Do you want to **advocate** for immigrants and refugees? **Guide youth** who are affected by community violence? **Apply the science of analysis** to the social sector? Do you want to support students in **underserved schools**? Have you been asking yourself: ‘how can I **create a career** where I can make a unique difference’ and ‘where can I begin?’

---

**If you want a role in promoting social justice and creating a more equitable world, your graduate studies can have no better start than at the School of Social Service Administration (SSA).**

Your SSA experience will be challenging, demanding, and, often, life-changing. Your fellow students will be among the brightest and most dedicated—from across the nation and around the globe. Your classes will be led by faculty who are experts in social welfare issues, policy, and research. And the city of Chicago offers a chance to experience and learn from a city with complex social issues.

**SSA is known as one of the premier schools of social work and social welfare.** You will be challenged to question conventional thinking and produce ideas and action that make a difference. You will benefit from our rigorous interdisciplinary focus, and you also will have the freedom to create a program of study that fits your personal and professional aspirations.

For more than 100 years, SSA has shaped and led the social work profession— influencing policies, changing laws, and reframing social welfare issues. You will have opportunities to learn from and work with faculty members who are doing cutting-edge research and reimagining the profession. By working directly in the field, you will blend classroom learning with hands-on experience for a practical understanding of real-world situations and systemic problems.

**Consider our new master’s degree focused on nonprofit leadership.** In response to the rapid growth of the nonprofit sector and emerging global economies, SSA now offers a Master’s in Social Sector Leadership and Nonprofit Management (SSL). Students in this program will learn from management leaders, experts, and C-suite executives at public and private human service organizations. This is a chance to build on your experience, reexamine existing policies and practices, and deepen your analytical skills so you can lead organizations that make lasting impact.

**If you want to be part of this, I urge you to consider SSA as a destination.** More than ever, we need your energy, creativity, and commitment in advocating for the most vulnerable and driving real social change.

Sincerely,

Deborah Gorman-Smith, PhD
Dean and Emily Klein Gidwitz Professor
The University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration is dedicated to working toward a more just and humane society through research, teaching, and service to the community.

As one of the oldest and most highly regarded graduate schools of social work, SSA prepares professionals to handle society’s most difficult challenges by developing new knowledge; promoting a deeper understanding of the causes and human costs of social inequities; and building bridges between rigorous research and the practice of helping individuals, families, and communities to achieve a better quality of life.

We are tied for #3 in the U.S. News & World Report ranking of the best social work programs.
COMPETENT CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS UNDERSTAND THE POLICIES THAT SHAPE THE LIVES OF THEIR CLIENTS. COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS, MANAGERS, AND POLICY ANALYSTS ARE EFFECTIVE WHEN THEY UNDERSTAND THE COMPLEXITIES OF DIRECT PRACTICE WITH CLIENTS.

ELECTIVES
When choosing electives, 60% of our master’s students design their own educational program. Examples of self-designed elective coursework sequences include, but are not limited to: Child and Adolescent Mental Health; Family and Child Welfare; Group Work; LGBTQIA+ Clients; Low-Wage Jobs and Work Force Development; Mental Health.

OTHER STUDENTS CHOOSE TO APPLY AND COMPLETE ONE OF OUR PROGRAMS OF STUDY, WHICH ARE FACULTY-DESIGNED SETS OF ELECTIVES AROUND PARTICULAR TOPICS.

CLINICAL PRACTICE PROGRAMS OF STUDY
• Advanced AODA (Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse) Counselor Training Program

SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS OF STUDY
• Addressing Educational Inequalities
• Addressing Social Inequality: Innovations in Policy Practice

THE CORE CURRICULUM IN OUR SOCIAL WORK, SOCIAL POLICY, AND SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION MASTER’S PROGRAM GIVES EQUAL WEIGHT TO MICRO AND MACRO PRACTICE, AND THE CONCENTRATIONS ARE INFORMED BY ISSUES AT MULTI-SYSTEM LEVELS. THE CORE INTRODUCES YOU TO THE CHIEF METHODS OF SOCIAL INTERVENTION (DIRECT PRACTICE, POLICY, AND RESEARCH); THE DIVERSITY OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE; AND THE FUNDAMENTALS OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND DEVELOPMENT.

YOU WILL THEN CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO ACADEMIC CONCENTRATIONS:
• Clinical Practice: Learn the major prevention and treatment approaches of direct clinical practice and engage with real clients through clinical fieldwork in hundreds of agencies and organizations across Chicago.
• Social Administration: Take coursework in economics, politics, organization, and delivery of social welfare services; and participate in administrative fieldwork at government agencies and community development organizations.

THOUGH OUR STUDENTS MAY SPECIALIZE IN ONE AREA, THEY HAVE VERSATILITY THAT ALLOWS THEM TO PURSUE THEIR SPECIALTY WITH DEEPER UNDERSTANDING AND GREATER EFFECTIVENESS. THEY CAN BE BOTH GENERALISTS AND SPECIALISTS, FUNCTION AS BOTH SOCIAL WORKERS AND POLICY MAKERS, AND BE EFFECTIVE IN BOTH CLINICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SETTINGS.

OUR CURRICULUM OF OVER 70 DIFFERENT CLASSES IS BUILT ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT ALL CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE COMPLEXITIES OF ORGANIZATIONAL THEORY AND PRACTICE, THE POLICIES THAT GOVERN HUMAN SERVICES, AND HOW TO ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE IN THOSE SYSTEMS. SIMILARLY, STUDENTS WHO ARE PREPARING FOR WORK AT LARGER SYSTEM LEVELS NEED TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS OF THOSE WHO SEEK SERVICES; AND HOW TO ASSESS, INTERVENE, AND EVALUATE THOSE SERVICES.

GET THE DETAILS: SSA.UCHICAGO.EDU/MASTERS-PROGRAM-SW

CHART YOUR CURRICULUM PATH: SSA.UCHICAGO.EDU/ELECTIVES-SW
**FIELD EDUCATION**
Hands-on Experience Confronting Important Issues

Fieldwork is an essential component of the SSA experience. Through the field experience, students in the Social Work, Social Policy, and Social Administration program will develop a social work professional identity, expand Core and advanced competencies, and apply practice behaviors.

Each year, over 400 students are placed in one of our 600+ partner agencies in the Chicago area and provide over 225,000 hours of service throughout the greater Chicago region. Students gain over 1,000 hours of professional experience in many facets of clinical and administrative social work, from individual casework to citywide policy development.

**FIELD PLACEMENT PROGRAMS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOODS</th>
<th>OTHER SUBURBS AND CITIES</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Arlington Heights</td>
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<td>240 NORTH SHE</td>
<td>Berwyn</td>
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<td>240 NORTH SHE</td>
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<td>240 NORTH SHE</td>
<td>Elk Grove Village</td>
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<td>241 NORTH SHE</td>
<td>Hoffman Estates</td>
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<td>TOTAL CHICAGO SHE</td>
<td>TOTAL SUBURBS 44</td>
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</table>

**FIELD EDUCATION**

The Master’s Degree in Social Sector Leadership and Nonprofit Management (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.

This program educates leaders focused on creating a more inclusive and just society. It 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. Students are allowed the opportunity to examine the complexity of social problems, while developing the capacity to more effectively address social change.

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.

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. The Practicum is equivalent to one course.

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.
CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS
SSA offers two certificate programs for master’s-level students:
- The Certificate in Global Social Development Practice (GSDP), which is open to SSA students only.
- The Graduate Program in Health Administration and Policy (GPHAP), which is open to SSA students and also to students at the Booth School of Business, Harris School of Public Policy, Law School, and Pritzker School of Medicine.

POST-MASTER’S CERTIFICATE
The Post-Master’s School Social Worker Endorsement Certificate Program is designed to prepare participants to become effective practitioners within the context of the public school system. Upon completion, they are eligible to apply for the Professional Educator License (PEL) with School Social Worker Endorsement (formerly the Type 73 Certificate) that is required to practice school social work in most school settings in Illinois.

GLOBAL INITIATIVES
SSA offers a range of opportunities for students to learn about social welfare policy and practice internationally:
- multi-week, study-abroad program in India. Focused on urban poverty and community practice, it is organized in collaboration with the Tata Institute of the Social Sciences Centre for Community Organization and Development Practice in Mumbai.

in the classroom, certificate programs, seminars and workshop presentations, and through experiential learning opportunities abroad. SSA’s orientation to international social work is designed to provide students with the opportunity to think about social issues, social policy, and social work practice in a comparative cross-national perspective. Courses are integrated into the broader curriculum, providing all students with an opportunity to incorporate some international perspectives into their work locally. Students with an interest in working abroad or with immigrant and refugee populations in the United States are also provided with a foundation of knowledge to pursue these interests.

SSA offers an intensive multi-week, study-abroad program in India. Focused on urban poverty and community practice, it is organized in collaboration with the Tata Institute of the Social Sciences Centre for Community Organization and Development Practice in Mumbai.
The Doctoral Program curriculum is designed to deepen students’ mastery of both social science theory and research methods so that they are prepared to contribute to scholarly knowledge in innovative ways.

The PhD in social work opens doors to university-level research and teaching positions and high-level policy research. What makes SSA different is that our students receive the theoretical training needed to become applied social scientists.

The Doctoral Program is flexibly structured so that students can pursue a curriculum matched to their individual interests. It is at the forefront of schools of social work that emphasize the role of social science theory and rigorous empirical methods in guiding the investigation of social problems and interventions. In consultation with a faculty advisor, each student develops a program of study that includes two years of coursework, a qualifying examination, a publishable pre-dissertation research project, and a dissertation thesis. Students in the program are encouraged to design a course of study that harnesses the strengths of SSA and the wider University. Students take SSA courses that explore the theoretical underpinnings of social work and social welfare scholarship from a variety of disciplinary perspectives and levels of analysis. Students also take courses across the University in such departments as Anthropology, Economics, History, Human Development, Political Science, Public Health Sciences, and Sociology, and in the professional schools of Business, Law, Medicine, and Public Policy.

Doctoral students also have the opportunity to collaborate with faculty in their research and to serve as teaching assistants or instructors. SSA offers mentored training and teaching opportunities to develop as a teacher while still a student, and Doctoral students may apply to SSA’s teaching apprentice program.

The University of Chicago is an urban research university that has driven new ways of thinking since 1890. Our commitment to free and open inquiry inspires ideas that challenge and change the world.

**SSA RESEARCH**

SSA students benefit from the strong tradition of social science and public policy scholarship at UChicago. SSA itself has a number of centers, institutes, and networks that focus research on a variety of topics. They include:

- California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH)
- Center for Health Administration Studies (CHAS)
- Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention (CCYVP)
- Employment Instability, Family Well-being, and Social Policy Network (EINet)
- Graduate Program in Health Administration and Policy (GPHAP)
- Illinois/New York Child Care Research Partnership (CCRP)
- Midwest Longitudinal Study of Asian American Families (ML-SAAF)
- Network for College Success (NCS)
- Smart Decarceration Project
- STI and HIV Intervention Network (SHINE)
- UChicago Crime Lab
- UChicago Education Lab
- UChicago Health Lab
- Urban Education Institute

Professor Julia Henly is the Principal Investigator of the Illinois/New York Child Care Research Partnership (CCRP). She is known as a national thought leader in child care policy. Her work has provided new insights regarding child care subsidy policies, greatly influencing state and local governments that are implementing critical family assistance plans.

Professor Yoonsun Choi is leading a rare longitudinal study of Filipino- and Korean-Americans that investigates the forces of assimilation and acculturation (e.g., how culture influences family process) and the impact of racial minority experiences.

Professor Yoonsun Choi is leading a rare longitudinal study of Filipino- and Korean-Americans that investigates the forces of assimilation and acculturation (e.g., how culture influences family process) and the impact of racial minority experiences.
OUR FACULTY:
Study with Faculty Who Are Shaping and Defining the Field

SSA’s approach is interdisciplinary and intellectually pluralistic. You will learn from the best faculty minds who were trained in a dozen different fields including: social work, psychology, sociology, political science, public policy, public health, economics, and anthropology.

Our 37 distinguished faculty bring the insights gained from their scholarly investigations into the classroom, encouraging critical questioning and ensuring that students have up-to-date knowledge of trends in the field. Our cutting-edge scholarship and research informs and provides social work professionals with the practical and intellectual tools they need to effectively serve clients, shape policy, and lead organizations and communities.

CLASS SIZE
In the Master’s Program, classes may be as large as 30 students and as small as 6-10 students. Classes in the Master’s Core Curriculum are capped at 30 students.

“I’m proud of the SSA faculty who contributed seed money to establish a special fund for our DACA students to ease their considerable financial burdens. These students’ skills are urgently needed in social work, and they contribute so much to our campus, School, and community.”

— ANGELA S. GARCÍA

Assistant Professor

García is a sociologist whose research interests include international migration, law and society, race and ethnicity, urban sociology, social policy, and mixed and comparative methods. She studies the consequences of socio-legal inclusion and exclusion for undocumented immigrants across the United States, Mexico, and Spain.

She offers a nuanced look at the lives of undocumented Mexicans in the United States in her book, Legal Passing: Navigating Undocumented Life and Local Immigration Law (University of California Press, 2019). García compares restrictive and accommodating immigration measures in various cities and states to show that place-based inclusion and exclusion unfold in seemingly contradictory ways.

Her classes have examined contemporary social welfare policies in the United States, and theoretical perspectives and sociological research on the relationship between law and society.

Read more about García’s research: ssa.uchicago.edu/ssascholars/a-garcia
TO APPLY, YOU’LL NEED
• Transcripts
• Candidate’s statement
• Comprehensive resume
• Letters of recommendation
• Three for the SW Program
• Two for the SSL Program
• Four for the PhD Program
• Application fee: $75
• SSA does not require interviews for admission for any of our programs.
• For international students having attended schools where English is not the language of instruction, we continue to require either the TOEFL or IELTS exam for all of our programs.
• The GRE is not required for admission for either Master’s Program.
• Admission for the PhD program requires a writing sample but will NOT require the GRE for the 2020-21 admissions cycle. Applicants who do not submit GRE scores will not be at a disadvantage in the admissions process. Students who are able to take the GRE and wish to report scores may do so.

DEADLINES

Social Work, Social Policy, and Social Administration (SW) Master of Arts Program
Deadlines for all programs:
• December 1
• January 15 (final deadline for Advanced Standing AM Program)
• April 1

Social Sector Leadership and Nonprofit Management (SSL) Master of Arts Program
Deadlines for both Full- and Part-time Programs:
• February 1
• March 15
• June 1

Doctoral Program
• The application deadline for the Doctoral Program is December 15.

APPLICATION & DEADLINES
Students enter all programs in the Autumn Quarter, with the exception of students starting the 12-month Advanced Standing Program that starts in the Summer Quarter.
Applications for all programs are accepted beginning on September 1 each year.

TUITION & FINANCIAL AID

2020-21 ANNUAL TUITION AND FEES†

Master of Arts Program in Social Work, Social Policy, and Social Administration (SW)

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tuition per quarter</th>
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<tr>
<td>Full-time AM Program (3 courses per quarter)</td>
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<td>$49,734</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Standing Program (3 courses per quarter)</td>
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<td>Part-time Day and EEP Programs (2 courses per quarter)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 AM Program course</td>
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<td>Non-Degree Visitor</td>
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Master of Arts Program in Social Sector Leadership and Nonprofit Management (SSL)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-time (per year)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part-time (per year)</td>
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</table>

† Tuition and fees subject to change.
Yearly fees for both programs may include individual U-SHIP health insurance, the Graduate Student Services Fee, and U-Pass, currently $6,114 for three quarters. Students are also assessed a $75 one-time Lifetime Transcript Fee their first quarter.

Doctoral students receive significant funding to ensure that they are able to immerse themselves in the program. All students entering the Doctoral Program are offered a financial aid package that includes a stipend, full tuition, health insurance, and fees.

Each year, SSA provides more than $4 million to incoming students in scholarships. Approximately 95% of our students receive scholarship aid based on merit and need. In addition to scholarship funds, students may be eligible for federal financial assistance through loans and work-study. Returning students reapply for SSA scholarships each year, with 99% receiving a renewal.

Non-Discrimination Statement

Enrollment in the School of Social Service Administration is limited each year, and applicants are advised that the committee on admissions selects for admission only those applicants who, in its judgment, appear best qualified and capable of using the resources that the School provides. The Committee considers all evidence that may indicate academic and professional promise. Crucial factors in the admissions decision include: special distinction in undergraduate work, volunteer or work experience in the field of social welfare, letters of recommendation, the candidate’s written statement, and outstanding achievements.

In keeping with its long-standing traditions and policies, the University of Chicago considers students, employees, applicants for admission or employment, and those seeking access to University programs on the basis of individual merit. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, age, status as an individual with a disability, protected veteran status, genetic information, or other protected classes under the law (including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972).

For more information, please visit:

For additional details, find application guidelines for all programs:

apply-ssa.uchicago.edu/apply/
For more information, please contact:

**Ron Martin**, Director of Admissions  
ronmartin@uchicago.edu

**Theodore Barnes**, Assistant Director of Admissions  
thbarnes@uchicago.edu

**Nathan J. Banks**, Admissions Specialist  
nathanjbanks@uchicago.edu

[ssa.uchicago.edu/apply](ssa.uchicago.edu/apply)