SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

ADVANCED STANDING OPTION

ADVANCED STANDING OPTION AT THE UNM MSW PROGRAM:

Advanced Standing allows qualified applicants with a prior BSW social work degree to enter directly into the specialized/concentration year of UNM's MSW program rather than repeating the full generalist year. The UNM MSW program will allow advanced standing applicants starting in Spring of 2028. Advanced Standing students complete the MSW in one year, choose either the Clinical or Medical concentration, and move directly into specialized coursework without repeating generalist content already completed in the BSW, consistent with CSWE (Council of Social Work Education) standards.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Applicants may qualify if they have:

- BSW from a CSWE-accredited program
- BSW from a CASWE-accredited program in Canada, or
- an international social work degree evaluated by ISWDRES as comparable to a baccalaureate social work degree

UNM'S POLICY REQUIRES:

- degree completion within the last 5 years
- 3.0 or higher GPA in social work coursework
- transcripts showing completion of required social work coursework

NEW MEXICO COURSE REQUIREMENT: Students whose BSW was earned outside New Mexico must take SOWK 502: Anti-Oppressive Social Work Practice in New Mexico.

FIELD EDUCATION: UNM requires 900 total field hours for the MSW. Advanced Standing students apply 400 BSW practicum hours and complete 500 specialized practice hours at UNM.

IF YOU DO NOT FULLY QUALIFY: Students with a qualifying BSW who do not meet Advanced Standing requirements may still be able to petition to waive one or more generalist courses through faculty review of transcripts and syllabi. Prior coursework must align with current CSWE EPAS and UNM curriculum, and the student must have earned at least a B in the course.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!

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