

# Your MSW Journey at CSUB

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Information provided by the CSUB Department of Social Work  
for the 2026 Admissions Cycle



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# Why Choose Social Work?

Social work is a profession rooted in justice and compassion, and dedicated to helping individuals, families, and communities thrive.

National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Mission:  
“Enhancing human well-being and meeting basic needs of all people, with a focus on those who are vulnerable or oppressed.”



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# Social Work Today

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*Responding to the Needs of Our Communities*



# MSW Program Pop-Up Table Event



# Core Social Work Values



# What Do Social Workers Do?



Provide counseling and support



Advocate for social justice



Connect people to resources



Influence policy and legislation

# Where Social Workers Practice



California offers diverse opportunities across urban, rural, and tribal communities



# Challenges Social Workers Help Address

Social, economic,  
racial, and  
environmental  
injustices

Family conflict

Child abuse and  
neglect

Psychiatric illness

Substance use  
disorders

Social  
maladaptation

Intimate partner  
violence

Coping with  
chronic or terminal  
illness

Challenges of aging

Challenges of  
immigration





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# Explore Your MSW Options at CSUB

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*Flexible Tracks to Fit Your Goals*

# Fall 2025 New Student Orientation



# Benefits of an MSW Degree



Prepares you for leadership and advanced practice



Projected job growth of 14% in California by 2032



Current salaries range from \$60K to \$90K for Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW)



Recognized nationally and internationally



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics –  
<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/social-workers.htm>



# About CSUB's MSW Program



Accredited by Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) through 2031 (ensures quality and eligibility for licensure)



Focus on advanced generalist practice for diverse settings



Low student-to-faculty ratio




Three available tracks: 1-year, 2-year, and 3-year



CSUB offers affordable higher education (particularly in comparison to private institutions)


# 1-Year Track (Advanced-Standing)

 Application opens in February 2026 for Summer 2026 admission

 Requires Bachelor's in Social Work (BSW) from CSWE- accredited program ***obtained within the last five years***

 3 semesters starting in summer

 Summer term is 3 units while fall and spring semesters are 15 units

 20 hours of practicum per week starting in Fall 2026

 Daytime in person classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays

 Daytime practicum on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays



# Fall 2025 1-Year Cohort



# 2-Year Track (Full-Time)



Application open now for Fall 2026 admission



4 semesters starting in the fall



Fall and spring semesters are 15 units



20 hours of practicum per week starting in Spring 2027



Daytime in person classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays



Daytime practicum on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays



# Fall 2025 2-Year Cohort



# 3-Year Track (Part-Time)



Application open now for Fall 2026 admission



8 semesters starting in the fall



Fall and spring semesters are 9 units while summer is 3 units



20 hours practicum experience per week starting in Spring 2028



Evening in person classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays



Daytime practicum Monday through Friday



# Fall 2025 3-Year Cohort





# Curriculum Overview



## Core Courses:

Human Behavior, Social Policy,  
Research, Practice, Ethics



## Total Units:

60 units for 2- and 3-Yr. Tracks  
33 units for 1-Year Track



## Electives:

Child Welfare, Substance Use,  
Healthcare, School Social Work



## Practicum Hours:

960 hrs. for 2- and 3-Yr. Tracks  
640 hrs. for 1-Year Track



## Curriculum:

Aligns with CSWE  
competencies

# Inside the MSW Classroom



## **Explore Human Behavior**

Understand how people grow, change, and interact—across cultures, communities, and life stages.



## **Practice with Purpose**

Build hands-on skills in micro, mezzo, and macro social work practice—working with individuals, families, groups, and systems.



## **Shape Policy for Justice**

Learn how social policies are made—and how to advocate for change that promotes equity and human rights.



## **Think Like a Researcher**

Use research tools to evaluate programs, improve services, and support evidence-based practice.



## **Grow Your Professional Identity**

Develop your voice as a social worker—grounded in ethics, communication, and cultural humility.



## **Apply Diagnostic Tools**

Learn how to assess needs and strengths using clinical frameworks that support effective interventions.

# Practicum Overview

01

**Real-World Application**

Apply classroom learning in real-world settings across Kern County and beyond.

02

**Personalized Placement**

You won't be alone—our Director of Practicum Education works with you to find a site that fits your goals.

03

**Employment-Based Option**

Already working in social services? You may qualify to complete practicum at your job site!

04

**Professional Preparation**

Practicum is more than an internship—it's where you grow into a social work professional.

05

**Supportive & Structured**

Practicum classes (20 units) guide your learning while you serve your community.



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# Admissions Overview

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*Start Your Journey with Confidence*

# Eligibility Requirements



Accredited bachelor's degree  
BSW from CSWE-accredited  
program earned within the last 5  
years required for 1-Year Track



Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50  
(3.00 highly recommended)  
Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00  
required for 1-Year Track



Writing Proficiency Exam



Additional requirements for  
1-Year Track:  
B or better in all social work  
courses



# Application Steps and Materials

## Required Materials

- Cal State Apply application to CSUB and MSW Program
- Resume (using our template)
- Employment/volunteer verification letter or form for each experience on your resume
- Two (2) recommendations from academic or professional references (not family or friends)
  - 1-Year Track requires one recommendation to be from practicum faculty or supervisor
- MSW writing exam
- Official transcripts

## Optional Materials

- The California Title IV-E Education Program Application and supplemental materials are uploaded through Cal State Apply and submitted with the MSW Program application.

# MSW Writing Exam Prompts



1. Discuss the academic and/or professional experiences, skills, and attributes that have prepared you for success in graduate school and the social work profession.



2. Discuss your academic and/or professional experiences, skills, attributes, and values that align with the social work profession.



3. Articulate your career goals within the field of social work and how your academic and/or professional background supports those objectives.



4. Describe how you have demonstrated a commitment to social justice or social change in an academic, volunteer, or professional context.



5. Identify specific social work issues or populations that you are most interested in working with and explain why.



6. Explain why you believe the CSUB Department of Social Work is a strong fit for your educational and professional goals.



Your response will be evaluated based on clarity, organization, depth of reflection, and relevance to the field of social work.

# Tips for Writing Exam Assessment

Highlight strengths that you believe will make you a good MSW student and future social worker

If your GPA does not reflect your intellectual capability, explain why

Make sure the information presented is concise

Use paragraphs (not numbered)

Write to the prompts

Think about your audience (faculty/admissions committee)

Organize your ideas coherently

Use transition devices to show relationships between ideas

Use standard English

Proofread for spelling and grammatical errors



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# Financial Aid

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*Funding Your MSW Education*

# Financial Aid Overview



Apply for FAFSA or DREAM Act by March 2, 2026, for priority consideration  
- Loans and grants available for graduate students



Program stipends available for students pursuing careers in public child welfare or public behavioral health



Look for scholarships through CSUB and external funding sources





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# California Title IV-E Education Program

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*Funding Your MSW Education*

*Empowering MSW Students to Lead in California's Public Child Welfare System*

# OVERVIEW

- **What is the California Title IV-E Education Program?** A collaborative stipend program funded by Title IV-E, designed to support MSW students committed to careers in public child welfare.
- **Eligibility Requirements:**
  - Acceptance into the CSUB MSW Program
  - Committed to a career in CA public child welfare
  - Must be authorized to work in the U.S.
  - Maintain valid CA driver's license and insured vehicle
  - Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 during the program

Tuition and cost support for attaining an MSW

Service requirement up to 2 years post-MSW

Formerly known as CalSWEC

# CALIFORNIA TITLE IV-E EDUCATION PROGRAM TRACK OPTIONS

## Full-Time MSW Students (1 or 2-Year Program)

- Accepted to MSW program
- Concentration Child Welfare classes and Practicum in Child Welfare agency(s)
- \$25,000 per year for up to 2 years (\$12,500 per semester)
- Must not be employed by a public child welfare agency during the program
- One year of public child welfare employment required per year of support

## Part-Time MSW Students (3-Year Program)

- Accepted to MSW program
- Must be employed by a California county or tribal social services agency as a public child welfare worker
- Must submit a letter of support from employer
- Reimbursement of up to \$19,141/year for tuition, books, and travel
- Eligible for up to 3 years of support with two years of public child welfare employment required



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# Public Behavioral Health Training Program

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*Funding Your MSW Education*

*Empowering MSW Students to Lead in California's Public Behavioral Health Settings*

# Public Behavioral Health (PBH) Training Program

- A statewide initiative aimed at preparing MSW students for effective behavioral health care in publicly funded programs, including mental health care, addiction care, and/or interdisciplinary care to clients through a publicly funded agency.
  - **\$25,000/yr** for 1- and 2-year students
  - **\$12,500/yr** for 3-year students
- Disbursements occur in mid- to-late fall & mid-to-late spring
- PBH participants must pay tuition and use the disbursement to reimburse themselves



Additional application materials required.



Practicum in a non-profit placement approved by PBH



Attend mandatory trainings (6-7/semester)



Work 1 year post MSW graduation for each year in the program



Work toward your LCSW after MSW graduation



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## Next Steps

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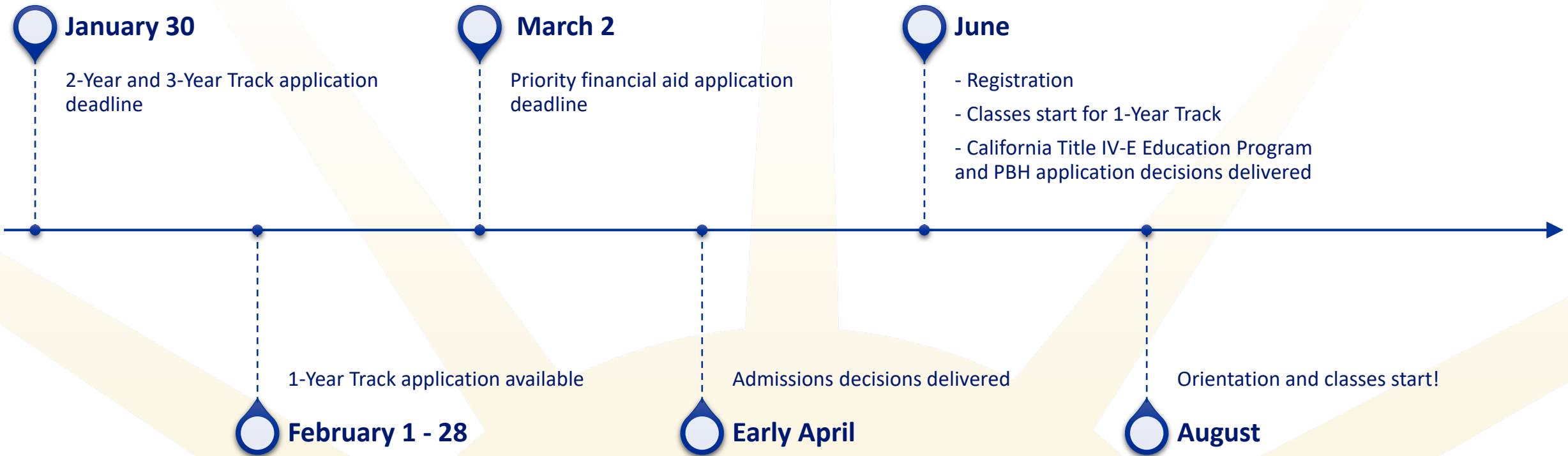
*Submit Your Application*



# 2025-2026 MSW Club Officers



# Important Dates





# QUESTIONS?

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## **DEVIN BROGAN**

*Graduate Programs Admissions Coordinator*

[mswadmissions@csub.edu](mailto:mswadmissions@csub.edu)

661-654-2107



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