Application Information for Portland State University’s Baccalaureate Social Work (BSW) Program

We are glad that you are interested in the BSW Program at Portland State University. To pursue studies in PSU’s BSW Program you must complete an application and be admitted.

Purpose of the Profession of Social Work

- Enhance human well-being and alleviate poverty, oppression, and other forms of social and economic injustice.
- Enhance the social functioning and interactions of individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities by involving them in accomplishing goals, developing resources, and preventing and alleviating distress.
- Formulate and implement social policies, services, and programs that meet basic human needs and support the development of human capacities.
- Pursue policies, services, and resources through advocacy and social or political actions that promote social and economic justice.
- Develop and use research, knowledge, and skills that advance social work practice.
- Develop and apply practice in the context of diverse cultures.

The following is information to guide you in the application process:

- Prior to beginning the program, you must be admitted to Portland State University, http://www.pdx.edu/admissions/
- You must be of junior status (90 credits) by the term that you will start the program.
- You must submit your application postmarked or stamped to the SSW office by March 1st.

BSW Program Goals

1. To provide a public access program with the goal of preparing generalist social workers who are informed and effective leaders in challenging injustice and promoting social and economic justice.
2. To prepare generalist social workers to practice competently with individuals, families, and groups through promoting well-being and self-determination.
3. To prepare generalist social workers to assume the role of change agent regarding issues, policies, and community needs that affect individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
4. To prepare generalist social workers able to work with a diversity of populations, integrating values, ethics, empirically informed practice, and service user input.
5. To provide a foundation for advanced study in social work and prepare generalist social workers to be reflective practitioners and lifelong learners.
To complete the Application packet submit the following by the posted due date:

1) The BSW application form (available on the School of Social Work’s website http://www.pdx.edu/ssw/bsw-admissions);

2) Two references using the BSW reference form (available on the website above). Select two people who can serve as references for you. They should be people, other than family or friends, who know your academic work and/or your work with individuals, families and/or community services. Download the form from the website, complete the top part of the form, and give a copy to the people you have selected as references. Ask them to complete the form, attach a letter, place it in an envelope, sign the sealed envelope flap, and return it to you. You will submit these envelopes as part of your packet;

3) Your unofficial transcripts from any and all colleges that you have attended.

4) A 2-3 page double-spaced personal statement about yourself that demonstrates your commitment to, and interest in, social work, social justice and social change. Please address the following 5 questions and relate how the goals of the BSW Program meet your life and professional goal(s). List the question and then your response. (You will be evaluated based on 5 questions.)

1. Why have you chosen social work as a profession? How do your beliefs and life experiences reflect a commitment to social work? What strengths do you bring to the profession? (Relate to statement of social work purpose and program goals on preceding page.)

2. How have your experience(s) with diverse individuals, groups, and/or communities shaped your identity and self-awareness?

3. How have your experience(s) with diverse individuals, groups, and/or communities influenced your understanding of and commitment to social and economic justice?

4. What does your academic performance say about you? How have you used feedback from mentoring, advising, or supervision to support your learning? Be specific.

5. Considering our program is full-time, very structured, and intense (including 16 hours per week in field), how do you plan to manage your life responsibilities? What challenges do you foresee and what support systems do you have in place?

Please turn in a copy of all application materials as a single Application Packet to:

BSW Program - Admissions
Portland State University - SSW
PO Box 751
Portland, OR 97207-0751

The Admission Committee will notify you of our decision. This will be in time for you to register for the fall term. If you are admitted you are required to attend a PSU Orientation prior to your registration and another BSW Program Orientation before classes start. This meeting is mandatory and your admittance will be provisional until you attend the BSW Program Orientation. The BSW Program Orientation date will be provided once your application is processed. Thank you for your interest in our BSW Program. We look forward to working with you in the future.