ADVANCING YOUR IMPACT

EARN YOUR MSW AT CSUB

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
BAKERSFIELD



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What Makes CSUB Different

Whether you're looking to expand your skills, move into leadership, or deepen your impact, the MSW is a powerful tool for growth. Our program is designed with working professionals in mind—with flexible tracks, employment-based practicum options, and financial support for those committed to public service.

Empower your purpose. Elevate your practice. Choose CSUB.

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Explore Your MSW Options at CSUB

Flexible Tracks to Fit Your Goals

3-YEAR TRACK (PART-TIME)

- Application open now for Fall 2027 admission
- 8 semesters starting in the fall
- Fall and spring semesters are 9 units while summer is 3 units
- 20 hours practicum experience each week starting in Spring 2029
- Evening in person classes on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays
- Daytime practicum Monday through Friday

2-YEAR TRACK (FULL-TIME)

- Application open now for Fall 2027 admission
- 4 semesters starting in the fall
- Fall and spring semesters are 15 units
- 20 hours of practicum per week starting in Spring 2028
- Daytime in person classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Daytime practicum on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

1-YEAR TRACK (ADVANCED-STANDING)

- Application opens in early 2027 for Summer 2027 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 2027
- Daytime in person classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Daytime practicum on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

ADVANCED GENERALIST CURRICULUM



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, Adult & Aging Population



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.

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Admissions Overview

Start Your Journey with Confidence

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS



Accredited bachelor's degree



Minimum cumulative or last-60-unit GPA of 2.50
(3.00+ recommended for a stronger application)



Writing Proficiency Exam



Additional requirements for 1-Year Track:

- BSW from CSWE accredited program
- 3.00 cumulative GPA
- B or better in all social work courses
- Must have earned BSW within the last 5 years

APPLICATION STEPS AND MATERIALS

Required Materials

- Cal State Apply application to CSUB and MSW Program
- Employment/volunteer verification letter or form for each experience listed in Cal State Apply
- Two 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

TIPS FOR WRITING EXAM ASSESSMENT

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

MSW SAMPLE 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.

IMPORTANT DATES



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
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CalWISE Title IV-E

Funding Your MSW Education

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

OVERVIEW

- **What is CalWISE?** 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

Financial Support

Child Welfare Career Preparation

Post-graduate Service Commitment

CALWISE TITLE IV-E 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, parking, and travel
- Eligible for up to three years of support with two years of public child welfare employment required



QUESTIONS?

Admissions

mswadmissions@csub.edu
661-654-2107

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