

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.