

Challenge Exam Fact Sheet

The **Challenge Examinations** allow entering first year MSW students to test out of first year MSW courses. Students who have been accepted for admission as new first year students in the MSW program are eligible to take the examination before formal enrollment in the program.

The **Challenge Examinations** are administered on a course-by-course basis. Both new and advanced standing students are eligible to take the exams.

New Students

New students may challenge out of *first and second* year MSW courses with the **exception** of the *social work practice methods courses and the field education courses*. Students may earn up to 18 credits through the examinations. Once a challenge exams is passed students are awarded course credits following formal enrollment in the program. Passing the challenge exams will not decrease the time spent in the program, it will however, decrease your course load.

Advanced Standing Students

New students, who are approved for Advanced Standing Status, received credit for their first semester of classes. By taking and passing Second Semester **Challenge Examinations**, the advanced standing student may earn up to 9 additional course credits.

Challenge Exam Eligibility

Students must meet the following three eligibility requirements to be admitted to the examination

1. Examinees must be formally excepted for admissions to first year status in the MSW degree program
2. Examinees must satisfy Howard University's enrollment fee requirement. Howard University requires new students who are entering the university for the first time to pay a \$300 enrollment fee. The enrollment fee must paid to be eligible to sit for the challenge examinations.
3. Students must register for the challenge examination ***at least two days*** before the examination date.

The School of Social Work administers the challenge examination in both Fall and Spring Semesters.

The **Challenge Examination** schedule registration information will be sent to all accepted candidates. A reading list and study guide are available on the website for you to review.

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FAQ:

Do I have to take the challenge exam? No. The challenge exam is not a requirement to begin your MSW program.

Do I have to pay to take the Challenge Exams? There is no fee to take any of the challenge exams; however, you must provide proof that your enrollment fee has been paid.

What type of exam can I expect? Each challenge exam is different. Testing questions include: multiple choice, case-based, fill-in the blank and essay.

What happens if I fail the Challenge Exam? The challenge exams are graded as pass/fail. Should you fail any of the challenge exams, it simply means you must register, take and pass that class to meet the graduation requirement for your MSW. This grade is not posted to your transcript nor reflected in your student file.

Can I defer taking this exam? The challenge exam is available new students entering the MSW program. If you have been accepted into the MSW program, and choose to defer your enrollment; you should defer your enrollment at least two business days prior to **day one** of the challenge exam.