

# MSW Admission Info Session - Detailed Q&A; Summary

## Admission Requirements

**Q:** Are there recency requirements for prerequisite courses?

**A:** Recency requirements were not specifically mentioned during the session. Applicants are advised to contact the admissions office to verify if their previously completed courses still meet the prerequisites.

**Q:** Does a Human Development class count toward the human biology requirement?

**A:** Human Development may be considered toward the human biology requirement, but it depends on the course content. Applicants must email a course description and syllabus to Dr. Maria Dinis for evaluation.

**Q:** What if I plan to take the biology course after submitting my application?

**A:** You may apply without having completed the biology requirement, as long as the course is successfully completed before the Fall 2026 cohort begins. This flexibility allows applicants who are in-progress to still be considered.

**Q:** How is the cumulative GPA calculated?

**A:** Graduate Studies calculates the cumulative GPA using coursework from all institutions attended, not just the degree-granting institution. This includes transfer credits from community colleges and other universities.

**Q:** Is a personal statement required?

**A:** No personal statement is required for the MSW application at CSUS. Unlike some other programs, the focus is on transcripts, references, and other application materials.

**Q:** Are academic references acceptable?

**A:** Yes. In fact, academic references are considered desirable. Applicants should list referees' names and emails in the application system, and referees will receive a link to submit their recommendation directly.

## Application Process

**Q:** What benefits come with applying by the priority deadline?

**A:** Submitting by the priority deadline means applicants may be selected earlier in the review process and offered admission before regular applicants. This gives an advantage in securing a spot in the program.

**Q:** Can I apply to both Advanced Standing and the 2-Year Program at the same time?

**A:** No. Applicants must choose one program track—either the Advanced Standing or the traditional 2-Year Program. There is no option to apply to both simultaneously as a backup.

**Q:** Do official transcripts need to be submitted, or are unofficial transcripts okay?

**A:** Official transcripts must be sent directly from each institution attended to the CSUS admissions office. Unofficial transcripts submitted with the application will not satisfy the requirement.

**Q:** How long do we have to accept an admission offer?

**A:** Generally, applicants have about 10 days to accept an offer of admission. This timeline applies to both priority and regular applicants. Applicants should be prepared to respond quickly once notified.

## Program Structure

**Q:** Are all classes in person, or are there online options?

**A:** Most classes are in-person, reflecting the program's focus on interpersonal and professional development. However, some limited online or hybrid courses may be available depending on the semester.

**Q:** Is there a dual master's program (e.g., MSW + MPH)?

**A:** No. CSUS does not offer a dual MSW program with another discipline (e.g., MSW/MPH). Applicants interested in pursuing two degrees would need to apply to separate programs independently.

**Q:** Can electives from other specializations or departments be taken?

**A:** Students can take electives across different MSW specializations (for example, a health and aging student can take a behavioral health elective). However, electives cannot be taken outside the School of Social Work (e.g., psychology department).

**Q:** Is there a capstone requirement?

**A:** A specific capstone project was not mentioned in the info session. Students should refer to the program curriculum or field manual for detailed graduation requirements.

## Practicum & Field Placement

**Q:** Can I propose a practicum site not already on the CSUS list?

**A:** No. Practicum placements must come from agencies that have been vetted and approved by the CSUS Field Office. Students are matched to placements based on availability and fit.

**Q:** How much choice do students have in selecting practicum sites?

**A:** Students can indicate preferences by ranking their top choices. However, final placements are made by the Field Office, taking into account site capacity, student goals, and agency availability.

**Q:** Are correctional facilities an option for practicum?

**A:** Yes. CSUS partners with correctional facilities as well as agencies that serve justice-involved populations, including District Attorney's offices.

**Q:** Is an interview required for practicum placement?

**A:** Yes. All students, including both BSW and MSW, must interview with potential agencies. Placements are finalized only after the agency accepts the student following an interview.

**Q:** What are the supervision requirements if an LCSW is at my workplace?

**A:** Field Instructors (LCSWs) must provide at least one hour of supervision per week to the student. Working at a site does not automatically qualify for placement—sites must be vetted by the Field Office.

**Q:** Are undocumented students limited in practicum placement options?

**A:** Practicum placements may be limited depending on agency requirements. Students should consult the Field Office for guidance on eligible sites.

## Financial Aid & Stipends

**Q:** Where can I find options for financing beyond federal aid?

**A:** Applicants should research external scholarships, state stipends, and private funding sources. CSUS also provides information on stipends and specialty funding programs.

**Q:** How do I apply for the Public Behavioral Health (PBH) stipend?

**A:** Interested applicants should contact Dr. Frances Furio at frances.furio@csus.edu for details on eligibility and the application process.

**Q:** Can students apply to multiple stipend programs?

**A:** Yes. Students can apply to more than one stipend program (e.g., Title IV-E and PBH), although each program has separate eligibility requirements.

**Q:** What documents are required for Title IV-E?

**A:** Applicants to Title IV-E must provide a valid driver's license and proof of insurance. A state-issued ID alone is not sufficient, as driving is required for field placement travel.