ADMISSION TO THE KENT SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Kent School of Social Work
Oppenheimer Hall
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY 40292

Phone: (502) 852-6402
Email: bswkent@louisville.edu
Website: louisville.edu/kent

Admission Requirements

Persons interested in admission to the Kent School should contact the BSW Program. We encourage potential applicants to consult the BSW page on the Kent School website (http://louisville.edu/kent/academics/bachelor-of-science-in-social-work). If you wish to discuss the application process in person, you may contact the BSW Program to make an appointment.

Kent School seeks mature students with a demonstrated ability to work with people, emotional stability, good interpersonal skills, and the ability to perform well academically. To ensure that entering students meet these standards, the faculty has established the following guidelines.

Once students are accepted by University of Louisville’s Admission Office and declare a major as Social Work, they are admitted to the University as lower division students. However, admission to lower division does not guarantee admission to the upper division Social Work Program.

Criteria for Admission to the Lower Division Social Work Program

Admission in Good Standing

To be admitted to the lower division, beginning freshmen must meet the following requirements:

- Graduate from an accredited high school with a grade point average of 2.5 or higher; have a GED, or equivalent by petition (for example, homeschool education); and
- Completion of the pre-college curriculum; and
- Achieve a composite ACT score of 20 or higher.

Transfer Students

Transfer applicants with 24 hours or more must have a college grade point average of 2.5 or higher to be admitted in good standing. Transfer students without these may apply for conditional admissions.

Change of Major (Intra-University Transfer) Students

Students who have completed at least one semester in another school or college of the University of Louisville and have a grade point average of at least 2.5 and have a cumulative grade point average of 2.8 or above for all college coursework may apply for an intra-university transfer to the lower division of the BSW Program. They must complete an online Change Major form that can be found on Ulink. Students admitted through this process must be advised before registering for courses in their first semester in the lower division curriculum.

After completion of 45 hours of college credit, they may be considered for admission to the Social Work Program. Admission to the upper division Social Work Program is conducted without discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, age, creed, ethnic or national origin, disability, or sexual orientation. If the students have no para-professional work history, they are encouraged to pursue extensive volunteer experience prior to application.

Criteria for Admission to the Upper Division Social Work Program

Prior to application for admission to the Social Work Program, students must have:

- Earned 45 semester hours of college credit;
- A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a four-point scale.

Current UofL Students

Current university students must:

- Contact the BSW Program at bswkent@louisville.edu to declare Social Work as a major.
- Supply two letters of reference supporting the student’s application and providing information about character, maturity, stability, achievements, interactional skills and special qualities. These letters may come from professors, high school teachers, counselors, supervisors, professional social workers, and other professionals, but not from relatives of the student.
- Submit a 700–1000-word personal statement with the application. The personal statement (double-spaced, 12-point font) should address the following topics: a) your commitment to the goals, purposes, ethics and values of social work; and b) the intellectual and personal qualifications that will enable you to practice social work successfully.

Note: If there are gaps or deficiencies in your academic record, please address these in an addendum to your statement.

- A signed and dated Secondary Application Form including: the Statement of authenticity, Release and Waiver for admissions and student records, Ethical Standard of Behaviors, program plan selection, and if applicable transfer degree information.
- Current resume that includes the following information: any places of employment and volunteer experiences that you have had in the last 2 years including place of employment or volunteer activity, dates of employment or volunteer experience, job title or position held, description of job responsibilities.
Transfer students must also submit additional documents to complete their application process. The additional documents include:

- Two letters of reference supporting the student's application and providing information about character, maturity, stability, achievements, interactional skills and special qualities. These letters may come from professors, high school teachers, counselors, supervisors, professional social workers, and other professionals, but not from relatives of the student.
- Current resume that includes the following information: any places of employment and volunteer experiences that you have had in the last 2 years including place of employment or volunteer activity, dates of employment or volunteer experience, job title or position held, description of job responsibilities.
- A 700-1000 word personal statement (double-spaced, 12-point font) that addresses the following topics: a) your commitment to the goals and purposes of social work; b) the intellectual and personal qualifications that will enable you to practice social work successfully.

Note: If there are gaps or deficiencies in your academic record, please address these in an addendum to your statement.

If you have been convicted of a felony, please include a description of the circumstances and outcomes of the conviction. Please note that prior convictions for criminal offenses may preclude one's ability to be licensed as a social worker in many states. In addition, many practicum sites require background checks and periodic drug screenings. Any negative findings that affect agency placement may also prevent successful completion of the requirements for the degree. Applicants and students should consider these barriers in their educational planning.