Overview

Designed for those holding, or in the process of earning, a Master of Social Work, this is the only certificate in the state to offer a curriculum so specifically tailored to the needs of school social workers, covering topics like:

- Social work in schools, including the role of social work in school settings; history and general perspectives in school social work; and assessment, consultation, and planning.
- The complexities surround working with people who have disabilities, including attitudes and perceptions, augmentative and alternative communication, and inclusive education.
- The fundamentals of conflict resolution and mediation and the core skills necessary to practice the stages of mediation.
- Power dynamics affecting students and families and how to address those dynamics in appropriate ways according to social work values and ethics.

Curriculum

- SOWK 560 – Social Work Practice in Schools
- SOWK 561 – School Community: People with Disabilities
- SOWK 551 – Fundamentals of Mediation

The School of Social Work at Colorado State University supports those holding or working toward a Master of Social Work wishing to work in a PreK-12 school setting by offering required coursework and this optional preK-12 school social worker Certificate. Additionally, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) requires social workers to obtain appropriate licensure before working in the PreK-12 school setting as a special services provider.

Information about all the CDE licensure requirements, in addition to the educational requirements, can be found at cde.state.co.us/cdeprof.
Application Deadlines
Applications are reviewed as they are received. You can expect to be notified of your application status within two weeks of submitting all application materials.

Fall semester: **July 15**  
Spring semester: **December 1**  
Summer semester: **April 1**

1. **Review Admission Requirements**
   The online preK-12 school social worker certificate requires students to have a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution.

2. **Complete Online Application**
   Complete the [online graduate application](#) and pay the nonrefundable application processing fee (payable online).
   - Select “PreK-12 School Social Worker (Certificate) – Distance” when choosing the Program of Study.  
     (Note: You must first select “Certificate” at the top.)

3. **Request Transcripts**
   Request one official transcript from the institution where you earned your bachelor’s degree. Transcripts from Colorado State University are not required. Official transcripts can either be mailed in or sent as e-transcripts.
   
   Send e-transcripts to: [gradadmissions@colostate.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@colostate.edu)
   
   Send paper copies to:
   Graduate Admissions  
   Colorado State University – Office of Admissions  
   1062 Campus Delivery  
   Fort Collins, CO 80523-1062

Check Your Application Status
View your [application status](#) at any time to ensure your application checklist is complete or to check on updates. Once your complete application, including supporting materials, is received, the department admission committee will review your application and notify you of their decision.

International Students
See [website](#) for test score and transcript requirements.