



**UNE** Online  
UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

## Master of Social Work

Offering social work professionals the knowledge and skills needed to develop ethical intervention strategies at the clinical and community level.

# Welcome to **UNE**

The University of New England is Maine's largest private university, featuring two distinctive campuses in Maine, a vibrant campus in Tangier, Morocco, and an array of innovative offerings online. Our hands-on, experiential approach empowers students to join the next generation of leaders in their chosen fields. We are home to Maine's only medical and dental colleges, a variety of other inter-professionally aligned health care programs, and nationally recognized degree paths in the marine sciences, the natural and social sciences, business, the humanities and the arts.



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# Why UNE Online?

The University of New England holds a firm commitment to excellence in online education. Through the College of Graduate and Professional Studies, UNE Online is an innovative and established leader in the online learning community.

## THE UNE ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM:

- Is flexible and convenient, providing 24/7 access to course materials.
- Enables student-centered teaching, allowing you to engage in ways that best suit your learning style.
- Encourages student interaction and increases instructor accessibility.
- Facilitates increased knowledge through interaction with a global and diverse population of students and faculty.
- Encourages research to practice through course assignments that are practical and applied.

## ONLINE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- No campus visits required – the program is 100% online.
- No GRE required for admission.
- Traditional and Advanced Standing tracks.
- Renowned faculty of practitioners, researchers, and educators.
- Six admission cycles per year.
- Three field experience options: traditional, block, and simulation/onsite (SOS).
- Our program was the first asynchronous, CSWE-accredited online MSW program in the nation.
- Regionally accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE).
- Accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

# Accreditation & Recognition

In the United States, accreditation is a key measure used to identify institutions and programs that provide a high-quality education.

## **NEW ENGLAND COMMISSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

The University of New England is regionally accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE). NECHE is the federally-recognized regional accreditor for the six New England States. Accreditation is the review of the quality of educational institutions and programs.

## **COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION**

The University of New England's School of Social Work is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), which is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation as the sole accrediting agency for social work education in the U.S.

## **CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION-ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR LA FORMATION EN TRAVAIL SOCIAL**

The Canadian Association for Social Work Education-Association Canadienne Pour La Formation En Travail Social (CASWE-ACFTS) has a mutual degree recognition agreement with the CSWE stating that degrees from CASWE-ACFTS and CSWE accredited Bachelor and Master of Social Work programs are considered equivalent. More information can be found on the CSWE website.



# School of Social Work Vision & Mission

The University of New England's School of Social Work envisions a world where social workers are at the forefront of advocating with individuals and communities for human dignity and social inclusion by mobilizing efforts to end inequities, exploitation, and violence.

## MISSION

The mission of the School of Social Work is to provide transformative and collaborative learning that embraces the values of social inclusion and promotes enhanced quality of life for individuals and communities.

## VALUES

Our values promote social inclusion<sup>1</sup> conceptualized as actions taken to improve quality of life, access to equitable resources, enhancement of human bonds within the context of cultural diversity and engagement of people, populations and communities to fully participate in society. Towards this end:

1. "The process of improving the ability, opportunity and dignity of people, disadvantaged on the basis of their identity, to take part in society."  
(2013, World Bank Publication)

- We promote culturally-informed practice that is respectful of the complexity and diversity of people's lives and circumstances.
- We recognize that social exclusion prevents people from full and just participation in their communities as a consequence of inequities, discrimination, and disadvantage arising from adversity in early life and continuing across the life course.
- We practice social responsibility by raising public awareness of social exclusion, challenging discrimination and acting with and on behalf of groups, populations, and communities.
- We support person-centered collaborative practices and partnerships that bring together diverse workers and community members to meet the best interests of individuals, families, and groups.

# Master of Social Work - **MSW**

Our Master of Social Work is 100% online with timely, relevant classes for professionals looking to advance their careers. We offer two options that take your previous social work experience into account: the Traditional track and the Advanced Standing track.

## **TRADITIONAL TRACK**

The Traditional track is a 64-credit program, designed for students who do not already possess a Bachelor of Social Work and instead possess a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution or equivalent. Traditional students are required to complete 32 credit hours in each of their generalist and specialization years. In addition, Traditional track students will complete two placements, one 450-hour placement in their generalist year and one 550-hour placement in their specialist year.

## **ADVANCED STANDING TRACK**

The Advanced Standing track is designed for students who have earned their Bachelor of Social Work degree from a CSWE-accredited institution within the past seven years. Advanced Standing students are required to complete one 550-hour specialization field placement.

## **PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**


- Required courses are offered three times a year.
- Traditional students **MUST** complete their generalist field experience (SSWO 520 and 522) before taking required or elective specialization courses.
- If a student is seeking licensure after graduation, we encourage students to research the licensing requirements for the state in which they intend to practice. Licensing requirements can be found here: <https://online.une.edu/social-work/msw/student-resources/interactive-map-for-social-work-licensing/>



## LEARNING OUTCOMES

All graduates of the UNE School of Social Work will demonstrate knowledge, skills, and leadership in the following:

- Practice social inclusion to enable people, populations, and communities to fully participate in society, enhance human bonds in the context of cultural diversity and ensure improved quality of life and equitable resource distribution.
- Engage in culturally-informed relationship building respectful of the complexity and diversity of contexts and circumstances.
- Utilize theories of human behavior, social systems, and social inclusion when offering interventions with people and their environments.
- Promote ethical reflection, critical consciousness and shared decision-making based on social work values and with consideration of the broader contexts of the world in which we live.
- Balance the roles of helpers, activists, and advocates through collaboration with communities to build healthy and sustainable resources.
- Engage as critical consumers and producers of research and evaluation applied to clinical and community practices.
- Practice person-centered and collaborative community partnerships across diverse settings.



*“The online community was amazing. We were able to really connect and work together as a group; it felt like you were just chatting with a classmate.”*

**- Melina Paiewonsky  
MSW Graduate '18**

# Curriculum

These courses can be taken as part of a degree-seeking program or individually for personal or career development. If you would like to take an individual course without enrolling in a degree program, please reach out to an Enrollment Counselor.

## TRADITIONAL TRACK (GENERALIST COURSES)

Generalist year courses emphasize an integrated social work perspective involving the social context and its impact on social policy, programs, and the social work profession.

<b>SSWO 501</b>	Human Behavior & the Social Environment I	( 3 credits )
<b>SSWO 502</b>	Human Behavior & the Social Environment II	( 3 credits )
<b>SSWO 503</b>	Social Work Research	( 3 credits )
<b>SSWO 504</b>	Action Research for Social Work Practice	( 3 credits )
<b>SSWO 505</b>	Social Policy and Advocacy	( 3 credits )
<b>SSWO 571</b>	Social Work Practice with Groups	( 3 credits )
<b>SSWO 510</b>	Social Work Practice I	( 3 credits )
<b>SSWO 511</b>	Social Work Practice II	( 3 credits )
<b>SSWO 520</b>	Field Practicum I / Seminar	( 4 credits )
<b>SSWO 522</b>	Field Practicum II / Seminar	( 4 credits )

## TRADITIONAL TRACK (SPECIALIZATION COURSES)

The Specialization year prepares students with knowledge and skills for advanced practice with individuals, families, and groups across multiple settings.

<b>SSWO 552</b>	Contemporary Theory for Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families	( 3 credits )
<b>SSWO 553</b>	Advanced Social Work Practice with Families	( 3 credits )
<b>SSWO 565</b>	Leadership, Administration & Supervision in Social Work	( 3 credits )
<b>SSWO 597</b>	Advanced Psychological Assessment	( 3 credits )
<b>SSWO 585</b>	Substance Use: A Social Work Perspective	( 3 credits )
<b>SSWO ---</b>	Three electives (see page 9)	( 9 credits )
<b>SSWO 580</b>	Field Practicum III / Seminar	( 4 credits )
<b>SSWO 582</b>	Field Practicum IV / Seminar	( 4 credits )



## ADVANCED STANDING TRACK

### REQUIRED COURSES

<b>SSWO 526</b>	Integrated Clinical and Community Practice	( 3 credits )
<b>SSWO 552</b>	Contemporary Theory of Social Work Practice	( 3 credits )
<b>SSWO 553</b>	Advanced Social Work Practice with Families	( 3 credits )
<b>SSWO 565</b>	Leadership, Administration & Supervision in Social Work	( 3 credits )
<b>SSWO 597</b>	Advanced Psychological Assessment	( 3 credits )
<b>SSWO 585</b>	Substance Use: A Social Work Perspective	( 3 credits )
<b>SSWO ---</b>	Three electives	( 9 credits )
<b>SSWO 580</b>	Field Practicum III / Seminar	( 4 credits )
<b>SSWO 582</b>	Field Practicum IV / Seminar	( 4 credits )

\*Licensing requirements vary by state and we encourage you to research elective requirements for the state in which you intend to practice  
Licensing requirements can be found here:

<https://online.une.edu/social-work/msw/student-resources/interactive-map-for-social-work-licensing/>

## INTERPROFESSIONAL ELECTIVES

Students also have the option to take electives from our other online graduate programs. A full list of these interprofessional courses can be found here:

<https://online.une.edu/shared-interprofessional-courses/>

## ELECTIVES (3 CREDITS EACH)

<b>SSWO 564</b>	Program Dev & Community Practice
<b>SSWO 571</b>	Social Work Practice with Groups
<b>SSWO 585</b>	Substance Use: A Social Work Perspective
<b>SSWO 607</b>	Social Work Practice with LGBTQ Individuals, Families, & Groups
<b>SSWO 611</b>	Social Work Practice and Intimate Partner Violence
<b>SSWO 613</b>	Advanced Trauma-Based Practice
<b>SSWO 618</b>	Homelessness and Social Work
<b>SSWO 627</b>	Psychopharmacology: Drugs / Behavior
<b>SSWO 628</b>	Use of Creative Arts in Social Work Practice
<b>SSWO 633</b>	Social Work with Child, Adolescent, and Families
<b>SSWO 635</b>	Ageing and Health
<b>SSWO 642</b>	Narrative Therapy
<b>SSWO 650</b>	Trauma Informed Theory / Practice
<b>SSWO 657</b>	Social Work Practice with Military & Family
<b>SSWO 670</b>	Grief, Loss, Death and Dying in Social Work
<b>SSWO 673</b>	Social Work and the Law
<b>SSWO 685</b>	Comm Organizing / Comm Building

**NEW!** UNE Online offers an embedded Certificate in Trauma-Informed Care that can be earned after acceptance to the MSW program and in the course of your MSW studies. The Certificate requires completion of two courses and a project. Please note that while you are welcome to emphasize completion of this certificate on your resume, it will not appear on your official transcript or diploma. For more information, please contact an Enrollment Counselor at **(877) 863-6791** or **[socialworkonline@une.edu](mailto:socialworkonline@une.edu)**.

## FIELD PLACEMENT

Field placement is the opportunity for students to integrate their coursework into a real-life practice situation. Students will have the opportunity to learn about local resources, network in the community, and develop and hone clinical skills.

**We now offer three field options to our students:**

### Traditional Placement

32 weeks | Seminar and In-Agency

### Block Placement

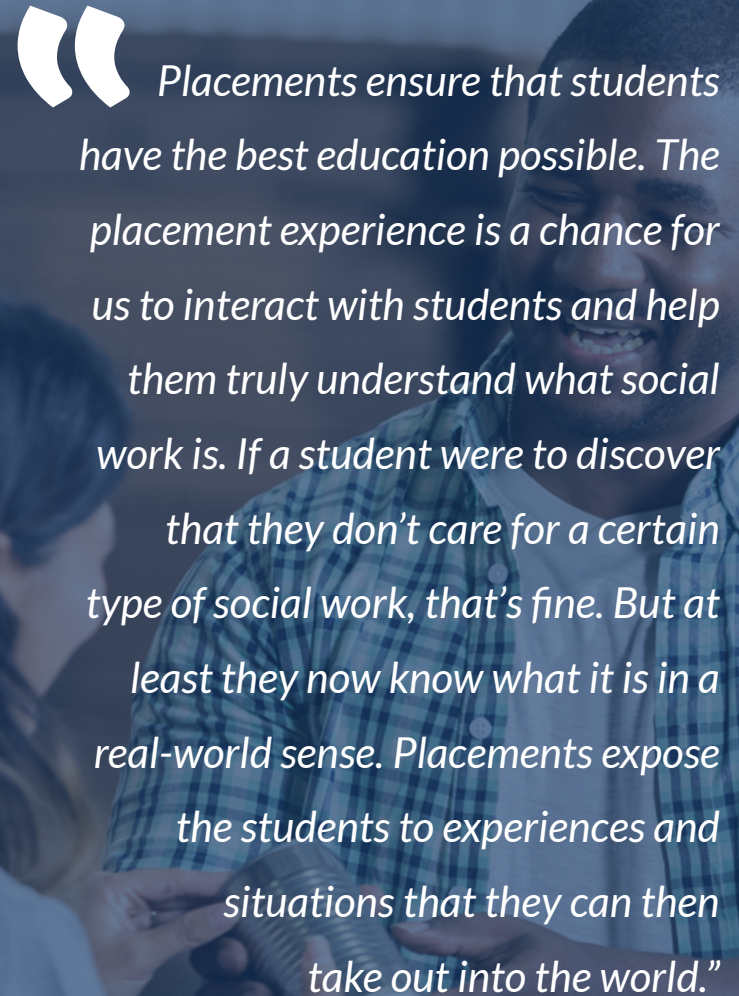
16 weeks | Seminar and In-Agency

### S.O.S. (Simulation and Onsite Model) Placement

16 weeks | Seminar and Virtual Simulation

16 weeks | Seminar and In-Agency

**Students are responsible to research, locate and initiate their placement site**, but will be supported in this process by a UNE practicum coordinator.



“Placements ensure that students have the best education possible. The placement experience is a chance for us to interact with students and help them truly understand what social work is. If a student were to discover that they don’t care for a certain type of social work, that’s fine. But at least they now know what it is in a real-world sense. Placements expose the students to experiences and situations that they can then take out into the world.”

**- Jennifer O’Neil**  
PhD, LCSW, Online MSW Program Director

# Admissions

## REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are encouraged to review the Master of Social Work requirements for admission for each track prior to beginning their application, as the application process vary.

### TRADITIONAL TRACK REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution or equivalent.
- 3.0 cumulative undergraduate GPA or better.
- Computer with internet connection, including the hardware and software requirements described in the Technology Requirements section. Must also possess sufficient computer skills to navigate the internet as all classes are accessed 100% online.

### ADVANCED STANDING TRACK REQUIREMENTS:

In addition to the requirements for the Traditional track:

- Graduation from a CSWE-accredited BSW program within the last 7 years with a 3.0 cumulative GPA preferred. In some cases, advanced standing applicants may be offered to enroll in the traditional track if previous academic performance or application materials do not demonstrate an understanding of core social work principles, guidelines and ethical standards.
- Equivalent coursework at the undergraduate level to UNE's generalist year courses completed with a "B" or better strongly preferred.
- Evidence of significant experience in the human services field with MSW supervision.

## TRANSFER CREDIT POLICY

Students may apply to transfer up to three 3-credit courses (maximum of nine credits) into the Master of Social Work - Advanced Standing program or up to three 3-credit courses (maximum of nine credits) into the Master of Social Work - Traditional program. Traditional courses must:

- Be classified as graduate level
- Be from a CSWE accredited institution
- Have been taken within seven years of application
- Have been completed with a grade of "B" or better (P/F courses will not be accepted for transfer credit)
- Be equivalent to a required program course, not an elective

The School of Social Work reserves the right to make exceptions to the transfer credit policy and to make changes or exceptions, on a case by case basis, when it deems such a decision is necessary and appropriate.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:

- Access to a computer and the internet.
- Webcam - 1280 x 720 (1 megapixel) resolution recommended.
- Microphone/speakers.
- Microsoft Office - free and available to students with their @une.edu account via Office 365; includes Microsoft Outlook for your @une.edu email.

## APPLICATION PROCESS:

- Complete the online graduate application at: <https://go.une.edu/apply>, including professional statements addressing provided prompts.
- Submit a \$40 non-refundable application fee.
- Submit official transcript(s) reflecting conferral of a bachelor's degree. Applicants with international degrees should contact an Enrollment Counselor for more information.
- Two completed **Applicant Recommendation Forms**.
- A current resume or CV.

# Tuition & Financial Aid

## TUITION & FEES

Application Fee (non-refundable)	\$40
General Services Fee (per semester, non-refundable)	\$60
Tuition (per credit hour)	\$980
Malpractice Insurance Fee (annual, non-refundable)	\$50
Technology Fee (per semester, non-refundable)	\$85
Registration Fee (non-matriculated students per semester)	\$30

- Graduate tuition and fee rates are subject to change.
- Students are expected to pay for textbooks and materials at the beginning of the semester. Books, supplies and other items available at the UNE Bookstore or through other online channels.
- Standard enrollment for each semester is based on six credits.
- For more information on military and veteran benefits, please visit <http://www.une.edu/registrar/veteran-benefits>

## FINANCIAL AID

At UNE, more than 90% of our students receive a form of financial aid. Investing in your education is a big financial commitment, which is why the University of New England is proud to offer accredited and quality online education at a competitive price. Financing a college education is a partnership between the student, their family, and the University. The Financial Aid Office at UNE is available to assist online students and their families in finding the financial means necessary to achieve their educational goals.



# Resources & Support

The University of New England is committed to student success and that success is directly related to the overall student experience. At UNE, we believe that a successful student is a supported student. To that end, as an online student, we offer a variety of academic, technical, and administrative support to assist you on your academic journey.

## **STUDENT SUPPORT SPECIALIST**

Throughout each student's graduate degree process, a support specialist is available by phone and email to answer any questions, provide access to all of the resources that UNE Online has to offer, and ultimately guide them from the start of their studies through graduation.

Your student support specialist will help with the following:

- Notifications about textbooks and other course resources
- Posting announcements about course or schedule revisions
- Assistance with course registration
- Contacting a faculty member
- Navigating the course site or using course tools
- General course information or questions
- And more

## STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

The Student Academic Success Center provides a comprehensive array of academic support services including workshops, tutoring, writing support, and individual learning consultations to online students. Its mission is to empower students to become more independent and efficient learners so that they are able to meet the University's academic standards and attain their personal educational goals.

## ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

- Career Center
- Writing Support
- Student Financial Services
- Library Services
- Learning Management System (Brightspace) Tutorials
- Student Access Center
- Technology Support

“ *UNE Online offered everything I was looking for: out-of-state tuition was reasonable, I didn't have to log into school at a certain time, and I could enter the program and move along the Advanced Standing track at my preferred pace.* ”

- Nicole Petrin  
MSW '19

# Program Director Spotlights



## **JENNIFER O'NEIL, PhD, LCSW** **DIRECTOR, GRADUATE PROGRAMS** **IN SOCIAL WORK ONLINE**

Jennifer O'Neil, PhD, LCSW, is the Program Director for the online Master of Social Work program. She earned her undergraduate degree as an adult learner and practiced at an agency that worked with substance users and HIV positive patients after graduating with her MSW. Her PhD dissertation concentrated on women veterans in higher education.

“Our goal is to give our students the skills to be the kind of social worker that they want to be. We offer the scholar-practitioner model, which means that a high percentage of our faculty members currently work in the field. Since our faculty are active both professionally and academically, they are able to bring their industry knowledge back to the classroom and share it with students. This gives students the ability to actively participate in discussions that revolve around situations that are happening in real time and not just read about it in a textbook.

I think one of our biggest strengths is our student support model. I hear this from both students and faculty. It's a wonderful model because each student has one steady person with whom they can always get in touch, regardless of where they are in the program or who is teaching their current class. Students tell us that the support staff is not only terrific – but they always pick up their phones!

Overall, our program helps our students realize their goals. I love the thought of UNE Online creating the best possible social workers out there.”





**AUTUMN STRAW, MSW, LCSW**  
**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, GRADUATE PROGRAMS**  
**IN SOCIAL WORK ONLINE**

Autumn Straw, MSW, LCSW is the Assistant Director for the Graduate Programs in Social Work at UNE Online. After graduating from Simmons College with both her BA and MSW, she worked in a Community Based Acute Treatment (CBAT) unit and a therapeutic day school for children with emotional and behavioral regulation issues.

“Having worked in several facets of social work myself, I think that those interested in the social work field should be aware that a career in social work can be flexible. The core social work concepts and values remain the same across the field.

One of the biggest things I looked for when I was a hiring in a clinical setting, was authenticity. We also looked for people who were self-reflective, people who were being honest with themselves and others about what their strengths and challenges were. We are all great at something, but nobody is good at everything. Each one of us always has room to grow in many different ways. Within social work we have the code of ethics, and that’s one of the hallmarks of the profession. We want people who are going to fully understand, honor and embody that code.

I’ve found UNE students to be eager, enthusiastic, and dedicated to becoming a part of the social work profession. I love the wide variety of students that I work with. Working in a fully-asynchronous online program has allowed me to interact with some phenomenal people.”

# Student Associations

The School of Social Work Student Organization (SSWSO) promotes a sense of community among students in the program, and gives voice to MSW students. We hold regular meetings, plan educational and social events, and connect with students in other academic departments at UNE. Members of our group sit on the WCHP Graduate and Professional Association governing board, and attend School of Social Work meetings.

We provide a platform through which you can make your voice heard and organize with peers to affect change within the School and within UNE. We also help plan the yearly commencement celebration for the graduating Social Work class.

When you enroll in the School of Social Work, you automatically become a member of the SSWSO, and we encourage you to become actively involved through participating in our various Committees.

These include committees dedicated to:

- Social Events
- Orientation
- Self-Care
- Lunch and Learn
- Commencement
- Social Work Appreciation Month

As a member of the SSWSO you are also invited to participate in the monthly School Meeting of all Social Work faculty and staff, and to participate on the following faculty committees:

- Curriculum
- Admissions
- Assessment



The University of New England has repeatedly claimed a spot in U.S. News & World Report's rankings for Best Online Graduate Education Programs.

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[online.une.edu/blog](http://online.une.edu/blog)