



UNC
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

ASHEVILLE DISTANCE EDUCATION MSW PROGRAM

**Asheville Graduate Center
UNC Asheville Campus
Asheville, NC**

HISTORY

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work began offering the Master of Social Work degree at the Asheville Graduate Center in 1985. Eleven cohorts of students have completed their degree by beginning their program of study in Asheville.

PURPOSE

The program is designed for students, who live within commuting distance to Asheville, who are employed as helping professionals, and who cannot accommodate two academic years of full-time study in Chapel Hill.

PROGRAM

The mission of the School of Social Work is to advance knowledge regarding social problems and programs, to educate social workers for advanced practice, and to provide leadership in the development of socially and economically just policies and programs that strengthen individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

Students in the Asheville program complete the same curriculum requirements as students in the full-time program, including field education practica. Degree requirements (62 credit hours) are completed in three years. The first 32 credit hours (foundation curriculum) are completed on the campus of UNC Asheville, and in approved field education placement sites, over a two-year period. The final 30 credit hours (advanced curriculum), including a field practicum three days a week, are completed in one year as a full-time Chapel Hill student.

In their final year, students select one of three concentration options in the advanced curriculum: 1) Direct Practice; 2) Management and Community Practice; or 3) Self Directed.

Graduates earn a MSW degree from the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work. All degree requirements must be completed within a five-year period. The UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

ASHEVILLE PLAN OF STUDY

Classes are held all day Friday (9:00 am – 12:00 pm, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm) at UNC Asheville for two academic years with a foundation field practicum beginning the second year of study. The foundation practicum requirement includes 12-16 hours of fieldwork each week for both semesters (approximately 480 field hours). Field placement in a student's employing agency is the exception rather than a standard student option and requires special arrangement and approval from the Director of Field Education. If a concurrent field practicum presents a special hardship, students may petition the Field Education Office for a summer block placement (5 days/week for a total of 60 days). Applicants should note that summer block placements are subject to availability. Asheville Distance Education MSW Program students may take electives during summer school at UNC-Chapel Hill or any of the distance education program locations; however, students must meet the course pre-requisites in order to enroll. The following chart outlines the three-year plan of study.

YEAR ONE		
Fall 2009		
SOWO 530: Foundations of Social Welfare and Social Work		3 credit hours
SOWO 500: Human Behavior in Context: Infancy to Adolescence		3 credit hours
Spring 2010		
SOWO 505: Human Behavior in Context: Adulthood to Older Adulthood		3 credit hours
SOWO 501: Confronting Oppression and Institutional Discrimination		3 credit hours
1st Summer Session 2010 (Optional)		
SOWO TBD: Elective		3 credit hours
YEAR TWO		
Fall 2010		
SOWO 540: Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups		3 credit hours
SOWO 570: Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities		3 credit hours
SOWO 520: Social Work Practicum I		3 credit hours
SOWO 523: Field Seminar I		1 credit hour
Spring 2011		
SOWO 517: Integrated Practice		3 credit hours
SOWO 510: Foundations for Evidence-Based Practice & Program Evaluation		3 credit hours
SOWO 521: Social Work Practicum II		3 credit hours
SOWO 524: Field Seminar II		1 credit hour
1st Summer Session 2011 (Optional)		
SOWO TBD: Elective		3 credit hours
YEAR THREE		
Fall 2011 & Spring 2012		
Three classes both semesters offered on Mondays and Tuesdays (18 credit hours) on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus and Field Practicum (12 credit hours) for three days a week both semesters. Optional summer electives may reduce course load for the third and final year in Chapel Hill.		

ADMISSION

Asheville Distance Education MSW students are selected by the same criteria used for full-time students on the Chapel Hill campus. Admission requirements include:

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
- Broad liberal arts background with preparation in social, behavioral, and biological sciences and humanities. Computer literacy and access to computer hardware and software is expected.
- Cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 in undergraduate studies.
- Official GRE scores. Scores must be based upon test administrations within the last five years and reach the admissions committee by the January 16 application deadline. Applicants who have a combined score of 1000 or higher on the verbal and quantitative section of the GRE are more competitive.
- A complete Graduate School and School of Social Work application including the following: a personal narrative statement, resume, 2 copies of transcripts, a minimum of 3 letters of recommendation, responses to a set of questions about employment status and field placement policies and procedures, and an application fee of \$75.00.

Typically, applicants for the Asheville Distance Education MSW Program are notified concerning their admission status between March and May. All admissions will be provisional until the budget for admitting another class has been approved by the UNC Board of Governors. Preference is given to students who are employed in human service agencies and who are from the geographic region in which the program is located. Students not employed in a human service agency must be engaged in significant volunteer activity in an agency with access to clients.

The school also offers dual degree programs with the School of Public health, Law School, and the Masters of Public Administration Program at UNC Chapel Hill, and the Divinity School at Duke University. Applicants to a dual degree program must apply for admission separately to each respective program; please visit <http://ssw.unc.edu/masters/dual-degree/index.html> for more information.

For complete admission requirements, guidelines for the personal narrative, resume and recommendation letters, please visit the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work web site at <http://ssw.unc.edu/>.

**TO ENTER FALL SEMESTER 2009
APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 16, 2009**

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON-LINE

<http://gradschool.unc.edu/>

<http://ssw.unc.edu/>

EXPENSES

Estimated costs for the 2009-2010 academic year are as follows:

- Year One: Tuition and fees will be approximately \$3,360 per year for in-state and \$6,252 per year for out-of-state students.
- Year Two: Tuition and fees (including field practica) will be approximately \$6,200 per year for in-state and \$11,400 per year for out-of-state students.
- Year Three: Tuition and fees (including field practica) will be approximately \$6,993 per year for in-state and \$21,141 per year for out-of-state students.

The next cohort of the Asheville Distance Education Program begins Fall 2009

Tuition for the 2009-2010 academic year will not be determined until Summer 2009. For the most up-to-date tuition costs, please visit the UNC-Chapel Hill Cashiers Office website at the following address: www.ais.unc.edu/bfhome/cashiers/stufininfo.htm

FINANCIAL AID

Students in the Asheville Distance Education MSW Program are enrolled in an off-campus distance education professional program, making them eligible for some types of financial aid. Applicants interested in financial aid should complete two forms: the FAFSA form and the Financial Aid form on the School of Social Work web-site. Contact the UNC Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, 300 Vance Hall, CB #2300, Chapel Hill, NC 27599, (919) 962-8396 with questions relating to the FAFSA and loan eligibility. For specific information concerning financial aid offered through the School of Social Work, contact Sharon Holmes Thomas, Director of Recruitment, Admissions & Financial Aid at (919) 962-4367 or sholmes@email.unc.edu.

To receive additional information, please contact:

Kelly B. Reath, MSW, PhD, Director
Asheville Distance Education MSW Program
Asheville Graduate Center
UNCA CPO #2140, One University Heights
Asheville, NC 28804-8509
Email: reath@unca.edu
Telephone: 828-251-6725
Website: <http://www.unca.edu/agc/>

Linda T. Wilson
Student Services Manager
UNC-Chapel Hill, School of Social Work
Email: ltw2517@email.unc.edu
Telephone: 919-962-6442

UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work
325 Pittsboro St., CB 3550
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3550
Web Site: <http://ssw.unc.edu/>
Telephone: 919-962-1225
Fax: 919-843-8562

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