



**AMBS**

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# dual-degree programs

## fact sheet

### ■ overview

Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary offers two dual-degree programs in cooperation with Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich., a fifty-minute drive from AMBS. These are Master of Divinity with Master of Social Work and Master of Arts: Peace Studies (MAPS) with Master of Social Work. In both, the total program is reduced one year when compared to pursuing both degrees separately. Field placements fulfill requirements for both degrees. Students who earned a BA in Social Work within the last five years are eligible for advanced standing in the Andrews MSW program. Advanced standing reduces the length of the dual-degree program by another year, with some summer work, thus further reducing cost in both tuition and loss of employment time.

The dual-degree programs prepare graduates for pastoral ministry in counseling, with third-party payment (MSW certification); and for pastoral ministry in conjunction with administration and development of social services in a church-based or community-based organization. The MAPS-MSW prepares the graduate for administration of social development programs worldwide with a peace and justice philosophy and focus.

The dual-degree programs offer savings in tuition costs. The joint program saves the student \$10,000 in tuition for MAPS/MSW and \$15,000 for MDiv/MSW, compared to the cost of doing both programs separately. In addition, the dual program decreases “opportunity loss” by allowing students to gain a year in employment.

While several seminaries in North America offer the MDiv and MSW dual-degree combination, AMBS is one of very few institutions where one can benefit from a joint program in peace and justice studies and social work. AMBS and Andrews University are working together in these dual-degree programs because the Christian values of each enhance and support the programs of the other. Christian perspectives permeate Andrews University’s courses, and its focus on fostering *shalom* and well-being in individuals, families and organizations together with compassionate service complements AMBS’s commitment to service, peacemaking and justice.

### ■ programs of study

By combining the programs of the two degrees, electives from one program meet requirements for the other program. Normally, the student concentrates on AMBS courses during the first year and then takes MSW and AMBS courses over the next two or three years, depending on

AMBS Master of Divinity and Andrews University Master of Social Work  
(90 AMBS credit hours plus additional hours at Andrews\*)

AMBS Master of Arts: Peace Studies and Andrews University Master of Social Work  
(60 AMBS credit hours plus additional hours at Andrews\*)

\*Hours at Andrews vary depending on whether the student has a BSW degree.

### ministry options

The MDiv-MSW is excellent preparation for a ministry of counseling with accreditation to receive third-party payment. Graduates also may be bivocational ministers, serving as both a pastor in a congregation and as a counselor in a health services setting.

The MDiv-MAPS program prepares people for administration in service agencies in the US and around the world, particularly agencies that address issues of justice and peacemaking.

### key resources

AMBS programs and Andrews University MSW programs have competent faculty in the range of areas these dual-degree programs represent. Andrews University MSW faculty, who teach on occasion at extension campuses around the world, bring intercultural perspective and strong Christian commitment to their teaching. MAPS-MSW students benefit from AMBS faculty members’ experience in teaching and publishing on topics of peacemaking. The AMBS library also has an extensive collection of resources in Anabaptist peace theologies.

whether the student is earning the MAPS or the MDiv at AMBS. Andrews courses generally are scheduled on Mondays, which works well for students enrolled at both schools.

The courses that fulfill the MDiv requirement provide a strong foundation in all areas of the AMBS curriculum: Bible, theology and ethics, ministry and church life, and pastoral care. The MAPS program at AMBS also includes foundational courses in Bible and theology and ethics, along with core peace studies courses and peace electives.

The Master of Social Work degree at Andrews University is a professional degree that prepares people to work in interpersonal clinical practice or in administrative and development positions. The foundational curriculum for the MSW consists of nine areas of emphases: human behavior and the social environment, social welfare policy, research, professional practice, ethics and values, diversity, socioeconomic justice, populations-at-risk and practicum. Full accreditation for Andrews University's MSW degree has been granted through the Council on Social Work Education.

The required semester hours of supervised AMBS field education can be integrated with the MSW field placement. The student has both an MSW supervisor and a pastoral supervisor. The AMBS Field Education director works cooperatively with the Andrews MSW placement faculty to find field placements that fulfill the expected learning of both programs.

AMBS students interested in the dual-degree program should apply for admission to Andrews University during the first semester of their first year at AMBS, or, at the latest, by March 1 of the year to begin fall courses.

For more details of the specific plans of study, request a copy of the AMBS catalog.

## ■ additional information

- **AMBS website:** [www.ambs.edu](http://www.ambs.edu)  
Select *Academics*, then *Degree programs*, then *Dual-degree programs*.
- **Andrews University Social Work website:**  
[www.andrews.edu/SOWK/](http://www.andrews.edu/SOWK/)
- **AMBS Admissions Office**  
[admissions@ambs.edu](mailto:admissions@ambs.edu) or 800.964.2627
- **AMBS Catalog**  
Request from Admissions Office or consult online at [www.ambs.edu/student-resources/catalog](http://www.ambs.edu/student-resources/catalog)
- **Andrews University contact**  
[www.andrews.edu](http://www.andrews.edu) or 888.297.9280

## graduate comments

"An integration of pastoral ministry and social work for me has become the work of community organizing: creating a fabric of networks with the church, in its neighborhood that respond to the deep needs of vulnerable people who live on the margins. My theological/biblical/worship studies at AMBS were paired with a deeper knowledge of caring for people and communities through the work of community organizing and community development at Andrews University. Instead of being overwhelmed by the needs of marginalized people, I have been equipped with tools that bring the gifts of the church to bear on the systemic injustices in our culture."

Melanie Neufeld, MDiv/MSW  
Pastor of Community Ministry  
Seattle Mennonite Church

"The dual-degree program gave a name to what I had always felt a yearning to do for people. Being able to be a pastor and a social worker with my nursing background meant I would be able to help people where they were, serving in a holistically healing way with the authority of the Scriptures and a license to counsel, advocate, and mentor."

Maureen Reiff-Mauzy, MDiv/MSW

"The MSW program at Andrews provided me a unique education emphasizing the integration of my Christian faith journey with my profession. The professors demonstrated compassion and integrity as they modeled Christian values. Classes offered opportunities to relate my core values and beliefs to the field of social work. This environment challenged me as I explored how I can be a faithful Christian while maintaining loyalty to the ethical standards of social work."

Kris Yoder Gingerich, MSW