



# HOW TO APPLY 101:

A Comprehensive Application Guide  
to Baylor's MSW Program



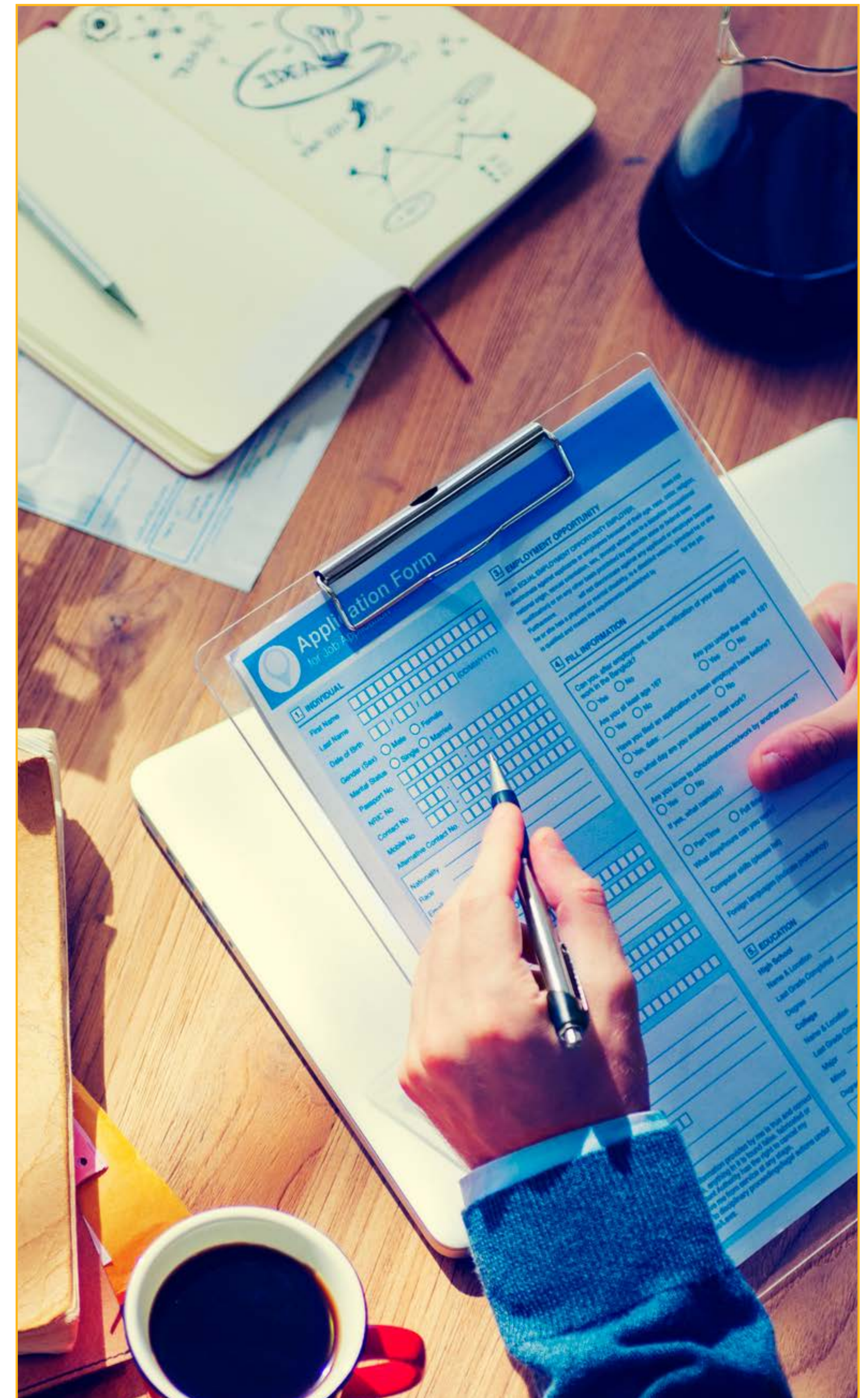
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## About the Guide

This guide is designed to provide prospective graduate students with information about the application process for Baylor University's Master of Social Work degree at the Waco, TX campus. It will walk students through each of the application steps including: application requirements and tips, how to apply for financial aid, and financial aid opportunities at Baylor. We hope you find this guide helpful as you set out to earn your MSW!





## Fast Facts About Baylor's MSW Program and Application

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The Diana R. Garland School of Social Work at Baylor University is proud to offer a [residential Master of Social Work program](#) to students at their Waco, TX campus. This master's degree takes 58 hours to complete following the standard degree plan, or 30 hours to complete following the advanced standing degree plan. Both full and part-time options are available. To learn which program you qualify for, [please visit the GSSW website](#).

The MSW is fully accredited by the [Council on Social Work Education](#) and fulfills all graduate education requirements needed for Texas state licensure and professional social work credentials. Planning to work outside of Texas? [Find your state's specific licensure requirements here.](#)



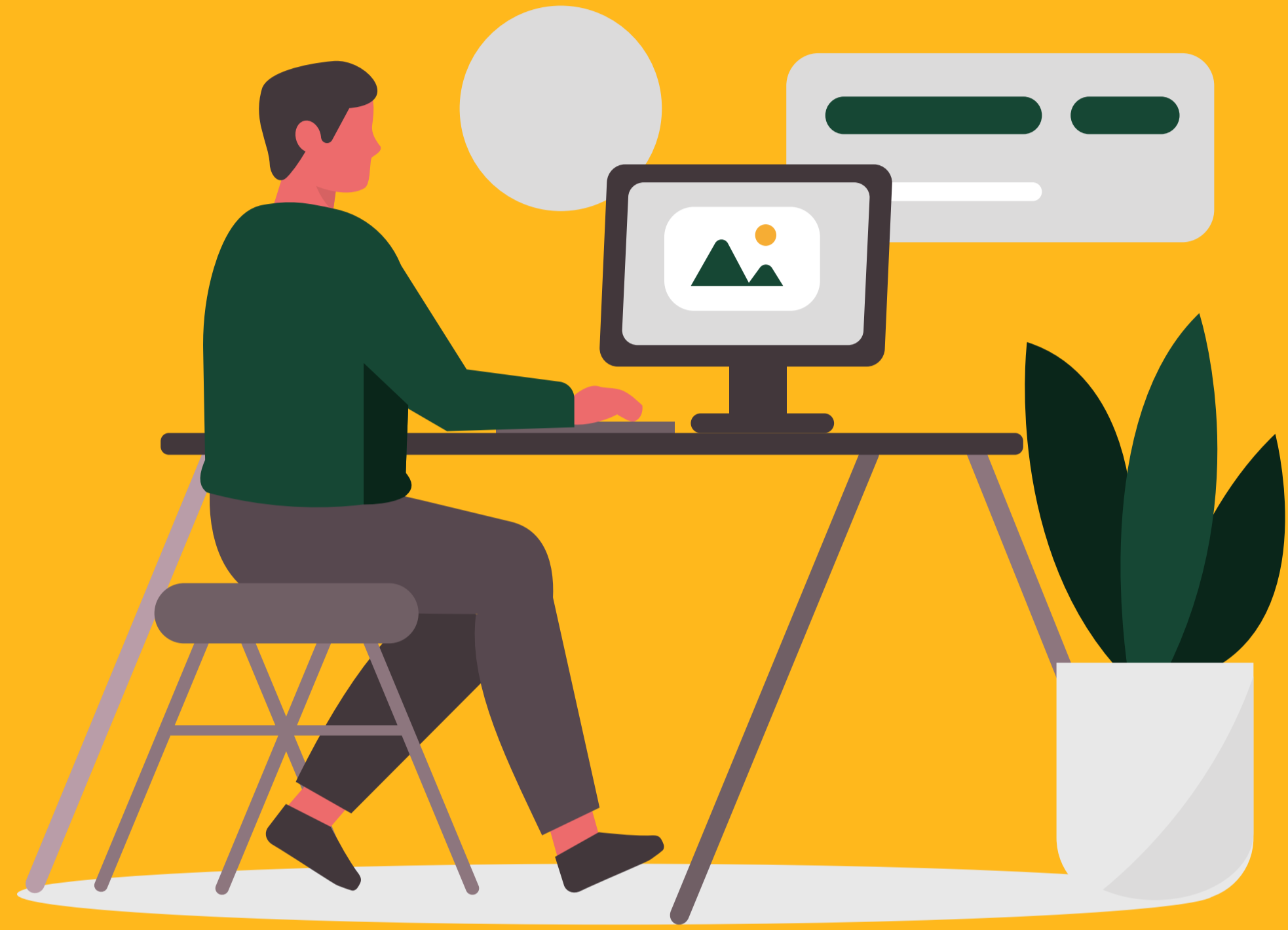
*Did you know?*

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Baylor's first time pass rate for the LMSW exam is **85 percent**, higher than the national first time pass rate of **76 percent**.

”

[Find Your Niche: Take An In-Depth Look at 5 Specialty Areas of Social Work](#)



Students can customize their degree by choosing from [two academic specializations and several concentrations](#), and will work closely on their degree plan with a faculty member.



Baylor's MSW program boasts an impressive 1:10 student to faculty ratio. Small class size and tight-knit cohorts form our foundation of individualized and meaningful learning, discovery, and social work practice.

## 4 Quick Tips for a Successful Application

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- 1. Review, revise, and review again** — Grammar, punctuation, and editing matter. Be sure there are no typos or other errors that can distract readers.

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- 2. Answer the question** — As a graduate student, you learn how to write in a concise manner. Use your application as a chance to highlight this skill by answering the question asked of you and avoid rambling.

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- 3. Read the mission statement** — Knowing the mission of a program and highlighting how you identify with that mission can help reviewers understand what you would bring to the program.

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- 4. Apply early** — Waiting until a few days before a deadline may lead to technical issues or delayed processing. Applying early will ensure you have the most competitive financial aid award but all documents must be processed for you to be reviewed. (Please allow up to 72 hours of processing time for all documents.)

Begin your Application Here!



Gather your documents and materials



Choose a specialization in the application (advanced standing students only)



Complete and submit your application



Accept your offer and pay your deposit



Meet with the practicum placement team to complete the practicum placement process



Get acquainted with your MSW Program Manager



Register for classes



Begin your MSW program!

Congrats! You're an MSW Student!



## MSW Eligibility Requirements

To begin the application process, first find the program and application requirements that best suit your situation and needs by choosing from the three options below:

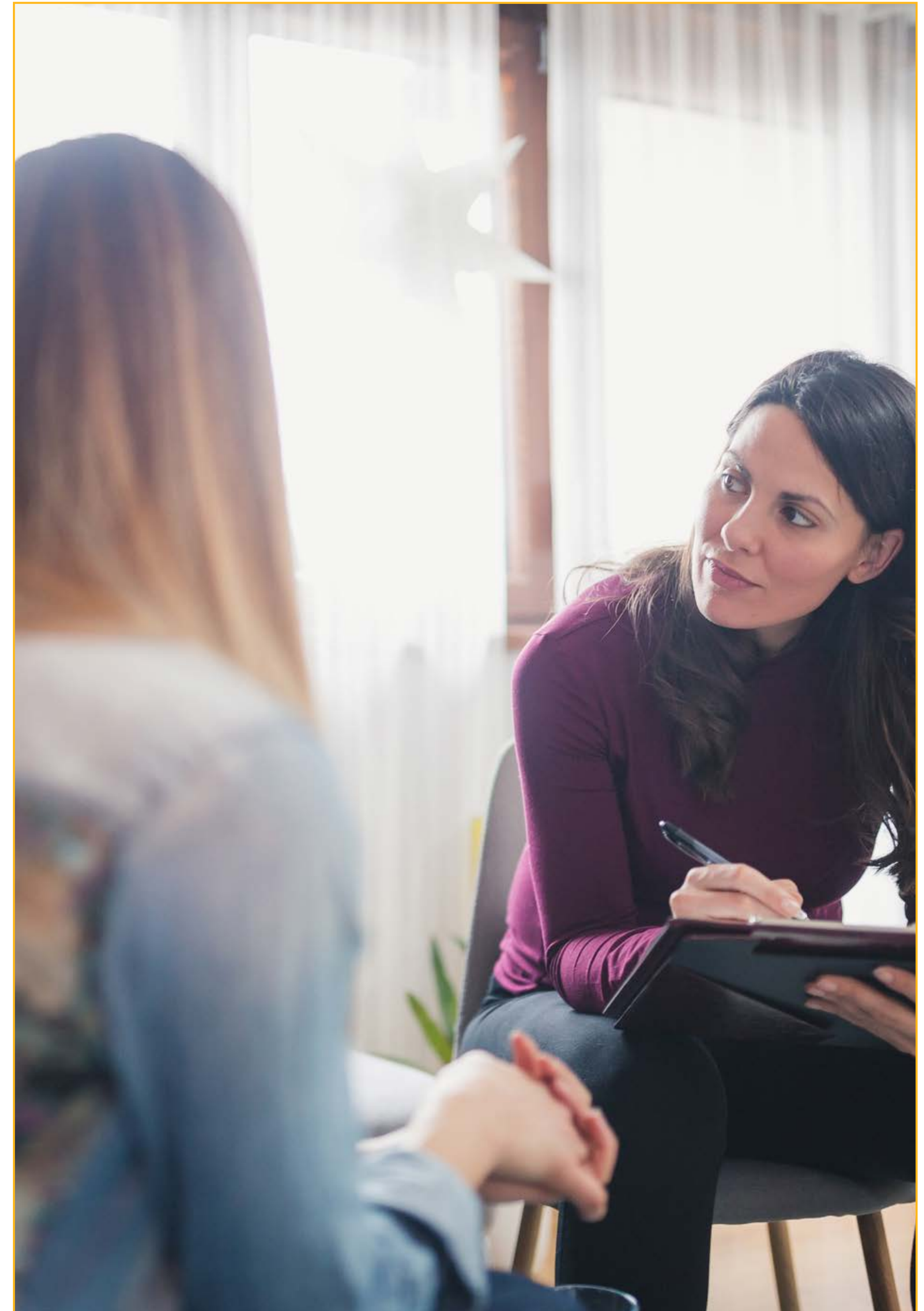
1. The Standard MSW program is a **full-time\***, **58-hour MSW** program for those who hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution or equivalent.
2. The Advanced Standing MSW program is a **full-time\***, **30-hour MSW** program for those who have earned a bachelor's in social work from an accredited CSWE institution within the last five years.
3. International students who wish to pursue a **full-time\***, **58-hour MSW** program must have earned a bachelor's from a regionally accredited institution in the United States or proof of equivalent training at a foreign institution of higher learning. For additional application requirements, please see our website.

*\*Part-time learning options are also available.*

[APPLY NOW](#)[ATTEND A LIVE-WEBINAR](#)[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MSW](#)

## Standard Admission Requirements

- [GoGarland Online Application](#)
- \$45 Application Fee
- [GSSW Financial Aid Form](#)
- [Free Application for Federal Aid \(FAFSA\)](#)  
or [CSS International Profile](#) for international applicants
- 3 letters of recommendation: At least one of your three letters of recommendation must be from an academic professor who has direct knowledge of your academic work
- Transcripts from all previous institutions



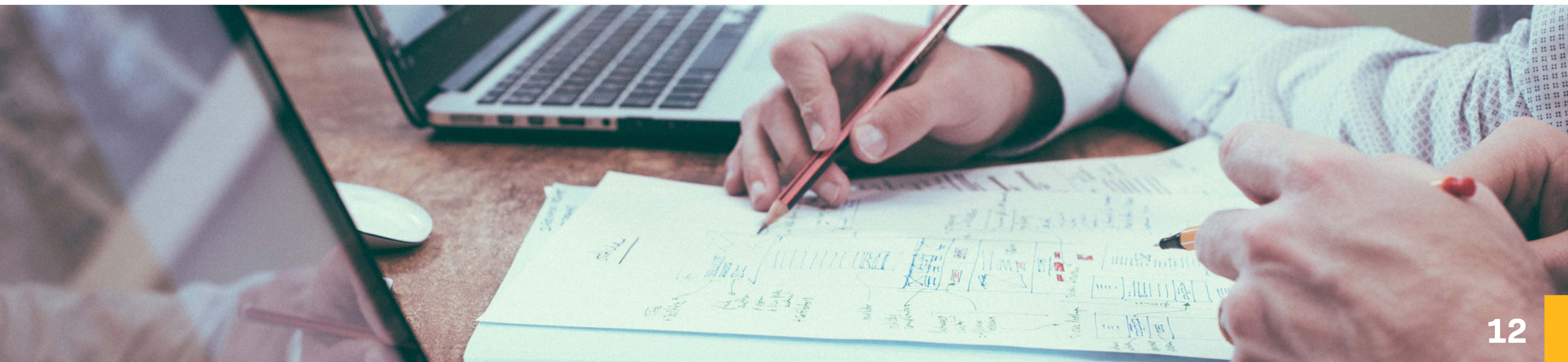


## Advanced Standing Admission Requirements

- [GoGarland Online Application](#)
- \$45 Application Fee
- [GSSW Financial Aid Form](#)
- [Free Application for Federal Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) or [CSS International Profile](#) for international applicants
- 3 letters of recommendation: At least **two** of your **three** letters of recommendation must be from an academic professor who has direct knowledge of your academic work. Of these two academic references, one must be the undergraduate program director, the director of practicum education, or the practicum instructor
- Transcripts from all previous institutions
- A cumulative grade point average of 2.7 or higher on a 4.0 scale
- A grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale in social work coursework, including a minimum grade of B in all practice and practicum courses
- A final practicum evaluation

## International Admission Requirements

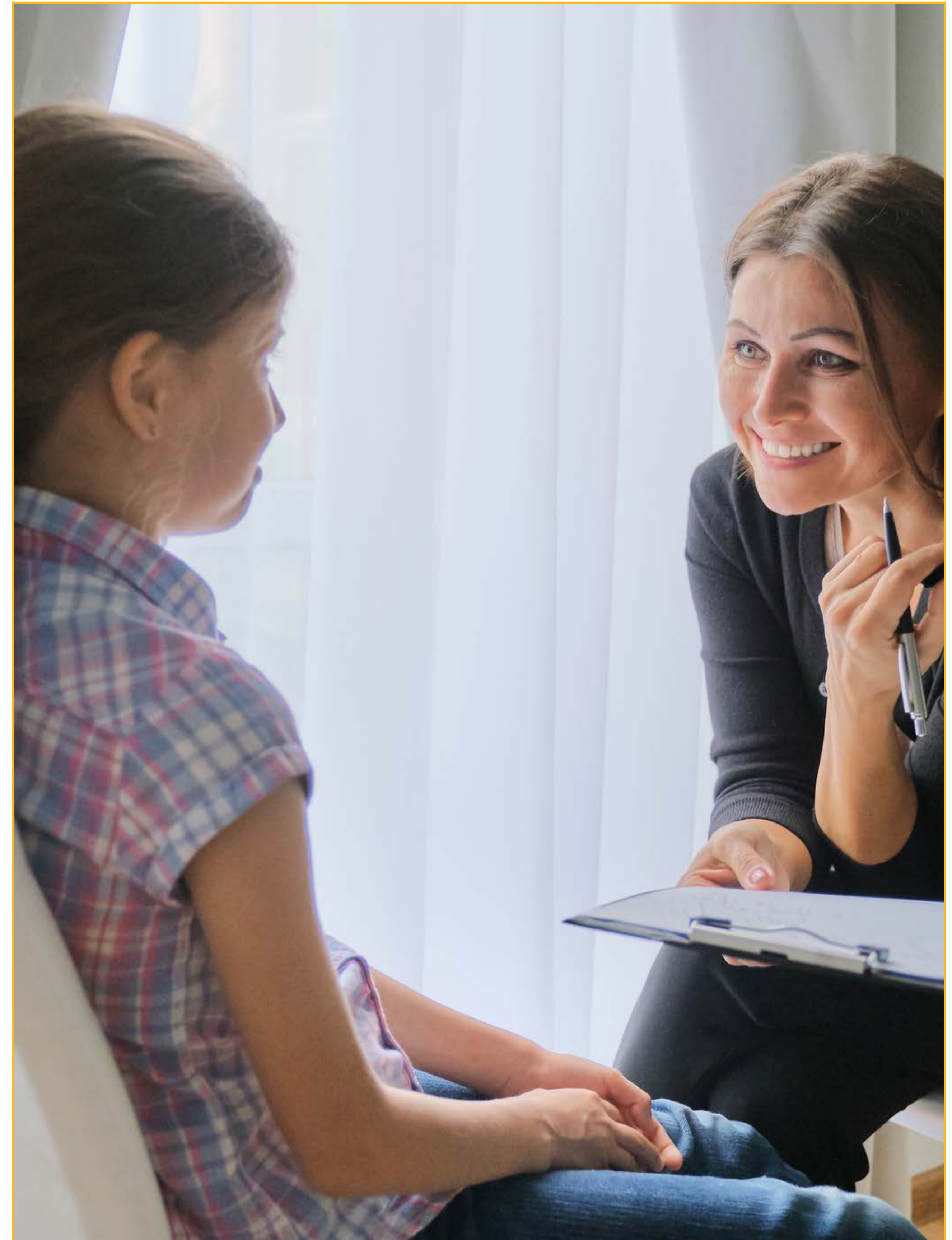
- [GoGarland Online Application](#)
- \$45 Application Fee
- [GSSW Financial Aid Form](#)
- [CSS International Profile](#)
- 3 letters of recommendation: At least **one** of your **three** letters of recommendation should come from an academic professor who has direct knowledge of your academic work
- Transcripts: Yearly or semester records from each college or university attended that indicate the number of lecture and/or laboratory hours per week, per course, and the grade received in each course
- Diplomas/Proof of Degree/Academic Certificates is required for each degree you have received. The documents will include the title and date of the degree conferred
- International applicants must demonstrate English-language proficiency by submitting either the TOEFL or IELTS scores  
[See our website for minimum scores and TOEFL/IELTS exemptions](#)



Official certified electronic transcripts should be sent to  
MSW\_Admissions@baylor.edu.  
Official hard copy transcripts and other documents  
should be mailed to:

Garland School of Social Work  
Graduate Admissions  
One Bear Place, #97320  
Waco, Texas 76798-7320

**RSVP TO ATTEND THE APPLICATION FAQ WEBINAR →**

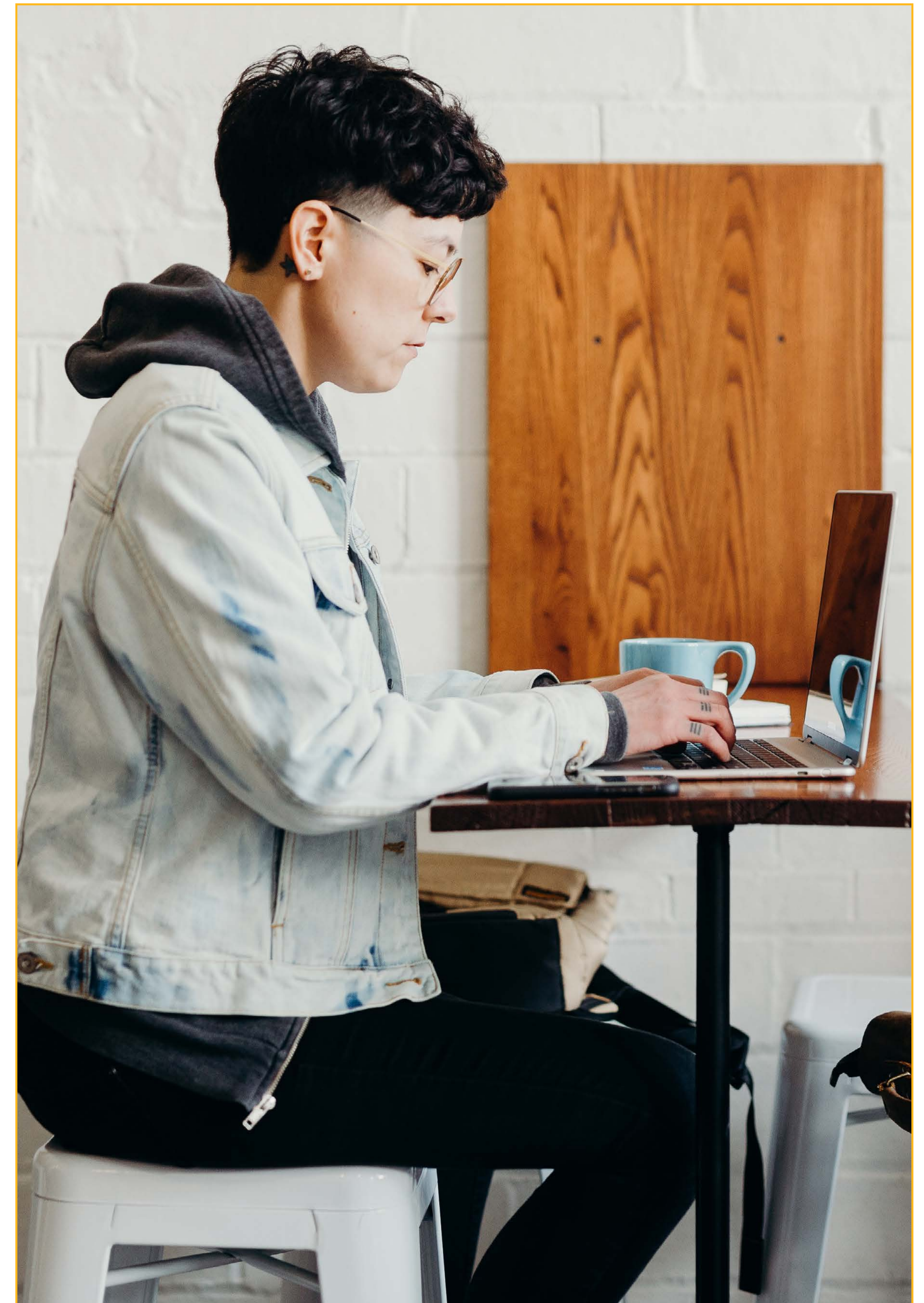


## Applying for Financial Aid at Baylor

To apply for financial assistance from the Garland School of Social Work, students need to submit two documents: the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)) (or the [CSS Financial Aid Profile](#) for international students) and our [GSSW Financial Aid Form](#).

**100% of the students who apply by the priority deadline (March 1) and are admitted receive aid.**

Here are some helpful tips as you navigate Baylor's financial aid application process.



## FAFSA 101: What is the FAFSA?

*FAFSA — the acronym is thrown around a lot, but what does it mean, and do you have to fill it out?*

The [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) is a federal program that is used to determine how much aid a student is qualified to receive. By filling out the FAFSA, you can apply for federal grants, work-study, and loans. Many colleges and universities also use the data collected in the FAFSA to make their own financial aid determinations. Aid is limited and is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis — so get your application in early for the best possible chance of assistance.

The application can be completed entirely online and will require you to [provide certain information](#) such as your social security number, driver's license, and records of income. If you have more questions about the application, [explore the FAFSA website](#), or contact the GSSW Office of Admissions.

*Note: If you are an international student applying to the MSW program, you do not need to complete the FAFSA, but instead should complete the [CSS Financial Aid Profile](#).*

**RSVP TO ATTEND THE FINANCIAL AID 101 WEBINAR →**

## Financial Aid and Scholarship Opportunities at the Garland School of Social Work

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Applicants are automatically considered for all three financial assistance opportunities upon completing the GSSW Financial Aid Form and do not need to take additional steps to apply for departmental aid from the School of Social Work. These opportunities are only available for the Waco residential program:



**Tuition Remission** is an award that helps to directly offset your tuition costs. These funds are credited to your student account at the beginning of each semester and not available for personal expenses.



**Scholarships**, offered through the School of Social Work, are based on need and/or merit and are awarded as funds that do not have to be paid back by the student. This is a [complete list of the departmental scholarships](#).



The **Graduate Assistantship Stipend** is a fixed sum of money paid periodically to students who serve in a support role in the School of Social Work. Graduate stipends are considered income. This form of assistance is only available to students who submit a completed application by the Priority Deadline.





Applicants are automatically considered for all three financial assistance opportunities upon completing the [GSSW Financial Aid Form](#) and do not need to take additional steps to apply for aid. All financial assistance is awarded on the strength of the candidate's application, merit, and level of need. **Financial aid is also dispersed on a first-come, first-served basis.** For the best possible financial aid consideration — [submit your application early!](#)

**DOWNLOAD OUR FINANCIAL AID INFOGRAPHIC TO LEARN MORE! →**

## FAQs and Answers

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### How can I apply for financial aid?

Two financial aid documents are required as part of the MSW application, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Financial Aid Profile (for international students) and our GSSW Financial Aid Form. All of these documents are submitted online. [Visit our How to Apply page for links](#) to each of these required forms. The School of Social Work operates on a rolling admissions process. Applications will be reviewed and financial assistance will be dispersed on a first-come, first-served basis. Submit your application as soon as possible for the best financial aid consideration.

[Don't forget about outside scholarship Opportunities! Check out these social work scholarships you've never heard of.](#)

### Do I have to take the GRE?

No. The GRE is not required.

### **Will my GPA make or break my admittance into the MSW program?**

Our Admission Committee takes a holistic approach when reviewing applications. Many factors enter into the admission decision for a professional school; there is not one single indicator for admission.

### **What kind of financial aid is available?**

The three sources of financial assistance we offer for the residential program are: Tuition Remission, Scholarships, and Graduate Assistantship Stipend. All financial assistance is awarded on the strength of the candidates' application, merit and level of need. The School of Social Work operates on a rolling admissions process. Applications will be reviewed and financial assistance will be dispersed on a first come, first served basis. Submit your application as soon as possible for best financial aid consideration.

**HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?  
SEE A COMPLETE LIST OF OUR FAQs AND ANSWERS ON OUR WEBSITE! →**

# Connect with the Garland School of Social Work at Baylor

We are excited that you are considering earning your Master of Social Work at Baylor University. If you have any questions as you begin to work on your application, please don't hesitate to reach out to a member of our admissions team. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

[START MY APPLICATION](#)

[REQUEST MORE INFORMATION](#)



**ATTEND A  
LIVE-WEBINAR**



**BOOK A  
MEETING**



**CONNECT  
WITH US**



**Jordan Goodnature**

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Diana R. Garland School of Social Work  
Baylor University  
[Jordan\\_Goodnature@baylor.edu](mailto:Jordan_Goodnature@baylor.edu)



**The Garland Admissions Team  
is here to help!**

If you have any questions, please contact [MSW\\_Admissions@baylor.edu](mailto:MSW_Admissions@baylor.edu) and a member of our team will reach out.

[EMAIL US](#)

