OVERVIEW

The College of Social Work offers three unique dual master’s degree programs that permit students to work on two degrees concurrently. By sharing credits, students take fewer courses than if each degree were pursued independently. Each program delivers specialized education and training in the two fields.

The curricula for all three dual degree programs are distinguished by a vigorous interdisciplinary approach to instruction and problem-solving.

- Master of Social Work and Master of Public Health (MSW/MPH)—in collaboration with the Arnold School of Public Health, 84 total credit hours, with 21 shared hours. MSW/MPH dual degree students choose from two Arnold School of Public Health Departments: Health Promotion Education and Behavior, and Health Services Policy and Management.
- Master of Social Work and Master of Public Administration (MSW/MPA)—in collaboration with the Department of Political Science, 81 total credit hours, with 18 shared hours.
- Master of Social Work and Juris Doctor (MSW/JD)—in collaboration with the School of Law; 135 total credit hours, with 15 shared hours.

PROGRAM MISSIONS

MSW/MPH

The College of Social Work collaborates with the Arnold School of Public Health to improve the health of the community, statewide and worldwide, by promoting social well-being of vulnerable populations through teaching, research, and service.

MSW/JD

The School of Law and the College of Social Work collaborate with local government and community to promote social justice through in-depth study of vulnerable populations which fosters legal development and reform.

MSW/MPA

The College of Social Work and Master of Public Administration program engage their students in promoting social justice with vulnerable populations through teaching and research aimed at enhancing the performance of the public and non-profit sectors across our communities, the state, region and nation.
CAREERS

Obtaining two graduate degrees can give students a competitive edge when entering the job market. Recent graduates have found careers with diverse employers including:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- National Council on Aging
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- State and local agencies
- International organizations
- Foreign governments
- Non-governmental organizations
- Policy planning and evaluation consulting firms

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Prospective students must apply for admission to each program through the University of South Carolina Graduate School or, in the case of the JD, directly to the law school through the Law School Admission Council (LSAC).

- Application Fee
- Bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution
- Résumé
- All official post-secondary transcripts
- Letters of Recommendation (please contact the respective departments for specific details)
- Autobiographical or Personal Statement (please contact the respective departments for specific details)
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores or Law School Admission Test (LSAT) score
- TOEFL or IELTS (international applicants whose native language is not English)

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Working on two degrees at once does not mean students must “double up” on their course load each semester. Students are not expected to take more than the normal fulltime course load (i.e., 15 to 18 credit hours). Rather, dual degree students tend to require 3 to 4 years to complete both programs.
- Consider applying simultaneously to the two graduate programs that offer your degrees of interest.
- Keep in mind that admissions decisions for each graduate program are made separately; admission to one does not depend on or guarantee admission to the other.
- Do not use one piece of an application, such as your personal statement, for the same requirement in the other application.
- In your personal statement, discuss your intent to pursue a dual-degree status, either now or in the future, and your reasons for doing so.
- Students who are accepted into only one of the two programs may consider re-applying to the other program within their first year of studies and after they had an opportunity to strengthen their application.