INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Department of Social Work is to educate committed professionals for direct social work practice with vulnerable children and families, and underserved severely mentally ill individuals and groups, with special sensitivity to the multicultural populations of Orange County and nearby Southern California regions.

The M.S.W. program emphasizes ecological and open-systems perspectives that focus on the fit and interactions of a person or family within a variety of dynamic social and economic systems. Effective social work practice is seen as a change-oriented process that seeks to improve the quality of life of clients, ensures equitable access to opportunities and resources, supports social participation and advocates for fairness within a multicultural context.

The M.S.W. program is designed to address the growing need for social workers to work with individuals, families, groups and organizations in public and nonprofit social service agencies.


LEARNING GOALS AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The following learning goals and learning outcomes have been established for students pursuing a degree in Social Work:

Knowledge

- Enhance the social functioning and interactions of individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities
- Critically analyze and apply knowledge of human behavior in the context of social environments from a bio-psycho-social-spiritual strengths-based perspective using ecological and other applicable theories and research
- Develop and practice communication skills for effective social work practice with systems of all sizes
- Develop and practice strategies of intervention that are empowering and advance social and economic justice
- Learn theoretical frameworks that explain individual and family development across the life span, as well as developmental theories that apply to groups, organizations and communities

Skills

- Become change agents and work effectively in increasingly complex, culturally and racially diverse communities
• Understand, value and respect the multicultural perspectives, as well as recognize and apply skills of change to conditions of racism, sexism, homophobia and other forms of oppression, discrimination and social and economic injustice at the individual, family, organizational and governmental levels
• Apply knowledge and skills of a generalist social work perspective that is contextually and culturally competent
• Leadership roles in public social service organizations

Experience
• Analyze social welfare policy and formulate advocacy and practice techniques
• Use supervision and consultation appropriately
• Apply knowledge and skills of advanced social work practice in the specialized areas of Child Welfare and Community Mental Health
• Function effectively within the structure of organizations and service delivery systems, and when appropriate, facilitate organizational change necessary to promote social work values and ethics

CONCENTRATIONS

Child Welfare Concentration (CW)
The Child Welfare (CW) concentration prepares students for practice in a variety of settings, including child welfare/protective services, health care, mental health, public social services, schools, community-based outpatient agencies, corrections/juvenile justice, residential treatment, programs for persons with developmental disabilities, domestic violence shelters and other specialized programs.

Community Mental Health Concentration (CMH)
The Community Mental Health (CMH) concentration prepares students for practice in a variety of mental health settings, including psychiatric hospitals, residential treatment, county mental health clinics, correctional institutions, substance abuse treatment and other specialized programs.

CALSWEC M.S.W. PROGRAM
The M.S.W. Program at CSUF has established eligibility for the CalSWEC Title IV-E training funds.

California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) is a unique partnership between social work education and the publicly supported child welfare structure. The mission and goals of the CalSWEC program is to re-professionalize public child welfare. CalSWEC provides financial support to M.S.W. students in exchange for a commitment to work in a public child welfare agency for a minimum of one year for every year of support received. The intent of the program is to strengthen and enhance the quality of practice by professionally trained and educated public child welfare social workers.

The Title IV-E stipends provide for either two (2) or three (3) years of support for students enrolled in the M.S.W. program, full-time or part-time, respectively. The student signs a contract to secure full-time employment in a public child welfare agency for two (2) years (one year of employment for each year of support) but is expected to remain in public child welfare employment for longer than this minimum period. Once accepted into the program, students must undergo pre-screening for county employment, including fingerprinting and participation in the criminal clearance process.

With the passage of the Mental Health Services Act, a parallel training stipend program was established in California for M.S.W. students who specialize in mental health. Similar to the child welfare training, the Mental Health Initiative, also managed by CalSWEC, offers training stipends for one year of support for students enrolled in the M.S.W. program in exchange for a commitment to work in a public mental health agency for a minimum of one year for every year of support received.

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (60 UNITS)
Admission Requirements
Students must meet the CSU requirements for admission to a master’s degree program. Please consult the Graduate Admissions section in this catalog for complete information. In addition, requirements for admission to conditionally classified standing in the program include:

• Commitment to a two-year cohort course of study for completion of the M.S.W., or a three-year course of study
• Have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.0 in the last 90 quarter units or last 60 semester units as documented by official transcript(s) from all higher education institutions attended
• A strong liberal arts undergraduate foundation that is similar to the undergraduate graduation requirements from the California State University or University of California systems
• Evidence of language skills and/or cultural experiences appropriate to the diverse communities to be served
• One year of paid or volunteer experience in a human service context or related area
• Submission of a personal statement self-assessment essay. Students must submit a written essay explaining why they would be good candidates for the program, including a description of their experience and/or commitment to social work, evidence of personal qualifications, motivation and potential that shows promise of becoming a successful social worker
• Submission of three letters of reference, including professional references and those from academic instructors
• Completion of an interview
• Submission of two applications – a CSUmentor (csumentor.edu) application and the Department of Social Work application submitted online to the department
• For international students from countries where English is not the official language, a score of 575 on the paper exam is required. A student scoring between 555-574 on the paper exam or 83-88 on the Internet-based TOEFL may be admitted conditionally depending upon an evaluation of the entire application file
• Accessibility Issues – Special accommodations for disabled students will be made on an individual student, as-needed basis in compliance with the CSUF Catalog (online catalog at fullerton.edu/disabledservices/handbook/SupportiveServices.htm). Please contact the instructor and department chair for more information
• Submission of an academic or professional piece of writing
• The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) may be submitted as an optional form of documentation, but is not required

Classification and Advancement to Candidacy

Advancement to classified standing and candidacy requires the student to maintain continued good academic standing in all coursework and field experiences. In the case of unsatisfactory academic performance, the chair of the Social Work department, with the approval of the Office of Graduate Studies, shall recommend remediation or dismissal of a student.

Under special circumstances, a graduate student may be approved for a one-semester leave of absence or, with approval of the Social Work department, for a two-semester leave in extraordinary circumstances. For such consideration, the student must be in good academic standing. (See the "Graduate Regulations" section of this catalog for additional details concerning advancement to classified standing or candidacy.)

Students will be required to meet with their faculty adviser and declare a concentration during their second semester of study.

Advisement

Upon admission to the program, each student is assigned to a faculty adviser. Advisers provide academic assistance, help students develop official study plans and monitor their progress throughout the duration of enrollment. Students must consult their adviser on a regular basis.

M.S.W. CURRICULUM

The M.S.W. requires completion over two years of full-time study, or a three-year program that slightly modifies this course of study and spreads the 60 units over three years. Foundation coursework is based on a generalist social work practice curriculum that prepares students for advanced academic work in one of two concentrations, Child Welfare or Community Mental Health.

Students are exposed to lifespan perspectives that address life cycle issues and concepts from birth to old age. While the concentrations are designed to allow students to focus on a particular population, it is expected that the student’s education will involve sufficient foundational content to allow him or her to transfer this knowledge to any population or service setting.

The program will emphasize a Direct Practice method. This methodological approach is designed to prepare students for advanced practice and leadership roles in public and nonprofit social services agencies and in voluntary agencies serving children, youth and families and in those providing community mental health services to the chronically and seriously mentally ill.

FIRST YEAR FOUNDATION CURRICULUM

MSW 501 Social Work Perspectives on Human Behavior I (3)
MSW 502 Social Work Perspectives on Human Behavior II (3)
MSW 510 Social Work Practice I (3)
MSW 511 Social Work Practice II (3)
MSW 520 Social Welfare Policy and Services I (3)
MSW 521 Social Welfare Policy and Services II (3)
MSW 530 Applied Social Work Research Methods I (3)
MSW 540 Social Work Field Instruction I (3)
MSW 541 Social Work Field Instruction II (3)
MSW 550 Social Work Practice with Diverse Populations (3)

SECOND YEAR ADVANCED CURRICULUM

Child Welfare Concentration

MSW 503 Social Work Perspectives on Human Behavior III (3)
MSW 512 Child Welfare: Advanced Practice I (3)
MSW 522 Child Welfare Policy and Social Work (3)
MSW 542 Advanced Social Work Field Instruction I (3)
MSW 543 Advanced Social Work Field Instruction II (3)
MSW 564 Professional Issues in Social Work: Supervision, Ethics and Finance (3)

Two three-unit electives – required to graduate. Of the two, one must be an advanced practice course

Electives (3 units), including:

MSW 531, 561, 570
COUN 522, 525, 535
HESC 520
PSYC 545
SOCI 503/GERO 503

Culminating Experience (6 units)

MSW 596 Master’s Project Development (3)
MSW 597 Master’s Project (3)
**Community Mental Health Concentration**

**MSW 503 Social Work Perspectives on Human Behavior III (3)**
- Prerequisite: MSW 502. Advanced social work theory and application regarding development of human psychopathology across the life span, including understanding and diagnosing dysfunctional behaviors with the DSM-IV TR.

**MSW 514 Community Mental Health: Advanced Practice I (3)**

**MSW 523 Mental Health Policy and Social Work (3)**

**MSW 542 Advanced Social Work Field Instruction I (3)**

**MSW 543 Advanced Social Work Field Instruction II (3)**

**MSW 564 Professional Issues in Social Work: Supervision, Ethics and Finance (3)**
- Two three-unit electives — required to graduate. Of the two, one must be an advanced practice course.

**Electives (3 units), including:**
- MSW 531, 561, 570, 580
- COUN 522, 525, 535
- HESC 520
- PSYC 545
- SOCI 503/GERO 503

**Culminating Experience (6 units)**
- MSW 596 Master’s Project Development (3)
- MSW 597 Master’s Project (3)

**SOCIAL WORK COURSES**
- Courses are designated as MSW in the class schedule.

**501 Social Work Perspectives on Human Behavior I (3)**
- Prerequisite: admission to MSW program. Ecological systems theory used in social work profession for clinical and policy-oriented assessments of human functioning and needs during infancy, childhood and adolescence. Reciprocal relationships between human behavior and the social environment.

**502 Social Work Perspectives on Human Behavior II (3)**
- Prerequisite: MSW 501. Ecological model used in social work profession for clinical and policy oriented assessments of human functioning and needs from young adulthood through old age. Reciprocal relationships between human behavior and the social environment.

**503 Social Work Perspectives on Human Behavior III (3)**
- Prerequisite: MSW 502. Advanced social work theory and examination of social work roles and integration of those roles within a person-environment perspective. Focuses on an integrative framework combining direct practice with individuals, families, groups and communities with a commitment to organizational and social change.

**511 Social Work Practice II (3)**
- Prerequisite: MSW 510. Further deepens knowledge and skills essential for social work practice, including individual, family, group, community and organizational interventions. Cultural responsiveness, commitment to professional competence and ethics, interprofessional development, social and economic justice, and client empowerment.

**512 Child Welfare: Advanced Practice I (3)**
- Prerequisites: MSW 510, 511. First of two advanced practice courses for students preparing for careers in public child welfare. Assessment and intervention model, and the practice of social work within the legal context of the dependency court.

**513 Child Welfare: Advanced Practice II (3)**
- Prerequisites: MSW 510, 511, 512 and advancement to second year. Integration of theory and practice pertaining to social workers’ roles in child welfare settings. Application of direct intervention models and development of advanced specialized skills for addressing the behavioral, emotional and situational problems of children and families.

**514 Community Mental Health: Advanced Practice I (3)**
- Prerequisite: MSW 511. Application of theory and practice with diverse populations utilizing a multicultural framework and case materials to analyze treatment issues and empowerment strategies in community mental health. Individual, family and group strategies.

**515 Community Mental Health: Advanced Practice II (3)**
- Prerequisite: MSW 514. Psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery as the dominant treatment model in contemporary community mental health programs. Use of psychoeducation to address chronic mental illness, substance abuse, depression, anxiety and family violence.

**520 Social Welfare Policy and Services I (3)**
- Prerequisite: admission to MSW program. History of social welfare and the social work profession, the evolution of social work values and ethics and a broad array of U.S. social welfare services including income maintenance, health care, mental health and child welfare.

**521 Social Welfare Policy and Services II (3)**
- Prerequisite: MSW 520. Policy practice knowledge, skills, advocacy strategies, values and ethics regarding the political processes underlying social welfare policy development and practice. Diverse methods of policy analysis and policy issues that are important to multicultural populations. Fulfills Graduate Writing Requirement.

**522 Child Welfare Policy and Social Work (3)**
- Prerequisite: MSW 521. Conceptual and pragmatic underpinnings of federal, state and local policies, as well as specific laws and regulations influencing social work practice with children, youth and their caregivers.
523 Mental Health Policy and Social Work (3)
Prerequisite: MSW 521. Social welfare policy issues in the understanding and treatment of mental disorders at the national, state and local levels. Major factors influencing the provision of mental health services such as managed care.

530 Applied Social Work Research Methods I (3)
Prerequisite: admission to MSW program. Evaluation, appraisal and application of the concepts, design and process of applied research in social work, focusing on foundation skills in conducting empirical research within the context of theory, literature review, research design and measurement, research ethics and professional practice.

531 Applied Social Work Research Methods II: Practice and Program Evaluation (3)
Statistical methods utilized to evaluate delivery of social services.

540 Social Work Field Instruction I (3)
Prerequisite: admission to MSW program. Fieldwork experience in a social services agency under the supervision of professional social workers. Introduces the range of professional roles, social services infrastructure and policies, professional ethical standards, case management principles and social work intervention modalities.

541 Social Work Field Instruction II (3)
Prerequisite: MSW 540. Continued and advanced supervised social work practice experience in a community agency utilizing direct social service practice skills. Greater in-depth focus on collaborative client case management to prepare students for professional employment with emphasis on effective practice with diverse populations.

542 Advanced Social Work Field Instruction I (3)
Prerequisite: MSW 541. Advanced supervised social work practice in a community agency with focus on the range of professional social work roles in child welfare or community mental health settings. Requires 2 hrs/wk seminar and 20 hrs/wk agency placement.

543 Advanced Social Work Field Instruction II (3)
Prerequisite: MSW 542. Continuation and intensification of supervised social work practice in a community agency with focus on advanced practice skills in community mental health or child welfare settings. Requires 2 hrs/wk seminar and 20 hrs/wk agency placement.

550 Social Work Practice with Diverse Populations (3)
Prerequisite: admission to MSW program. Prepares future social workers to examine social work case management issues related to disadvantaged client groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age and disability status. Ecological diversity-sensitive practice, advocacy and empowerment of vulnerable clients.

561 Social Work Practice and the Law (3)
Major legal issues, policies and resources relevant to social workers. Issues such as abortion, adoption, child custody, right to treatment, mental health commitment procedures, children's rights, rights of the elderly, marriage and divorce.

564 Professional Issues in Social Work, Supervision, Ethics and Finance (3)
Prerequisite: MSW student in good standing. Develop working knowledge and skill set that will enable students to provide supervision and financial leadership in the modern human services organization.

570 Social Work Practice in Substance Abuse Treatment (3)

580 Social Work Practice with the Poor and the Homeless (3)
Homelessness in the context of social responsibility for the poor. Legal, social and economic context of homelessness; diversity of the homeless, their special needs and behaviors and assesses systems of care and treatment.

596 Master's Project Development (3)
Prerequisite: MSW 530. Under direction and approval of a faculty advisor, a student develops and prepares the beginning chapters of their MSW project and submits human subjects’ approval to conduct research. Prepares students to complete their project.

597 Master's Project (3)
Prerequisites: MSW 530, 596. Under direction and approval of a faculty advisor, student completes a research project on a question development in MSW 596. This is a final written project that culminates the MSW degree program.

599 Independent Graduate Research (1-3)
Prerequisite: consent of graduate program adviser and instructor. Individual research on a library or empirical project in a selected area of social work with collaboration of a member of the faculty, culminating in one or more papers. May be repeated for credit up to a maximum of four units.