



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

MSW & ASP Admission Requirements

Admission Requirements to the Master of Social Work Program is based on meeting the academic qualifications required of all graduate students in the College of Health and Human Services in addition to an evaluation of the applicant's potential for advanced practice in the profession of social work. Please keep in mind that the application process is highly competitive, so you may wish to focus on more than just the minimum requirements. For example, an applicant with two years of work experience and a 3.25 grade point average (GPA) would be seen as a stronger applicant than one with one year of work experience and a 2.75 GPA.

1. A bachelor's degree with a liberal arts background from an accredited college or university. All applicants must have a liberal arts background, although a specific degree in this area is not required. We define this broad orientation as knowledge in which critical thinking is developed through studies of social and behavioral sciences, and the humanities. For example, individuals applying for the program could come from among the following areas: Social Work or Human Services (e.g., Child Development, Nursing, Rehabilitation, Home Economics, etc.), Liberal Arts (e.g., Physiology, Political Science, History, Economics, Psychology, Sociology, Human Development, Anthropology, Ethnic Studies, Women's Studies, Humanities, Philosophy, Literature, Art, Music, etc.). Students from more technical areas may be considered for admission. The decision will depend on the applicant's particular qualifications and background as described in the application.

2. For the MSW Advanced Standing Program (ASP), a BASW degree from a CSWE accredited school is required as well as a cumulative GPA (Grade Point Average) of 3.0 or higher. For the traditional 2- or 3-Year programs, a minimum GPA of at least 2.75 in the last 90 quarter units or last 60 semester units (on a 4-point scale). This is not the cumulative GPA (see enclosed guidelines for calculating GPA). If your courses are from colleges or universities that use non-traditional grading (e.g., pass/no pass for all courses--no letter grades), please submit your transcripts early with the narratives, so that we may assist you in calculating your GPA. Courses taken after your initial GPA is calculated by the University, including prerequisite courses, may be counted in the final GPA, so please be sure that courses taken after this calculation is done will not place you below the minimum GPA requirement and disqualify your admittance into the program.

3. Completion of three prerequisites—one course in "Research Methods and Statistics," and 8 quarter units or 6 semester units of upper division social science courses (upper division refers to junior or senior standing 4-year college courses in such disciplines as social work, psychology, sociology, ethnic studies, political science, anthropology, and history).

Applicants must receive a passing grade in the prerequisite courses for them to count toward the requirement. A passing grade is defined as either a letter grade of "C" or better or "credit/pass" in a pass/fail or credit/no credit system. The prerequisites may be taken at a community college, state college, or university, and units do not need to be transferable. You may submit your application while completing these prerequisites if you have completed at least 2 of the 3

prerequisites by the time your application is submitted and you have documented your specific plans to complete the last one (listing the term the course will be taken, the institution, and the exact course title and description).

If you are admitted into the program, you must complete all prerequisites before entering the program in Fall semester. If you have taken a “Research Methods and Statistics” course you believe covered the appropriate content, submit a course syllabus to the MSW Office for further review. You do not have to obtain the actual syllabus from when the course was taken. You may submit the current syllabus by contacting that department/school and asking them to email the current syllabus for that class to you or the MSW Admissions Office at mawadmissions@calstatela.edu with your name and telephone number on it. The MSW program will decide whether the course will count for the specified prerequisite. If a decision is made that the course will not count, you will be required to take the appropriate class to fulfill the prerequisite. Do not wait until the last minute to complete prerequisites because applicants admitted into the program will not begin the program if they have not successfully completed all prerequisites by August 1st. The MSW program will not allow incoming students to take outstanding prerequisites concurrent with MSW coursework. Syllabi for the two upper division social science courses are not necessary if course titles and numbers on the transcript(s) reflect social science content and course level.

4. Good academic standing is required if you were previously in a graduate program from the last college or university attended. If you were previously admitted in a MSW program, we require that you submit a letter from their School for both academic and practicum stating that they are in good standing and must be submitted with your application.

5. Transfer Students. Our MSW program does not accept transfer students from other MSW programs. Applicants interested in receiving credit for course work completed from a previous MSW program will need to apply as a new student. If accepted, the applicant can then petition to get credit(s) for previous course work completed. You will need to submit syllabi and/or field evaluations to the MSW Director for approval of course work.

6. Work experience in social services or human services is not required but highly desirable for all candidates. General work experience is also considered and should be included. For the ASP program successful candidates will demonstrate readiness to be placed in a second-year field placement if admitted. For example, the candidate could show evidence of successful completion of and successful performance in the BASW internship.

7. The GRE is not required.