

Department of Social Work, Minnesota State University
Financing Your MSW (Master of Social Work) Education (Rev. 9/12/2023)

Federal Financial Aid

Graduate students may apply for Federal Direct Loans, Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loans, and private educational loans. Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The FAFSA becomes available October 1 for the next academic year. Graduate students are considered an Independent Student when enrolled in a graduate or professional program. <https://www.mnsu.edu/university-life/campus-services/campus-hub/financial-aid/graduate--doctoral-students/>

Graduate Assistantships

Graduate students may apply for graduate assistantships in the Department of Social Work and in any other campus unit they meet the qualifications. <https://grad.mnsu.edu/graduate-student-resources/graduate-assistantships/>

- Full-time (20 hrs./per week): Up to a \$10,000 stipend and 9 credits of tuition paid per semester.
- Part-time (10 hrs./per week): Up to a \$5,000 stipend and 4.5 credits of tuition paid per semester.

Go to the **Graduate Assistantship Opportunities** webpage for opportunities. Opportunities for the 2024-25 academic year are targeted for posting by mid-January of 2024. Check often for new postings throughout the spring and summer. <https://www.mnsu.edu/university-life/career-development-center/student-and-alumni-career-resources/jobs-and-internships/graduate-assistantship-opportunities/>

MSW Program Opportunities

Currently, the MSW Program has two stipend programs to supplement coursework and help offset the cost of graduate education and another under development.

1. **Title IV-E Child Welfare Scholar Stipend:** \$15K per year (Generalist and Specialist), plus professional development money. Recipients are required to complete each practicum experience in a tribal, public or other approved child welfare setting. Students apply AFTER accepting admission to the MSW program. International students are not eligible. Contact Dr. Debra Gohagan for additional information (Debra.gohagan@mnsu.edu)
2. **Behavioral Health Initiative (HRSA, Health Resources and Services Administration) Stipend:** Available in the Specialist year (2nd year) focused on Integrated Behavioral Health. \$10K stipend the semester of practicum, plus professional development money. Recipients are required to complete the Specialist year practicum in a setting that provides integrated behavioral health. Students apply AFTER accepting admission to the MSW program. International students are not eligible. Contact Dr. David Beimers for additional information (David.beimers@mnsu.edu).
3. **Center for Rural Behavioral Health Fellowship.** The Fellowship is currently under development and will be affiliated with the new University Outpatient Mental Health Clinic. Students will receive a stipend and tuition support for 2 years in exchange for completing practicum placement at the clinic. More details to come. Anticipated launch for this program is August 2024. International students are eligible to apply. Contact Dr. Nancy Fitzsimons for more information (Nancy.fitzsimons@mnsu.edu)

Scholarships

In addition to university-affiliated scholarships, the Department offers six scholarships for MSW students ranging from \$1,500 to \$2,000 dollars. Scholarships for the next academic year are posted on [Scholarship Finder](#) and available to apply during the month of February.

Additional Student Support

- Membership in the [National Association of Social Workers](#).
- Financial support for attending program-supported regional and state conferences and training.
- Access to LGSW (Licensed Graduate Social Worker) licensure examination test preparation materials.