FAQ
(frequently answered questions!)

1. **Are you really accredited? By CSWE? How can I know that for sure?**

2. **How often do I have to come to your campus? Lovely as I’m sure New Mexico is, I live really far from there!**
   You don’t ever need to come to our campus. All your courses can be taken from home/work, and your practicum can be done with an MSW in your area. You would need to find and recruit that MSW, and our Field Director, Professor Leslie Cook, will take it from there.

3. **Okay, I get it that I don’t have to go to campus. How does that work, then? I mean, I want to be a social worker, and work with people, not computers!**
   Most of you have used Skype, or something similar. Some of our courses are like that, with some of the students in various communities across the US sitting at their own computers. Some students are in New Mexico, and go to one of our branch campuses to take classes, and they use Instructional Television.

4. **How do I do my internship/field experience/practicum from a distance?**
   Once a week, we have class for students in field, just like is outlined in #3 above. Your local MSW would work with Professor Cook to set you up with a learning contract and responsibilities, just as if you were in town with us.

5. **What else can you tell me?**

6. **Do MSW students get to do any research?**
   Sometimes!

7. **What are your online classes like?**
   Pretty much like any other online graduate class. They are a lot of work, for sure. We use a Learning Management System called Canvas, and students seem to like it.

8. **This sounds pretty good. How much does it cost?**
   Ballpark for out-of-New Mexico cost for the entire MSW is $38,600, if you don’t have a BSW (less if you do). For in-NM students, it’s more like $18,000, without a BSW. This includes the new tuition rates effective summer 2014, and fees as they stand right now. Here’s the most up to date link: [http://online.wnmu.edu/tuition/](http://online.wnmu.edu/tuition/) for tuition, and here’s another one that has a little
9. **Explain the fees, please.**
   Typically, fees run about $50 per credit hour, of which $10 is a social work-specific fee. Those fees pay for the costs of this program, which requires a lot of outreach on our part and while that’s a lot of fun, it can be expensive. If you live in New Mexico, we’re likely to try to travel to your field placement. If not, we develop an intense relationship with you and your field instructor (MSW), which can take up resources (cost money). **Fees are included in the estimate of overall cost in #8 above.**

10. **Your website looks like residents of states that border NM get a better deal. Is that really true?**
   It is only true for Colorado residents, El Paso residents, and undergraduate students.

11. **Do I have to take the GRE? Or the Miller Analogy? The horror!**
   Not in most cases, although if you have a low undergraduate GPA, we may require you to take the GRE (there is no cutoff score, though).

12. **What kind of GPA do I have to have to be admitted?**
   WNMU’s Graduate Division requires a 3.0 GPA over a student’s most recent 64 credit hours for final, complete admission. With a GPA of 2.75-2.99, you can be admitted with what’s called “Academic Probation” status, and still get financial aid/student loans.

13. **And is there any way around that, if my GPA isn't quite 2.75?**
   There is, but you have to pay for it out of pocket for the first 6 credits. If you do well on them, you can get financial aid starting the next semester. Call! Ask questions!

14. **I don’t have a BSW, though. Can I still do this?**
   Absolutely! With a recent BSW, it’s 45 credit hours; with no BSW, it’s 66 credit hours.

15. **I have a BSW. How do I go about getting Advanced Standing?**
   Speak with Dr. Walker or Professor Cook or Professor West-Okiri (all at 575 538 6421).

16. **Where can I see your degree plan?**
   [http://wnmu.edu/dgrplans/dplan2sw.shtml](http://wnmu.edu/dgrplans/dplan2sw.shtml)

17. **Do you have electives?**
   We do, and they are continuing to evolve. Current ones include school social work, human trafficking, social work with the military (which is moving to a Certificate of 12 hours, including working with individuals experiencing PTSD), child welfare, psychopharmacology.

18. **What is the deadline to apply?**
March 31, 2015, is the deadline for summer 2015. If you just now found us, and need a little extension, call Dr. Walker (575 590 4583).

19. I live abroad. Can I still take your classes?
   This is one of our favorite questions. Absolutely. You just may have to get up at a very strange hour, if you have a “Skype-type” class. But almost all are now online.

20. Do you have summer classes? And are your courses that new 6-8 week schedule everybody’s using, or the regular semester?
   We have summer classes that take four or eight weeks, but fall and spring have been the traditional semester, although that’s changing with spring 2015. Here’s the schedule: http://fuse.wnmu.edu:8080/webtm/sched.jsp

21. How long will it take me?
   With a BSW, it can be done in one calendar year. Please be aware that it is an amazing amount of work, but it can be done. Most students with a BSW take two years. Those without a BSW typically take 2 – 2.5 – 3 years. It’s 45 credits with a BSW (which includes two field experiences), or 66 credits without a BSW (which includes four field experiences).

22. I’m on board! When can I start?
   Summer semester starts June 1. Applications to the MSW Program should be submitted no later than 3/31/15,

   and that does require that you have applied to WNMU’s Graduate Division. You can get into grad school by applying as much later than that, but not into the MSW Program ~ that means you can take MSW classes, but not be formally admitted to the program.
23. **How do I start?**

Begin by visiting [https://sapphire.wnmu.edu/wnmudad/bwskalog.P_DispLoginNon](https://sapphire.wnmu.edu/wnmudad/bwskalog.P_DispLoginNon). (Hint: it looks as if you should already have a login, but there’s a hyperlink around the middle of the page that allows you to create a username and password.) After your WNMU application is complete (takes about 10 minutes, max), visit [http://www.wnmu.edu/academic/sw/](http://www.wnmu.edu/academic/sw/) and begin the application process to the MSW Program. It takes a little longer, and as above, if you just found us and need a little extension, call Dr. Walker at 575 590 4583.

24. **One last question. How do I know what books I need?**

On the electronic schedule ([http://fuse.wnmu.edu:8080/webtm/sched.jsp#SWK](http://fuse.wnmu.edu:8080/webtm/sched.jsp#SWK)), there is (almost always) a hyperlink to the textbook. Try that, first, before asking your professor – the professor doesn’t usually keep an ISBN in his or her head (smile), and it’s usually right there on the link, making it much easier to order the books.

Hint: on the table below, please do not take the cost of one credit hour and multiply by 66 or 45. It just doesn’t work at all. Look at how many hours you think you’d like to take in a semester (3? 6? 9? 12? – 15, if you’re quite serious? 18 if you are Advanced Standing?) and then add up the number of semesters it will take to get to 66 or 45. That’s a much better estimate.
Below you see tuition and fees Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 semester in US dollars. We offer very competitive rates. If you are out of state your first 6 credit hours are heavily discounted.

*There may be additional course specific fees. We find it handy to think of it as fees costing about $50 per credit hour – that typically covers all fees, including the ones in the table below.

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Graduate Admissions Page - http://admissions.wnmu.edu/graduate/

WNMU’s Online Admissions Application - https://sapphire.wnmu.edu/wnmudad/bwskalog.P_DispLoginNon.

Please note that it looks as if you should already have login information, but in small blue letters, it asks if you’d like to create one. Do that.


MSW Program Application - http://www.wnmu.edu/academic/sw/MSW%20Application%20Form.shtml

Class Schedule - http://fuse.wnmu.edu:8080/webtm sched.jsp
