Four out of five students in the Department of Social Work apply for financial aid each year. With so many students requiring financial assistance to attain their degree, the GSWA Book Scholarship, funded by students for students, is an opportunity for the members of the Graduate Social Work Association (GSWA) to serve their peers. Members of the GSWA raise funds and awareness for the scholarship each year. This provides their classmates with insight into the fundamentals of the philanthropic process, an essential component of the human services field.

The GSWA is a student organization that serves as an advocacy group and faculty liaison for the students of the Master of Social Work (MSW) Program at UNC Charlotte. In accordance with the National Association of Social Workers’ *Code of Ethics*, the GSWA strives to promote the well-being of not only students of the MSW Program, but also students, faculty, and staff of UNC Charlotte and local and global communities. Through community outreach, speakers, volunteerism and use of media, the GSWA seeks to bring awareness and sensitivity to cultural and ethnic diversity, with a special focus on empowerment and inclusivity of individuals who are vulnerable, disenfranchised, oppressed, facing social injustice, or living in poverty.
Award Amount: Typically $500 though the amount can vary from year to year

Award Criteria:
- Applicants must be enrolled in the Master of Social Work (MSW) program at UNC Charlotte having completed a minimum of 6 hours of social work credit hours.

- Student must demonstrate financial need to be considered for the award as determined by the Office of Financial Aid or applicants may include a statement describing their financial need in terms of financial sacrifices they have made to pursue their Master of Social Work degree.

- Student must have a 3.5 grade point average or above.

- The scholarship will be given to a recipient for one academic year and is not renewable in subsequent years.

- Applicant must demonstrate a commitment to inclusion, diversity, advocacy and volunteerism that is in alignment with the NASW Code of Ethics and the GSWA mission statement. A one page personal statement describing volunteer activities, length of service and skills learned must be included with application highlighting activities and accomplishments in these areas.

- Leadership or participation in GSWA activities is strongly encouraged but not required to receive the scholarship.