



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

Information for applicants with GPAs below 3.0

We welcome all applicants to apply, regardless of GPA. Although the UW Graduate School lists a minimum 3.0 GPA requirement, departments may petition to admit applicants with below a 3.0 GPA. An admission petition to the Dean of the Graduate School, by the School of Social Work, must be submitted before an offer is made for any applicants that do not meet the GPA minimum, and is subject to denial. Candidates with lower GPAs should advocate for themselves by providing clear evidence of strengths. The admissions committee evaluates applications holistically, and is especially interested in your:

- *Academic preparation and potential for graduate school*
- *Social service experience, and fit with social work*
- *Commitment to social justice and underserved communities*

Applicants concerned about their GPA are encouraged to consider the following strategies, to help strengthen their candidacy for graduate school:

- Take classes (especially if you've been out of school for a while) that will boost your GPA. Upper level courses that are more relevant to social work and social justice (example: upper level sociology class) are viewed more favorably than unrelated or lower level courses (example: introductory art course).
- Pursue multiple courses, not just one; having upward grade trends and earning strong grades in multiple upper level, related courses demonstrates your commitment to academics.
- Consider earning professional certificates (from a regionally accredited college or university), which could include online coursework.
- In your essay/application, clearly convey what circumstances may have impacted your grades and how you have since prepared academically for graduate school. If applicable, explain how you have overcome adversity or grown from experiences.
- Contact our Admissions office at sswinfo@uw.edu or 206-543-5676 with any questions.