MSW Admissions Guidelines

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Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Silver School of Social Work at New York University. Our Master of Social Work program offers you preparation for a challenging and rewarding career serving others and promoting social justice. There are a great many opportunities today for social workers who have the knowledge and the skill to help individuals, couples, families, groups and communities and contribute to the quality of life in our society. We at Silver are pleased that you are considering social work as a career and that you are thinking about coming to our school.

The Admissions and Enrollment Services Office and I are ready to assist you. You may call, e-mail or meet with us to discuss your educational and professional goals. If you have any questions about the enclosed material or about the on-line application (the link is posted at: https://apply.socialwork.nyu.edu/apply/?SR=503dc386-890e-4464-9074-b0cc5f164de8), please e-mail silver.shanghai@nyu.edu or contact the Admissions and Enrollment Services Office at the main campus at 001-212-998-5910 or silver.admissions@nyu.edu.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Respectfully,

Robert Sommo, MA
Assistant Dean, Enrollment Services
**MSW General Requirements for Admission**

A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university is required or US equivalent (evaluation is required). Applicants should have a broad liberal arts background that includes study in the social, behavioral, and biological sciences with a minimum of 60 liberal arts credits. Course work relating to diverse cultures, social conditions, and social problems is favorably considered. Academic credit is not given for life experience in lieu of field education or course requirements.

- A strong academic record and demonstrated intellectual capacity for graduate education.
- An ability to think logically and conceptually and to formulate mature judgments.
- Excellent writing and verbal communication skills.
- Knowledge of the field and evidence of a commitment to social work as a profession.
- Evidence of emotional maturity, concern for people, and capacity for self-awareness and personal growth.
- Demonstrated concern and commitment to the values underlying professional social work.
- Respect for diversity.
- The GRE is NOT required.
- TOEFL or IELTS

Indications of motivation and readiness for social work education include related work or volunteer experience and undergraduate or graduate courses in social and behavioral sciences or social work. When these are lacking, weight is given to the applicant’s involvement in community activities or participation in organizations committed to humanistic values.

**NYU Online Admissions Application System**

Please log-in or create a user account at: [https://apply.socialwork.nyu.edu/apply/?SR=503dc386-890e-4464-9074-b0cc5f164de8](https://apply.socialwork.nyu.edu/apply/?SR=503dc386-890e-4464-9074-b0cc5f164de8)

Our application system is supported by most web browsers and devices, however optimal user experience is offered through using the Chrome web browser.

Any technical issues should be directed to us by emailing: [silver.admissions@nyu.edu](mailto:silver.admissions@nyu.edu)
Program-Specific Requirements

TWO-YEAR: General requirements apply.

TWO-YEAR PROGRAM @ SHANGHAI AND NEW YORK: General requirements apply. Ability to study and work in multicultural environments. First year is in Shanghai and second year is in New York. If English is not your native language, you must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing Systems (IELTS) exam (see page 9 for additional information). Pay close attention to the additional Statement of Purpose question.

DUAL DEGREE: General requirements apply. Must complete a separate application for each degree program / school. Each school / Admissions Office evaluates the application based on its own requirements. No special admission standards are applied to the dual degree applicants at either school. Once admitted to both schools, the student qualifies for the dual degree program. The Silver School has the following dual degrees:

- MSW and MA in Child Development at Sarah Lawrence College
- MSW and MA in Health Advocacy at Sarah Lawrence College
- MSW and JD at NYU School of Law
- MSW and MPH at NYU College of Global Public Health
- MSW and Executive MPA at NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service

Application Guidelines / Tips

Below are suggestions to assist you in completing the application.

TRANSCRIPTS: We require transcripts from all colleges or universities in which you earned 12 or more credits including the institution where you are in the process of earning your Bachelor’s degree. We request that you upload an electronic copy (or a scan of one student copy) in the Academic History section of our online application, as this will allow us to make a faster decision on your application. We do not need your official copy (mailed in a sealed, official school envelope or sent through a secure electronic provider such as Scrip-Safe) unless you are admitted.

All admitted students must provide an official transcript with degree conferral indicated. Some schools will send a transcript by mail directly to the institution to which you are applying.
Official transcripts may be mailed or dropped off at:

Silver School of Social Work
New York University
Admissions and Enrollment Services Office
1 Washington Square North
New York, NY 10003-6654

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION: You should select three recommenders and have them agree to write letters on your behalf if you are applying to one of our matriculating degree programs. These individuals should know you well and can evaluate your potential for graduate school education (i.e: employers, supervisors, and college professors). Be sure to inform them of the deadline for submission.

The recommenders will receive an e-mail prompting them to complete a questionnaire and upload a letter of recommendation online. You should visit your online application regularly to monitor completion of this important part of your application. It is a good idea to have backup recommenders.

We discourage letters from friends, relatives, neighbors, therapists, doctors, etc. If you have recently graduated or about to graduate, reach out to professors. If you have worked, ask your supervisor. We want letters that can speak on your performance and why you would make a great addition to the field of social work.

If your application deadline is in early January, we strongly advise you to urge your recommenders to upload their letters in December. The system will accept letters after you submit your application; however, letters submitted after the application deadline will greatly delay the processing of your application.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: Non-native English speaking applicants are required to submit the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing Systems (IELTS). Applicants who have earned a degree from an institution where the language of instruction is exclusively English regardless of country are exempt from submitting a TOEFL or IELTS score. General Requirements apply.
Test results should be uploaded into the application. You may self-report scores if a hard copy is not available; but, these will need to be verified with an official copy at a later date.

**FINANCIAL AID:** If you are seeking financial aid you should note that in the application where asked. U.S. students are asked to file the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Failure to do so may adversely affect the timing and/or the issuance of the financial aid package/report sent by the NYU Office of Financial Aid to accepted applicants. Requesting consideration for aid has no bearing on the admission decision.

All students, including international, will be considered for merit-based scholarship (Silver based awards). Please be sure to note that you wish to be considered for scholarship where asked. Accepted international students are not eligible for funding from federal sources. Consequently, they cannot file the FAFSA. International students are expected to seek aid and loans from their home country.

**SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION:** Payment of the $60 application fee can only be made after you have answered all questions and submit. We greatly encourage you to submit your application early. It will allow us to expediently remit your application along with supporting credentials to the Admissions Committee for evaluation.

If you have an early January deadline, please try to avoid submitting your application on the last day unless your application is incomplete (i.e. missing one or more letters of recommendation, a transcript, or an English Language Proficiency score) in which case it is preferable to submit on time and make every effort to get us the missing piece as quickly as possible after the deadline. Applications that are incomplete after the deadline will not be reviewed until everything is in.

Your application account will remain active for one year from the date of your last access. When you complete your online application, remember to submit it, **you do not need to wait for your reference letters or your transcripts to be received.** Please direct specific questions about the application process to our office (silver.admissions@nyu.edu). If you experience any technical difficulty with your application, please e-mail silver.admissions@nyu.edu.
International Students

If English is not your native language, you must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing Systems (IELTS) exam. Applicants who have earned a degree from an institution where the language of instruction (for four years) is exclusively English regardless of country are exempt from submitting a TOEFL or IELTS score. General Requirements apply.

All foreign academic records must be submitted with official translation to English or a notarized translation to English must be included along with official transcripts from international institutions. All applicants with international credentials are required to include a professional evaluation of the degree to determine if it is equivalent to the U.S. bachelor’s degree. Evaluations are required. We accept foreign credentials evaluated by companies listed on the NACES website at http://www.naces.org/members.htm. Applicants with such credentials should file their applications well in advance of the term for which they are applying.

Minimum scores for the TOEFL are: paper based (PBT): 580; computer based (CBT): 237; Internet based (IBT): 92-93. Our TOEFL code is 2506. We will accept an unofficial score until the official one arrives.

Admission criteria for the IELTS is an overall score of 7.0 or higher (no individual scores less than 7 in any category).

These exams (TOEFL and IELTS) should be taken far enough in advance of the term in which the applicant wishes to be admitted. An application is not complete until all official scores are submitted, and they must be submitted by the printed deadlines. Test scores (both TOEFL and IELTS) are considered valid for two years.

For more information about the Office of Global Services, log onto http://www.nyu.edu/global/international-immigration-services.html.
Statement of Purpose Guidelines & Questions

A well-constructed essay of no more than six pages, answer each of the questions below. Your essay MUST be typewritten, double-spaced, with one-inch margins and a type size of at least 12 points.

**Question 1:** How did you become interested in social work? What personal, academic, organizational, volunteer, and/or paid work experiences have influenced your choice of social work as a profession? If you considered a different major or career, please discuss your reasons for the change to social work.

**Question 2:** What are your reasons for seeking graduate social work education at this time? What are your expectations of graduate social work education?

**Question 3:** Describe some intellectual and personal attributes that you believe make you particularly suited for the profession of social work. What attribute would you most like to strengthen or change in order to increase your ability to be helpful to others?

**Question 4:** Briefly discuss a current social issue of great concern or interest to you.

**Question 5:** What are your career interests and goals? As a graduate of the Silver School of Social Work at New York University, how do you expect to contribute to the social work profession?

**Question 6 (optional):** Is there anything else you would like us to know as we consider your application? Please describe.

**MSW Program at Shanghai and New York Applicants ONLY:** Please include a one-page essay on why you are interested in applying to our Global MSW Program at NYU Shanghai.
Essential Abilities and Attributes for Social Work Students

Students in the New York University Silver School of Social Work are expected to possess the following abilities and attributes at a level appropriate to their year in the program. These physical, cognitive, emotional, and character requirements provide reasonable assurance that students can complete the entire course of study and participate fully in all aspects of social work education and practice. Students are expected to meet these standards in the classroom, in their practicums, and elsewhere. Attention to these standards will be part of evaluations made by faculty members during the student’s course of study. Acquisition of competence as a social worker is a lengthy and complex process that will be undermined by significant limitations of the student’s ability to participate in the full spectrum of the experiences and the requirements of the curriculum.

Motor Abilities
Social work students need to have sufficient motor abilities to attend class and practicum placement with or without technical accommodation. Reasonable accommodation through technology for limitations in motor abilities will be allowed. The Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities should be consulted regarding reasonable accommodations.

Sensory Abilities
Social work students need to have the ability through their senses to participate in classes and practicum placement and to acquire and integrate data through the use of their senses with or without technical accommodation. Reasonable accommodation through technology for limitations in sensory abilities will be allowed. The Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities should be consulted regarding reasonable accommodations.

Communication Skills
Social work students need to communicate effectively with other students, faculty members, staff, clients, and other professionals. Students should be able to express their ideas and feelings clearly and demonstrate a willingness and ability to listen to others. They must have sufficient skills in spoken and written English to understand program content.

Professional Commitment
Social work students need to possess a commitment to the values and ethical standards of professional social work. They are expected to be
knowledgeable about and adhere to the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics.

**Knowledge Base of Social Work Practice**
Social work students need to recognize the distinctive components of the biopsychosocial perspective of social work practice and social work methodologies. They are expected to use this knowledge in guiding their work with clients and other professionals.

**Self-Awareness**
Social work students need to know how their values, attitudes, beliefs, emotions, and past experiences affect their thinking, behavior, and relationships. Students must be willing to examine and change their behavior when it interferes with working with clients and other collaborative professional relationships.

**Empathy**
Social work students need to comprehend another individual’s way of life and values. They must be able to communicate this empathy and support to the client as a basis for a productive professional relationship.

**Objectivity**
Social work students need to be objective in systematically evaluating clients and their situations. Social work students need to appreciate and value human diversity. They must serve in an appropriate manner all persons in need of assistance, regardless of the person’s age, class, race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, gender and its expression, ability, sexual orientation, and value system.

**Interpersonal Skills**
Social work students need to demonstrate the interpersonal skills to relate effectively and sensitively to students, faculty members, staff, clients, and other professionals. Leadership: Social work students need to show initiative in making professional contributions in their practice setting.

**Self-Care**
Social work students need to recognize the signs of stress, develop appropriate means of self-care, and seek supportive resources, if necessary. Social work students need to behave professionally by knowing and practicing within the scope of social work, adhering to the Code of Ethics, respecting others, being punctual and dependable, prioritizing responsibilities, and completing assignments on time.