SACRAMENTO STATE

Master of Social Work (MSW) Program

School of Social Work

College of Health & Human Services

Redefine the Possible™

History of the School of Social Work (Established 1964)

- The School of Social Work, located in the California state capital, strives to prepare ethical and competent social workers who can both lead and serve our richly diverse populations in the development and delivery of services that contribute to human well-being and social justice. The School offers professional undergraduate and graduate degree programs that prepare competent and reflective social workers who apply critical thinking in social work practice and research. Rooted in long standing and evolving partnerships with community-based agencies, educational institutions, local and state government, we prepare students to effectively serve culturally-diverse and vulnerable individuals, families and communities in various areas and capacities including as practitioners, leaders and social justice advocates.

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Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (ADEI) Statement

- It is expected that students entering and participating in our program learn to honor and respect diverse life experiences while challenging biases, prejudices, and discriminatory practices perpetuated by themselves or others. This includes biases, prejudices, and discriminatory practices held toward LGBTQ+ individuals, people of color, people living with mental or physical disabilities, the aging, people from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, and people of different genders.
- Therefore, any prospective student contemplating applying to the School of Social Work should examine carefully their own issues or beliefs which might impede their ability to comply with the values expressed in the above statement.

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Where are MSW Graduates Now?

- Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW)
- Medical Social Work
- Child Welfare Workers
- Geriatric Social Work
- Substance Abuse
- School Social Work
- Management and Administration
- Corrections and Probation
- Psychotherapy
- Policy Advocacy

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Admissions Requirements

- Have attained a grade point average of at least 2.8 cumulative GPA
- Have completed a four-year college course of study and hold a baccalaureate degree from an institution accredited by a regional accrediting association by August 2027
- Have passed an approved lower or upper division course in statistics with a grade of "C" (not C-) or better by August before Fall semester
- Have passed an approved lower or upper division biology course that includes human biology content passed with a "C" (not C-) or better by August before Fall semester

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Advanced Standing Admission Requirements

- Applicants that are interested in applying for the Advanced Standing Program must have:
  - Graduated from a CSWE-BSW program within the last five years
  - A cumulative GPA of *3.5*
  - Additional references from your Field Instructor and Field Liaison (these will be requested after you submit your MSW application and an interview may be required)

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Admissions Process (First and Second Step)

Apply to MSW Program

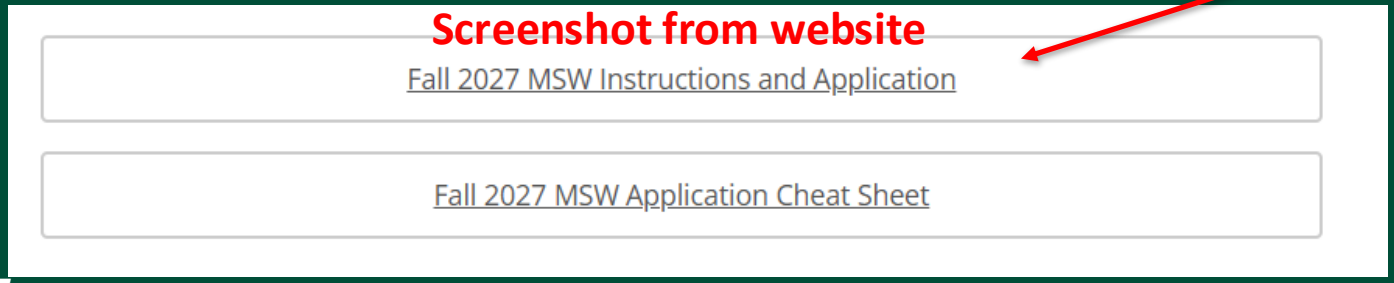
Step 1: Apply online to the university.

The Social Work Supplemental Application is already attached to the Cal State Apply application *(Available August 1st but the application cannot be submitted until October 1st)*

Before starting application:

Please read the **Fall 2027 MSW Instructions and Application** thoroughly.

Please see the **Cheat Sheet** as an *example* of the Social Work Supplemental application found within the Cal State Apply application.



DEADLINE:

Cal State Apply and MSW application **deadline** is **December 9, 2026**.

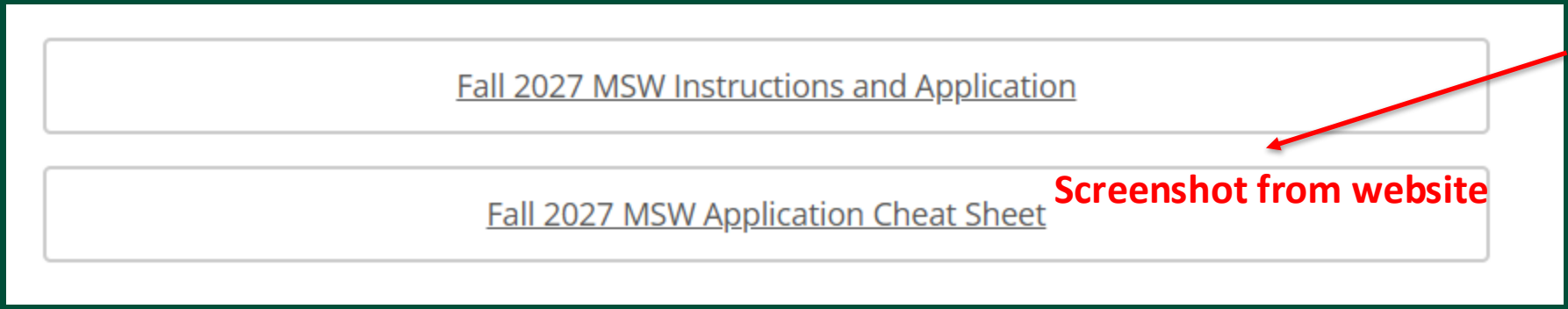
Step 2: Once submitting the Cal State Apply and Social Work Supplemental Application, you will receive an email from the Office of Graduate Studies, Sacramento State, with the instruction for setting up or reactivating the SacLink account

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MSW Application "Cheat Sheet"

- Fillable PDF document "cheat sheet" of application to help applicants prepare for the MSW supplemental application
- Website: https://www.csus.edu/college/health-human-services/social-work/application-process.html

Apply to MSW website



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Admissions Process for Title IV-E (Three Step Process)

Ttile IV-E Website

This is how to apply to the School of Social Work, Title IV-E Program

Step 1: Apply online to the university. The Social Work Supplemental Application is already attached to the Cal State Apply application

Step 2: After submitting the Cal State Apply and Social Work Supplemental Application, you will receive an email from the Office of Graduate Studies, Sacramento State, with the instruction for setting up or reactivating the SacLink account

If Applying for the Title IV-E Program...

Applications cannot be submitted before October 1, 2026.

Make sure you have completed Steps 1 and 2 above, then continue to Step 3 below.

Step 3: Submit the Title-IV-E Application.

The Title-IV-E application form **MUST** be **finished within 20 minutes**, and you **MUST** click "**Submit**" when finished.

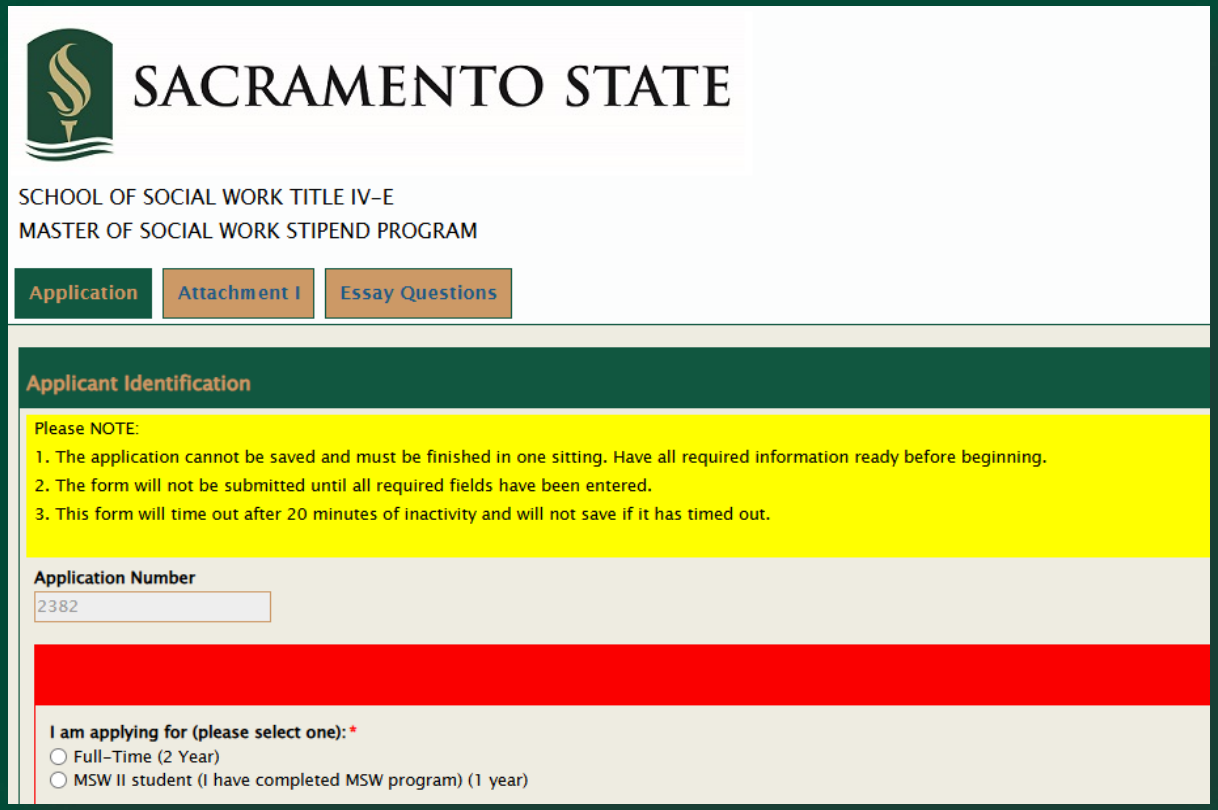
Title IV-E Application

To learn more about the Title IV-E Stipend Program.

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Title IV-E Application

Title IV-E Application



1. Greyed out fields will be filled out when you click on the link to enter the Title IV-E application. Your student ID and data (application number and your name) are automatically populated and cannot be changed or any data entered in those read-only fields.
2. The application **CANNOT BE SAVED** and must be finished **within 20 minutes** in one sitting. Please have all the required information ready before starting.
   - You can log into the application more than one time

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MSW Application/Evaluation

- Academic Work (2.8 minimum cumulative GPA)
- GRE analytical writing score (Waived for Fall 2026/2027)
- Length and type of field work, employment and unpaid human services experience
  - Describe employment and volunteer information clearly to show social work relevance
- Special knowledge and skills
  - Courses specializing in cultural diversity, be sure to list 3 courses to receive credit
  - Fluency in a second language
- Leadership skills
  - Provide any experience that you feel demonstrates your leadership qualities
- Reference forms
  - Submit 3 professional references. Current students should include faculty references.
- Human Biology & Statistics prerequisite
  - Review information on our website – if you still have questions or want to verify your class, contact the Admissions Director at dinis@csus.edu for more information

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Program Structures

- Advanced Standing Program
- Two Year Program
  - Title IV-E Stipend Program
- Three Year (currently limited to IV-E Applicants)

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Advanced Standing

Fall 2027	Spring 2028
Swrk 206/7/8A Specialized Practice Swrk 296/7/8A Specialized Field Swrk 252/3/4 Specialized Advanced Policy Swrk Elective Swrk 500/501 Culminating Experience	Swrk 206/7/8B Specialized Practice Swrk 296/7/8B Specialized Field Swrk Elective Swrk 500/502 Culminating Experience

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Two Year Program
(Title IV-E included)

Fall 2027 **Swrk 202 Diversity & Social Justice** **Swrk 204A Practice I** **Swrk 250 Policy** **Swrk 235A HBSE I** **Swrk 295A Field I**	**Spring 2028** **Swrk 210 Research** **Swrk 204B Practice II** **Swrk 235B HBSE II** **Swrk Elective** **Swrk 295B Field II**
Fall 2028 Swrk 206/7/8A Specialized Practice Swrk 296/7/8A Specialized Field Swrk 252/3/4 Specialized Advanced Policy Swrk Elective Swrk 500/501 Culminating Experience	Spring 2029 Swrk 206/7/8B Specialized Practice Swrk 296/7/8B Specialized Field Swrk Elective Swrk 500/502 Culminating Experience

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Three Year Title IV-E Program
(Available for Applying for Fall 2027)

Fall 2027 **Swrk 235A HBSE I** **Swrk 250 Policy**	**Spring 2028** **Swrk 235B HBSE II** **Swrk Elective**
Fall 2028 Swrk 202 Diversity & Social Justice Swrk 204A Practice I Swrk 295A Field I Swrk Elective	Spring 2029 Swrk 210 Research Swrk 204B Practice II Swrk 295B Field II
Fall 2029 Swrk 206/7/8A Specialized Practice Swrk 296/7/8A Specialized Field Swrk 252/3/4 Specialized Policy Swrk 500/501 Culminating Experience	Spring 2030 Swrk 206/7/8B Specialized Practice Swrk 296/7/8B Specialized Field Swrk Elective Swrk 500/502 Culminating Experience

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MSW Specializations

- MSW Specializations
  - Behavioral Health
  - Health, Disability & Aging
  - Children & Families
    - Required for Title-IV-E students

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Behavioral Health Specialization

The focus is to train graduate level practitioners to work with people living with severe and persistent mental illnesses and substance use problems (among other comorbid conditions), work within the community mental health system, conduct complex clinical assessments, differential psychodiagnosis, perform time-limited psychotherapeutic interventions, conduct clinical case management, integrate autonomous practice with advanced ethics and mental health law, be a liaison with the courts and other forensic services.

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Behavioral Health Specialization Recommended Electives

- 218 Alcohol and Other Drugs: Use, misuse, abuse
- 223 New Developments in Psychodiagnosis (DSM-5-TR)
- 224 Advanced Mental Health Practice
- 262 Social Work Practice and Rehabilitation
- 228 Clinical Intervention in Sexual Abuse

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Health, Disability & Aging Specialization

The focus is to train graduate level practitioners to work in hospitals, health clinics, hospice, VA settings, public health and aging services, community agencies, regional centers, and more. Students apply an anti-oppressive, anti-ableist approach to provide a range of services with individuals, families, and groups such as biopsychosocial assessments, crisis and brief interventions, interprofessional collaboration, substance use treatment groups, supportive counseling, advocacy, policy analysis, and complex system navigation.

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Health, Disability & Aging Specialization Recommended Electives

- 219 Social Work Practice in Health Care Settings
- 230 Geriatric Health/Mental Health
- 245 Death, Grief and Growth
- 269 Aging Policy and Services

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Children & Families Specialization

The focus is to train graduate-level practitioners in child welfare, with children and families, with school and social service settings to conduct brief interventions and case management.

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Children & Families Specialization Recommended Electives

- 213 Public Child Welfare Practice (required for Title IV-E students)
- 226 Family Interventions
- 246 Forensic Social Work

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Other Electives

- 215 Mediation and Restorative Justice
- 218 Chemical Dependence: Strategies and Tactics for Social Work Practice
- 221 Community Organizing Practice
- 225 Advanced Group Work Methods
- 232 Spirituality in Social Work
- 259 International Social Work
- 261 Grant Writing and Resource Development
- 244 Working with LGBTQ+ Publics
- 245 Forensic Social Work with Adults
- 246 Forensic Social Work with Youth
- 296D Developmental Disabilities and Practice

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Other Options

- Pupil Personnel School Credential One-year Program
  - This program is now handled by the College of Continuing Education: https://www.cce.csus.edu/pupil-personnel-services-credential-school-social-work

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Financial Aid

- Students should contact the Bursar's Office about payment plans.
  - https://www.csus.edu/administration-business-affairs/bursar/
- MSW scholarships include
  - The Isabel Louisson Memorial Scholarship
  - Louis Bronson Scholarship
  - David Humphers Scholarship
  - Sutter Health Scholarship

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Title IV-E

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Title IV-E Stipend Program: Pipeline to Child Welfare System

- Information available at: https://www.csus.edu/college/health-human-services/social-work/stipend-specialty-programs/title-ive.html OR http://calswec.berkeley.edu/
- In 1990 , the deans and directors of California's graduate schools of social work and the County Welfare Directors Association collaborated to create the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) which is now California Title IV-E Education Program.
- Title IV-E's goal is to improve the education and experience of social workers pursuing careers in public child welfare.
- In 1992, CalSWEC entered into a contract with the California Department of Social Services to develop the MSW Title IV-E Stipend Program to prepare students for careers in public child welfare.

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Title IV-E Stipend Program

- How much financial aid/stipend is provided?
  - The Title IV-E Stipend Program provides two years of support for full-time students who complete the MSW program. The stipend is considered financial aid scholarship. The stipend amount is $25,000 per year for both new and continuing students.
  - Part-time students, limited to current employees of a county CPS agencies or the state Department of Social Services, receive reimbursement for full tuition and fees, costs for required books, and a travel allowance for each day of class.
- How many stipends are available?
  - The number of stipends per class of full-time students are awarded each academic year based on funding approved for the academic year.
  - The part-time program awards as many applicants funding supports for the academic year.
- How are students selected to receive the stipends?
  - Applicants may apply for the Title IV-E Stipend Program by completing a supplemental application. Applicants are scored and selected for interviews. A committee consisting of both faculty and agency representatives from county child welfare services makes award decisions.

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Title IV-E Stipend Program

- What academic requirements must students fulfill to receive the financial aid?
  - Students must complete the entire MSW child welfare program with a minimum 3.0 GPA, including the equivalent of two years of fieldwork.
  - Both years of fieldwork must be in a child welfare or tribal agency serving Title IV-E children and families. Students will be placed in an agency for first year internship. Second year internships must be in a county cps, tribal or California Department of Social Services.

- What is the student's commitment after graduation?
  - Upon graduation students must work in a county child welfare services agency, California Department of Social Services (CDSS) child welfare division or tribal agency, each year of support received., 2 year or 24 months. It may be 1 year or 12 months for Advanced Standing.
  - Part time students employed at county or state Department of Social Service's must return to that agency and render one year of full-time employment for 2 years or 24 mo post graduation.

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Title IV-E Admissions Process

Title IV-E Application Instructions

Complete the CalState Apply Application and MSW Supplemental application. (Application 1 and 2)

Complete the Title IV-E Supplemental Application (3rd application)

Submit all required supplement materials to Royce Gonzales at rgonzal@csus.edu

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Title IV-E Stipend Program

- Application for the Title IV-E Stipend Program is available on the social work website on October 1, 2026. Applications are DUE: **December 9th, 2026**. Additional documents also due **December 9th, 2026.** Check the website for updated information https://www.csus.edu/college/health-human-services/social-work/stipend-specialty-programs/title-ive.html

- Dr. Tracy Kent
  - Director, Title IV-E Program
  - (916) 278-4161
  - E-mail: **kentt@csus.edu**
- Royce Gonzales
  - Administrative Support Coordinator
  - (916) 278-5057
  - E-mail: **rgonzal@csus.edu**
- Serena Vu
  - Administrative Assistant
  - (916) 278-6597
  - E-mail: **serenavu@csus.edu**

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Additional Stipends like Title IV-E

- Public Behavioral Health
  - For MSW I and II students; must specialize in Behavioral Health
  - One year stipend ($25,000); approximately 10 stipends available
  - Practicum in a public behavioral health agency
  - One year repayment post-graduation in any PBH agency in CA
- Aging and Adult Services
  - For MSW I & II students; must specialize in Health, Disability & Aging
  - One year stipend ($25,000); approximately 5 stipends per year
  - Practicum in public services to older and disabled adults
  - One year repayment post-graduation for each year stipend receipt

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PBH MSW Training Program Overview

- Prepares MSW students for careers in publicly funded behavioral health settings.
- Provides specialized coursework, field training, and professional development.
- Offers a $25,000 stipend for qualifying full-time students.
- At Sacramento State, participation occurs during the advanced (final) year of the MSW program.

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Eligibility & Application

- Open to eligible MSW students, including full-time, part-time, and advanced standing students.
- Must be in good academic standing and have an eligible publicly funded behavioral health field placement.
- Cannot receive funding from another HCAI-administered training program.
- MSW1 students typically apply during the spring semester for participation in MSW2, pending continued funding.

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Training Commitments & Next Steps

- Complete specialized behavioral health coursework, field training, and professional development.
- Complete 12 months of full-time service in a qualifying publicly funded behavioral health setting after graduation.
- Pursue LCSW licensure, including ACSW registration and supervised experience.
- Learn more: Sac State PBH Program Website
- Contact: Frances Furio, Program Coordinator | frances.furio@csus.edu

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AAS Training Program Overview

- Funded by the CA Department of Social Services
- Provides specialized training, supplemental seminars and supportive cohort for MSW students already committed to careers providing social work services to aging & vulnerable adults in CA's public systems
- $25,000 stipend for qualifying, full-time students
- For 1st or 2nd year or advanced standing MSW students, must have demonstrated experience in field
- Apply in Spring semester for following academic year

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AAS Eligible Training Sites

Qualifying categories for internships & employment repayment year(s):

- Public (county and Tribal) Adult Protective Services, In Home Supportive Services, and Public Guardian/Public Conservator programs
- Area Agency on Aging programs funded by the California Department of Aging & funded programs (e.g., ACC Senior Services)
- PACE Programs - Programs of All-Inclusive Care of the Elderly
- MSSPs - Multipurpose Senior Services Programs
- CBAS - Community-Based Adult Services

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Training Commitments & Next Steps

- Match with approved internship in public aging services
- Complete specialized training provided through the state funder and monthly Sac State supplemental seminars
- Participate in Health, Disability & Aging specialization & take related elective courses
- Complete 12 months of full-time work in eligible site (per year stipend receipt) & respond to funder questionnaires
- LCSW is encouraged but not required
- Contact Katie Savin, Program Coordinator | savin@csus.edu
- Learn more here

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Field Practicum

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Purpose of Field Practicums

- Social work practicums provide students with a unique opportunity to apply what they are learning in the classroom to practice in "real life" social work settings.

- Participating in a practicum at a social work field agency allows students to leverage classroom theory and knowledge to develop their professional competence and identity, as well as begin their commitment to serving clients and communities.

- The profession of Social Work uses the practicum education as the avenue through which it "professionalizes" the students. It is through a field practicum that the student learns how to think and act like a professional social worker.

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What is a SW Field Practicum?

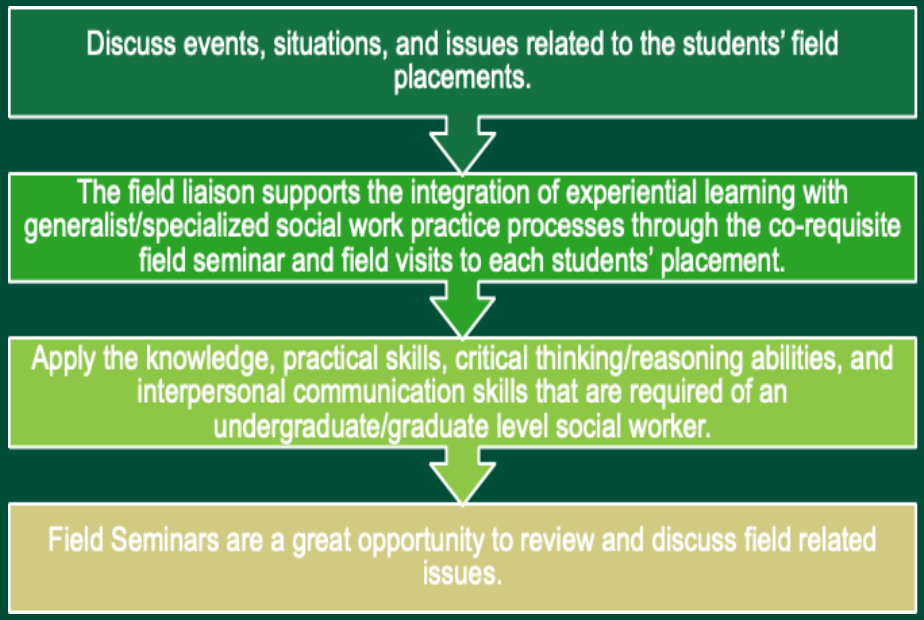
- A SW field practicum is required for all SW students. It is not a job, nor an "internship;" it is a class (learning environment).
- A field practicum involves a competency-based educational experience; it is not meant for simply accruing hours.
- The SW student is not an intern; they are a practicum student.
- **Internships**: Occur after one receives their degree and enters an entry level "work" experience. They are treated as an employee and expected to perform tasks equal to other entry-level employees who've earned the same degree.
- **Practicums**: Are a component of the academic coursework and are **required** for degree completion. Its focus is applying classroom knowledge to "real-world" settings while in school. The emphasis and purpose is on learning and skill development rather than project completions or accruing work experience. Students must pass to graduate.

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Field Requirements

- **Hours/Days**
  - MSW1- Th/F (16 hours per week): Field Seminars on Thur. 5x/semester
  - MSW2- M/T/W (24 hours per week): Field Seminars on Wed 5x/semester
  - Field Seminars are imbedded into a field day and included in field hours

Field Seminars



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Field Requirements

- **Evening & Weekend Policy**
  - Students must be at their practicum site during the "life of the agency" **and** have access to an approved field instructor, which is typically M-F, 8am-5pm
- **Employment-Based Field Practicum**
  - Are a possibility and must meet practicum requirements
  - Protocols and Procedures
  - Zoom sessions required for all interested students
- **Field Instructors (FI)**
  - Degreed social workers (BSW/MSW/LCSW), must be approved.
  - All approved FIs must complete training by School of Social Work Field Office

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Deadlines

- Cal State Apply and MSW Application
  - Deadline Wednesday, December 9, 2026 (available August 1st but the application cannot be submitted until October 1, 2026)
  - Title IV-E Stipend Application
  - Deadline Wednesday, December 9, 2026 (available October 1, 2026)

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Accepted or Denied?

- The number one reason why students are not accepted is…..INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS
- YOU are responsible for ALL materials being turned in ON TIME!

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Q & A

Maria Dinis, PhD, MSW
Admissions Director & Professor
Email: dinis@csus.edu

Tracy Kent, Ed.D, MSW
Title IV-E Program Director
Email: kentt@csus.edu

Lisa Marsh, MSW
Director, Field Education Program
Email: lisa.marsh@csus.edu

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