STATEWIDE BLENDED: ADVANCED STANDING PROGRAM:
CLINICAL OR ORGANIZATION AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP (OCL)

Program description
The Statewide Blended Advanced Standing Clinical MSW Program admitted its first cohort of students in the summer of 2013, with a new cohort of students admitted every year since then. Students complete this program through a unique blend of face-to-face instruction, videoconferencing, and online learning. The first year of the program starts with the annual Summer Institute (mid-June), followed by online coursework during the fall and spring semesters. For the second year of the program, students attend regional meetings linked through ITV (videoconference) one Saturday per month during the fall and spring semesters. In between these regional meetings, coursework is completed online, providing greater flexibility for students who wish to continue working while completing the MSW Program. All MSW programs are fully accredited by CSWE.

Admissions process
The application deadline is January 10 of each year for all MSW programs. Detailed admissions information is available on our website at socialwork.msu.edu. The entire admissions process is completed online, and online applications open in September.

Specific requirements for admission:
1. A bachelor's in social work degree from a program accredited by the CSWE and granted within the last six years.
2. A minimum grade-point average (GPA) of 3.25 (on a 4.0-point scale) during the last 60 credits of undergraduate study.
3. One official transcript sent directly from your degree-granting institution. If fewer than 60 credits, include transcripts from previous colleges and/or universities attended.
4. Evidence of personal qualities considered important for the practice of social work.
5. Evidence of strong academic writing skills.
6. Prior academic work reflecting a liberal arts perspective that provides the basis of social work graduate education, including at least 19 semester credits in humanities and social and natural sciences.
7. Three recommendation letters (one specifically from field practicum) and/or prior academic and work experience (paid and/or volunteer).
(Note: The GRE is not a requirement for admission into any of the MSW programs.)

Admission will be determined by a combination of factors including: grade point average, length and type of work and volunteer experience, letters of reference addressing the applicant's academic and professional potential, writing ability, diversity, and assessment of the applicant's commitment to social work and capacity for the profession.

In addition, applicants for the Statewide Blended Advanced Standing MSW Program must:
- Live more than 50 miles from the East Lansing, Oakland, AND Saginaw campuses and, if out of state, must live within 50 miles of the Michigan border.
- Have easy access to high-speed Internet service (not dial-up) on a regular basis.

Once admitted into the program and before the first course starts in June, students are asked to complete an online assessment and orientation program (OAOP) on how to learn effectively in the online environment.

Schedule of courses and concentrations
The Statewide Blended Advanced Standing Program is a 38-credit, 2-year, part-time, year-round program. The first year of the program is focused exclusively on academic courses, while the second year of the program combines academic courses with field education. Students can choose between Clinical Practice and Organization and Community Leadership (OCL) concentrations. Students who choose the OCL concentration are required to commute to Lansing for some classes or take part via teleconference.

Field education
Students in the Statewide Blended Advanced Standing MSW Program complete the field education requirement of the program during the second year of the program. Students spend 16 hours per week for 2½ semesters in human service organizations that are affiliated with the University, totaling 600 hours over the course of 2½ semesters. Every attempt is made to locate field placements close to where students live or work. Employment-related field placements are not available for Advanced Standing students.

Location
The Summer Institute is hosted at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on MSU's main campus in East Lansing. Once admissions decisions have been made, regional locations are selected based on where students live and technology availability. The locations of the regional meetings are specific to each cohort. To date, regional meetings have taken place in Marquette, Gaylord, Mt. Pleasant, Grand Rapids, Battle Creek, Saginaw, and Oakland.

Contact information
MSU School of Social Work
655 Auditorium Road
Room 239 Baker Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824 USA
Email: st8wide@msu.edu

socialwork.msu.edu
Why MSU?
Michigan State University provides an excellent setting for social work education. As a Research I University, MSU creates and advances knowledge, attracting scholars worldwide. As the nation's first land-grant university, MSU extends learning to actively serve Michigan, the nation, and the international community. With more than 200 programs of study, students at MSU have extensive opportunities for collaboration in a wide variety of disciplines.

Why social work?
The School of Social Work has one of the oldest undergraduate degrees in social work in the United States, a master's degree program that was inaugurated shortly after World War II, and a PhD program. The School's BASW and all MSW programs have been continuously accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The doctoral program is a member of the Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work (GADE). All three programs of the School of Social Work have produced many distinguished practitioners, educators, researchers, and leaders in human services.

What concentrations are offered?
Students can choose between two concentrations: Clinical Practice and Organization and Community Leadership (OCL). Clinical (micro) social work (also known as direct practice with individuals, couples, families, and small groups) is a concentration within the practice of graduate social work and builds upon the profession’s values and ethics and a strengths-based, person-in-environment perspective. The OCL (macro) practice concentration focuses on social issues at a larger scope—programs, policies, communities, laws, or social and governmental institutions—through activities such as program and policy analysis and development, advocacy, fundraising, grant-writing, research, and program evaluation.

Also, students may decide to pursue a dual degree. An MSW/JD dual degree is available to students in East Lansing or those willing to commute, while an MSW/MPH dual degree is available to students throughout the state.

Other MSW programs at MSU
The School of Social Work at Michigan State University is committed to bringing high-quality graduate education to communities throughout the state. We offer a variety of fully accredited MSW programs to best fit the needs of our students.

EAST LANSING PROGRAMS (REGULAR MSW & ADVANCED STANDING: CLINICAL OR OCL)
Students on the East Lansing campus can complete the 57-credit Regular MSW Program on a 2-year full-time schedule or a 3-year part-time schedule. Also offered in East Lansing is the 38-credit Advanced Standing MSW Program, which students can complete on a 10-month full-time schedule or a 2-year part-time schedule. Students can choose between Clinical Practice and Organization and Community Leadership concentrations.

FLINT PROGRAM (REGULAR MSW: CLINICAL OR OCL)
Students on the Flint campus (hosted at Mott Community College) complete the 57-credit Regular MSW Program on a 2-year full-time schedule or a 3-year part-time schedule. All courses required for the Clinical Practice concentration are offered in Flint. Students who choose the Organization and Community Leadership concentration are required to commute to East Lansing for some classes.

OAKLAND AND SAGINAW PROGRAMS (ADVANCED STANDING: CLINICAL OR OCL)
Students on the Oakland campus (hosted at Oakland University) and the Saginaw campus (hosted at Saginaw Valley State University) complete the 38-credit Advanced Standing MSW Program on a 10-month full-time schedule or a 2-year part-time schedule. All courses required for the Clinical Practice concentration are offered in Oakland and Saginaw. Students who choose the Organization and Community Leadership concentration are required to commute to East Lansing for some classes.

STATEWIDE BLENDED PROGRAM (REGULAR MSW: CLINICAL OR OCL)
Students in the Statewide Blended Program complete the MSW Program through a unique blend of face-to-face instruction, videoconferencing, and online learning. The 57-credit Regular MSW Program is a 3-year part-time program. To qualify for the Regular program, students must live more than 50 miles from the East Lansing AND Flint campuses. Out-of-state applicants for both Statewide Blended Program options must live within 50 miles of the Michigan border. Students can choose between Clinical Practice and Organization and Community Leadership (OCL) concentrations. Students who choose the OCL concentration are required to commute to Lansing for some classes or take part via teleconference.

WEEKEND MSW PROGRAM (REGULAR MSW: CLINICAL OR OCL)
Students in the Weekend MSW Program complete the 57-credit MSW Program through a unique blend of face-to-face weekend sessions and online learning. Weekend sessions are held at the James B. Henry Center for Executive Development in East Lansing. This program is a 3-year part-time program. Students can choose between Clinical Practice and Organization and Community Leadership concentrations.

What is the difference between the Regular MSW and Advanced Standing programs?
Our Advanced Standing programs are a unique opportunity for applicants who graduated from an accredited social work baccalaureate program within the last six years with a minimum 3.25 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) for the last 60 credits of their undergraduate program.