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 is projected to grow by 19 percent by 2022.

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.

**Program Highlights**

- 10-month Advanced Standing curriculum option (for those with a BSW and proven academic success)
- Online and seated options
- 2-year full-time curriculum option
- 3-year part-time hybrid option
- Small classes
- MSW/MBA dual degree
- MSW/MPH dual degree
- Online learning options
- Specialization in empowerment practice
- Focus on wide range of practical skills for maximum career flexibility

[WWW.SAU.EDU/MSW](WWW.SAU.EDU/MSW)
Goals and Objectives

The program emphasizes strength-based 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 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 program’s pedagogical approach encourages students to be actively involved in shaping their learning experience.
> Energetic faculty are committed to guiding student development and providing quality education. Their scholarly research interests reflect a broad range of social work issues.
> Area and regional agencies and organizations offer a full range of field placement options.
> Students with a BSW degree may qualify for an accelerated 10-month advanced standing program.
> The part-time hybrid program is offered 50 percent online, with the other half as in-class sessions held on Saturdays.
> MSW/MBA dual degree prepares graduates for nonprofit administration.
> MSW/MPH dual degree prepares graduates for work in population health.

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