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

Thank you for your interest in the BSW Program at Portland State University! Our program is CSWE accredited and prepares undergraduates to become generalist social workers in a wide variety of community based, public and private sector human service organizations. We seek applicants whose values align with the mission the PSU School of Social Work, which is to promote racial, social, and economic justice for all people.

Are you ready to apply? Important prerequisites for application to the BSW Program:

• Before applying to the BSW Program, you must be admitted to Portland State University, [http://www.pdx.edu/admissions/](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 a postmarked application packet to the SSW office by March 1st.

To complete the Application packet, please submit the following by March 1st. All forms are available on the School of Social Work website: [http://www.pdx.edu/ssw/bsw-admissions](http://www.pdx.edu/ssw/bsw-admissions)

• BSW Application Form;
• Two Reference letters using the BSW reference form;
  Select two people who can serve as references for you. They should be people who know your academic work and/or your work with individuals, families and/or community services. Please do not submit letters from family or friends. 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.
• Your unofficial transcripts from any and all colleges that you have attended;
• An essay, which will be used to evaluate your writing skills and your readiness for admission to the BSW Program. This should be a personal statement about yourself that demonstrates your interest in and commitment to social work, social justice, and social change. Please answer the following 5 questions; list the question and then your response. These should be double spaced, with no more than one page per question.
  1. In addition to your personal desire to help people, why have you chosen social work as a profession over another profession or major?
  2. How have your life experiences and identity shaped your understanding of oppression and privilege?
  3. In what ways are you committed to social, economic, and racial justice?
  4. Describe your academic strengths and challenges. 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 mail or 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!