

**Proposal for “Qualifying Year” Entry into MSW Program
August 29, 2011**

1. Rationale/Precedence/Advantages:

It is estimated that, each year, the School of Social Work receives at least 75 inquiries for admission to the MSW from seemingly qualified candidates with completed undergraduate degrees other than a BSW, and in some instances completed graduate degrees. To date, these candidates have been advised to apply to the 60 credits/2 year BSW program with the possibility of applying to the MSW program following the successful completion of the first 30 credits/1st year of study. While some candidates have taken this route into the MSW program, many others have expressed a preference to apply directly into a graduate program following an undergraduate degree. Needless to say, these candidates do not pursue the BSW as an entry into the MSW and likely apply elsewhere as a result.

Other Schools/Faculties of social work in Quebec (U de M, Laval, Sherbrooke & UQAM) offer direct entry into their MSW programs to non-BSW candidates in the form of the completion of a Qualifying Year (QY) comprised of 30 credits that enable candidates to cover foundational knowledge & skills. In the rest of Canada, Faculties/Schools of Social Work offer 2 year MSW programs for highly qualified candidates who do not enter with a BSW degree (U of T, Calgary, for example).

In order to attract academically strong candidates from allied disciplines into our Graduate Program, and in order to compete with other Social Work programs in this and other provinces, a QY entry into the MSW is being requested with a proposed first admission for Fall 2012.

There are no apparent disadvantages to this proposal except in the situation of a student who fails a course during the QY. Although s/he will not be recommended to continue into the MSW, s/he could be directed to apply to the BSW with the possibility of transferring successfully completed social work credits to the undergraduate degree if s/he so chooses.

2. QY Program Description:

- full time study comprised of 15 credits per term for 2 terms
- comprised of undergraduate level courses (non-transferable to a future Master’s program)

Fall Term:

SWRK 211, 3 credits	Public Social Services in Canada
SWRK 353, 3 credits	Introduction to Practice
SWRK 350, 3 credits	Social Work Skills laboratory
SWRK 525, 3 credits	Critical Thought and Ethics in Social Work
SWRK 322, 3 credits	Field Practice 1

Winter Term:

SWRK 404, 3 credits	Foundations of Social Policy in Canada
SWRK 325, 3 credits	Anti-oppression Social Work Practice
SWRK 405, 3 credits	Approaches to Community/Group Practice
SWRK 326, 3 credits	Practice with Individuals & Families 2

3. Admission requirements for Candidates to the QY for entry into the MSW:

Applicants demonstrating academic excellence and prior human services experience are considered for admission to the Qualifying Year of study in preparation for entry to the MSW (Non-thesis) program. The applicant’s undergraduate record must meet the minimum general requirements of the GPS, which includes a minimum Grade Point Average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, or a high “B” standing in undergraduate studies. Individuals prepared in another professional discipline or who have begun academic studies in social work in other programs are not eligible.

Applicants are required to have completed a BA. Degree (DCS/DEC from CEGEP plus a minimum of a 90-credit, or three-year university degree; or, a high school diploma plus a minimum of a 120-credit or four-year university degree) prior to entry into the Qualifying Year. Applicants will have a minimum 1 year voluntary and/or paid social work/human service experience and will have fulfilled, by July 1st, the following prerequisites:

- one 3-credit undergraduate research methods course
- one 3-credit undergraduate statistics course
- three 3-credit (9 credits total) social science courses
- one 3-credit undergraduate course in human development

Please note that these prerequisites (coursework and experience) are identical to the admissions requirements for candidates with a BSW who are applying to the MSW.

Please note that a research methods course is preferably one in the social sciences. A grade less than mid-B in research methodology will lessen the applicant’s probability of admission. All transcripts will be reviewed on an individual basis by an academic advisor.

We accept applications into the Qualifying Year for Fall admission only, and full-time study only, as this is an integrated program of study for the entire year that cannot be taken out of sequence.

4. Application Face Sheet for Candidates to the QY for entry into the MSW:

Identify anticipated Area of interest for study:

- Children & Families
- Health & Social Care
- International & Community Development

GPS on-line application

CV short-form (to be updated with application for admission to MSW)

Statement of Interest for Social Work

3 references: 2 academic; 1 professional (volunteer/field/paid work experience)

5. Application Face Sheet for Candidates in the QY for entry to the MSW:

Non-thesis option: full-time, part-time

Law/Social Work: full-time, part-time

- Area of interest for study:
- Children & Families
 - Health & Social Care
 - International & Community Development

GPS on-line application

CV short-form (update to add field; any new volunteer work)

MSW Non-Thesis Study Plan

Fellowship Application Form

1 “Professional” Reference derived from the candidate’s mid term field placement evaluation

6. MSW admissions Rating Form (for candidates with & without a BSW)

Name of Applicant _____
Student Number _____
Area of interest for study: Children & Families
 Health & Social Care
 International & Community Development
Rater Name _____ Date _____
Work Experience 20%
References 10%
GPA 30%
MSW Non-thesis Study Plan 40%

- Well conceptualized social problem with clear connection to area of interest for study 15/40
- Attention to relevant theoretical and/or empirical contemporary scholarship 10/40
- Clearly communicated ideas: presentation; writing style; flow; grammar 10/40
- Clearly communicated academic intentions 5/40

7. FOR WEBSITE

Qualifying Year for Entry into the Master of Social Work (Non-thesis)

The School of Social Work is pleased to announce, **pending university approval**, a Qualifying Year for entry into the MSW program (non-thesis) for highly qualified candidates who have successfully completed a relevant BA including the necessary prerequisite courses. This route into the MSW program is specifically designed for the university graduate with no previous academic preparation in social work. A BA must include either a) DCS/DEC from CEGEP plus a minimum of a 90-credit, or three-year university degree; or, b) a high school diploma plus a minimum of a 120-credit or four-year university degree.

The School of Social Work offers a dynamic graduate program with faculty that bring cutting edge research and practice in the fields of: child welfare; health, mental health and disability; poverty; aging; First Peoples; marginalized groups (e.g., immigrants and refugees, war affected populations, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people); loss and bereavement; domestic violence; leadership and social policy; and international social work. Envisioned as an opportunity to advance knowledge and skills, students are encouraged to immerse themselves in one of three areas of interest related to “Children and Families”, “Health and Social Care”, and “International and Community Development”. Through our MSW program, students develop critical and innovative approaches to practice and policy competence such that they may contribute to, and take leadership in, both established and emerging areas of service provision. The MSW program includes 3 possible options: 1) thesis (not available for candidates who enter the MSW through the Qualifying Year), 2) non-thesis/practice or 3) a combined MSW- BCL/LLB (non-thesis).

Applicants admitted into the “Qualifying Year” for entry into the MSW are immersed, over two terms of full-time study only, in coursework and field placement. This full-time qualifying year of study is

comprised of 15 credits per term. Candidates who secure a minimum B+ in all courses and fieldwork will apply and be recommended for admission to the MSW (Non-thesis option only). No failures are permitted. We accept applications into the Qualifying Year for Fall admission only, and full-time study only, as this is an integrated program of study for the entire year that cannot be taken out of sequence. Please note there will be no admissions to the 60 credit BSW program for 2012-2013.

If you believe that Social Work is for you, that there is a difference to be made at the local, national or international levels, then take action and become a part of our fulfilling profession. Your journey begins here, at McGill's School of Social Work.

8. FOR THE UNIVERSITY CALENDAR (fashioned on the Direct-Entry program in Nursing)

B.A. APPLICANTS TO THE MASTER'S PROGRAM (NON-THESIS)

Applicants holding a general BA including prerequisite courses, may be admitted to a Qualifying Year for entry to the MSW program. The BA must consist of either a) DCS/DEC from CEGEP plus a minimum of a 90-credit, or three-year university degree; or, b) a high school diploma plus a minimum of a 120-credit or four-year university degree) A minimum CGPA (cumulative grade point average) of 3.0 on a scale of 4.0 is required in order to be considered for entry. Candidates apply, and are admitted, to the MSW program upon successful completion of the Qualifying Year (a minimum B+ in all courses and field is required). Candidates prepared in another professional discipline or in social work are not eligible for this program. Applicants must complete their Qualifying Year of study on a full-time basis. The School considers admissions to this program for the Fall term only.

9. In the event of a failure:

No failures are permitted. If a student fails a course in her/his QY year, s/he would NOT be recommended for admission into the Master's program but s/he could be advised to apply to the 90 credit BSW program with advanced standing due to credit received in QY courses to date.

Statement of Interest for Social Work

(for candidates who have completed an undergraduate degree in an allied discipline)

Conceptualizing and analyzing a social problem with attention to relevant and contemporary scholarship on a subject matter, communicating ideas clearly, and holding a vision of what you want to study and what you hope to accomplish through your Social Work education are highly valued at the graduate level of study. In 2 pages maximum (single-spaced, typed, 12pt. font, excluding reference page), identify and analyze a social problem of interest to you which captures the essence of your vision for your graduate level studies in social work at this time. Your chosen social problem should be located in one of the following areas of interest for study: Children & Families, Health & Social Care, OR International & Community Development.

- Demonstrate your appreciation of the current and relevant state of knowledge (empirical and theoretical scholarship) that surrounds your particular social problem of interest (1 ½ pages)
- What have you learned from your past that has contributed to your interest in this social problem and how do these insights facilitate and impede your understanding of this problem? (1/4 page)

- What kinds of field placement opportunities might provide advanced training in the development of your expertise in your chosen area of interest for study? (1/4 page)

This Statement of Interest for Social Work is expected to be focused on an identifiable social problem of interest to you. It shows evidence of your familiarity with the scholarship, and demonstrates your abilities to engage in self-reflection in order to better understand this issue and its meaning for social work practice. It must be clearly written, logical in flow and appropriately supported by relevant references to a selection of scholarly works. A reference list, with full citations in APA style (6th edition), must be appended to this Study Plan.