



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**CHICAGO**

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATION

# SOCIAL SECTOR LEADERSHIP AND NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT MASTER'S DEGREE

Achieve the SSA Advantage: visit our website to learn more and apply: [ssa.uchicago.edu/ssl](https://ssa.uchicago.edu/ssl)  
Application deadlines are February 1, March 15, and June 1, 2020.



SSA's Master's Degree in Social Sector Leadership and Nonprofit Management (SSL) educates leaders focused on creating a more inclusive and just society. Our program provides students a deep understanding of the organizational and policy environments shaping social sector action with the most up-to-date skills in organizational management, governance, and analysis. This program allows students the opportunity to examine the complexity of social problems, while developing the capacity to more effectively address social change.

## CONCEPTUAL, PRACTICAL, and FLEXIBLE.

SSL gives students the necessary knowledge base and skills to lead social sector organizations, particularly those in the fields of health and human services, community organizing and development, policy implementation, and advocacy. Graduates will be able to provide the effective leadership needed to address some of society's most pressing social challenges.

Our program is unique in its ability to provide students with knowledge about how mission-driven organizations and their programs operate in their communities, as well as deep conceptual thinking about how these organizations can respond to complex social problems.

The program also provides students with hands-on knowledge and tools that can be applied to organizational management, governance, strategic planning, and data analysis within diverse settings. Our program prepares students

to lead across the social sector, including public, nonprofit, and philanthropic organizations.

Students will have the opportunity to study not only with SSA professors who represent over a dozen different disciplines but also with scholars from across the University of Chicago, a global research university and a center for innovation. The University's global and local reach and unparalleled resources mean that SSA students are well-supported in their efforts to make sense of and discover solutions to today's urban challenges.

Our flexible program has both a full-time 12-month option, and a part-time 21-month option. Day, evening, and weekend classes are available. Both options include 12 courses plus a summer practicum. This in-person program allows ample opportunities to spend time with professors and learn from colleagues in an intimate setting.

The degree is also offered as a dual degree with our Master of Arts in Social Work, Social Policy, and

Social Administration. Our programs are affordable, as more than 95 percent of all master's students received merit- and need-based tuition scholarship/gift aid last year.

## WHO can BENEFIT from this PROGRAM?

SSL is directed at early to mid-career individuals with previous experience working in the social sector who are seeking to advance into positions of leadership such as program managers, directors, and executives.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants will be expected to have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and 3-5 years of experience working in a social sector organization. Application requirements include a current resume, transcripts from all previous institutions, 2 letters of recommendation, and a 4-page candidate's statement that addresses topics outlined in the application. The GRE is not required. Application deadlines are February 1, March 15, or June 1.

## COURSES and SCHEDULE

Students in the full-time program will be able to complete the 12-course curriculum over one calendar year, taking four courses over three quarters and then completing their Practicum during the summer. Students in the part-time program will complete 12 courses by taking two classes per quarter over two academic years, and will conduct their Practicum during the summer quarter between years 1 and 2 or after their second year.

The 12 units of coursework for both full- and part-time students are divided into three categories: Conceptual Core courses (3 units), Management Core courses (5 units), and Electives (4 units).

The three Conceptual Core courses develop students' foundational knowledge about the key structures and processes that will shape their work in the social sector.

The Management Core develops skills in strategy, financial management, and leadership to prepare them for top management positions in nonprofit organizations, government agencies, philanthropic foundations, and other social sector groups.

Elective courses allow students to take advantage of the wide variety of courses offered by SSA and around the University of Chicago.

Visit our website to see a selection of our courses: [ssa.uchicago.edu/course-catalog](http://ssa.uchicago.edu/course-catalog)

### Practicum

The one-quarter Practicum gives students the opportunity to identify a real-world, executive-level management challenge, design a plan to address it, and present the plan to executive staff in the chosen organization. Students will have the option to design a Practicum at their current place of employment or other organization they have existing connections to, or can be placed at a Practicum site. Students will have the option of working individually or in teams, depending on the location.

## Full-time Course Map

Conceptual Core		Management Core		Elective	Practicum
AUTUMN	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER		
Inclusive Leadership	Policy Formulation & Implementation	Strategic Management	Practicum (10 weeks)		
Key Issues in Social Sector Governance	Organizational Theory and Analysis for Human Services	Management Essentials			
Data Analysis and Performance Measurement	Elective 2	Financial Management			
Elective 1	Elective 3	Elective 4			

## Part-time Course Map

Conceptual Core		Management Core		Elective	Practicum
AUTUMN Year 1	WINTER Year 1	SPRING Year 1	SUMMER Year 1		
Inclusive Leadership	Policy Formulation & Implementation	Strategic Management	Practicum (10 weeks)		
Key Issues in Social Sector Governance	Organizational Theory and Analysis for Human Services	Management Essentials			
AUTUMN Year 2	WINTER Year 2	SPRING Year 2			
Data Analysis and Performance Measurement	Elective 2	Financial Management			
Elective 1	Elective 3	Elective 4			

9.23.20



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