholarship interest reflect a broad range of social work issues, including: implicit bias, environmental social work, global empowerment, wisdom and aging, substance abuse, and participatory action research in community health centers.
> Area and regional agencies and organizations offer a full range of field placement options.
> The part-time hybrid program is offered online and in-seats, with in-class sessions held on Saturdays.

The material presented here is for informational purposes and does not substitute for the catalog. Consult the official university catalog for complete program requirements.