

MSW Frequently Asked Questions

1. What programs do you offer?

A: We offer Three (3) options for the MSW program:

- I. The 11 month Advanced Standing Program (ASP) *only for qualified applicants with a BASW degree*
- II. The Full-time two (2) year program and
- III. The Three Year (3) year program.

2. How long is the program?

A: The Two (2) year program is a 60 semester units over four semester's program, which includes fieldwork/internship. Classes are held all day on Tuesdays and Thursdays all and require 16 hours per week of internship in the first year and 20 hours per week internship in the second year.

The Three (3) year program is also a 60 semester units over six semesters, including fieldwork. Classes for the 3-year program are held one evening a week and all day Saturdays. Internship starts in the second year of the program and requires 16 hours per week. The last year of internship requires 20 hours per week.

The ASP program is offered at the Downtown Los Angeles (DTLA) campus and is an 11-month, 33-semester unit program (3 semesters) including fieldwork. Classes are held on Mondays and Tuesdays all day (in fall and spring semesters) and internship is completed Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for a total of 24 hours per week.

3. What is the Cost of the program?

A. The cost listed below are approximate cost and reflect academic year '20-'21.

Tuition is subject to change upon the approval of the Board of Trustees.

The cost of the Advanced Standing Program is \$17,325.00

The cost of the Two (2) year program is \$16,432.00 and

The cost of the Three (3) Year program is \$24,648.00.

4. Do I have to have a degree in Social Work in order to apply to the 2 year or 3 year MSW program?

A: No. As long as you have a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, you may apply to the MSW program. Please note your degree must be conferred in order for you to begin a graduate program. You will need to submit official transcripts to Enrollment Services to verify that your Bachelor's degree has been conferred.

5. What is the minimum GPA?

A: The minimum GPA for the Two (2) Year and Three (3) Year program is 2.75 in the last 60 semester units or 90 quarter units.

For the ASP program the GPA requirement is 3.0 cumulative.

GPA Calculator (<https://www.registrar.iastate.edu/students/gpa-calc>)

6. What are the academic prerequisites required for admissions?

A: There are three prerequisites, which for the Two year and Three year programs need to be passed with a "C" or better grade. The prerequisites are research methods and statistics, which can be met with any elementary or introductory statistics course. The other two prerequisites are two (2) courses in upper division social science. Upper division refers to junior or senior level classes.

CSULB has an extensive list of approved statistics courses, please click the link below to see if the course you took is listed there.

https://www.csulb.edu/sites/default/files/u53071/elementary_statistics_f.20_a.pdf

If the course you took is not included on the posted list, you must submit a course syllabus to the admissions coordinator to find out if it satisfies the requirement.

7. Do I need to have completed all the requirements and/or prerequisites before applying for the MSW program?

A: Applicants need to have 2 or the 3 prerequisites completed at the time their application is submitted. Please note that all requirements and/or prerequisites must be formally completed before actually enrolling in the program.

8. Do I need to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE)?

A: No, the GRE is not required.

9. Do you have an online MSW program?

A: No, we do not have an online program. Classes for the academic year 20-21 is being thought virtually due to CORVID 19 pandemic.

10. Do you offer tracks or concentrations?

A: No, Cal State Los Angeles no longer offer concentrations. We have an urban generalist focus which prepares students to provide service across the spectrum of practice. Capitalizing on CSULA's location, this focus offers students the opportunity to learn effective and responsive strategies for working in any urban environment at the micro (individual/family), mezzo (group/community) and macro (policy/societal) levels.

11. When is the deadline for admissions?

A: The deadline for application submission is January 15, 2021 for the Full-Time Two (2) year program and the three (3) year program.

The ASP deadline is February 28, 2021. Applicants are accepted on a rolling admissions basis. Applications will be reviewed on a first come first serve basis until spaces are filled.

Please note that your application must be complete in order to be reviewed.

12. Can I apply in the spring or summer semester?

A: No, the MSW program admits students only once per year.

13. How many letters of recommendation/ reference do I need? Do I have to have an Academic and a Professional reference?

A. Yes, In order to apply to the MSW program, you must have three (3) references. For the Full Time (2 year) and Three Year (3) program one reference must be from an academic source (i.e. a professor or instructor), one reference must be from a professional source (i.e. a supervisor in a volunteer or paid position), and the third reference can be from either an academic or professional source. Personal references are not appropriate and will not be accepted (examples of personal reference include a family friend, therapist, pastor or coworker).

For the ASP program you also need three references: one academic, one from your integrated seminar instructor and one from your field instructor.

If you graduated more than eight years ago, you can submit a professional reference in lieu of an academic reference and provide a brief explanation as to why you were unable to submit an academic reference.

14. What is the deadline to apply to the university?

A: The university application deadline for the two-year and three-year programs is January 15, 2021.

The ASP university deadline is February 28, 2021. Please note ASP begins summer semester 2020 and is offered at the DTLA campus only, therefore on your university graduate application you must apply for summer start term at the DTLA Campus.

15. Can I apply to ASP and either the 2-year or 3-year program?

A: Yes, however you will be applying for two different start term and for two separate campus. The ASP program begins summer semester 2021 and is offered at the DTLA campus only. The two-year and the three-year program begin in the fall 2021 and is offered at the main campus only.

16. Do you offer Financial Aid; stipends: or Grants?

A: Yes, our program offers four stipends for students with specific interests. Check with Program Coordinators for more detailed requirements.

I. The CalSWEC Program stipend for those with an interest in Public Child Welfare Stipend is a 2-year stipend for students in the two-year program. The CalSWEC Program is also available in the 3-year program to current county public child welfare employees.

II. Los Angeles County Title IV-E DCFS Internship Program is open to both two and three year students who are interested in Public Child Welfare.

III. Los Angeles County Mental Health stipend is open to two year, three year and ASP students. This is a one-year stipend, available to students in their final year of the program. Students are required to have a Department of Mental Health internship.

IV. Geriatric Social Work (GSWEC) Stipend is open to both two and three-year program students. This is a one-year stipend, available in the last year of the program. To qualify, students must have a GSWEC approved agency internship.

Each stipend program has its own set of criteria, application process and terms associated with the award. Please be aware that in order to apply for any of the

stipends you must first be admitted to the MSW program. Stipends are competitive and require a separate application and an interview.

17. Do I need a car and valid auto insurance to enroll in the MSW program?

A: Although a car is not required, students will be expected to spend 16-20 hours a week in a community-based fieldwork agency. Many agencies will require that student interns have a car and valid driver's license and auto insurance. Please note: If a student does not have reliable transportation, it may impede the field placement process and will limit where you will be placed and there is no guarantee that the placement will be near your home.

18. I have a misdemeanor and/or felony on my record. Can I still apply?

A: Yes, you may apply; however, please be aware that if you are unable to successfully match with a field agency after three (3) attempts, your acceptance can be rescinded. Applicants should be mindful that they are required to pass a Live Scan and/or complete a background check. If you have ever been arrested or convicted of a crime (e.g. misdemeanor and/or felony), please consider getting your record expunged prior to applying to the MSW program as it may preclude you from entering field internship.

There are certain fieldwork settings and professional social work settings that will not allow persons on-site if they have certain misdemeanors or felonies in their background. Students should consult with Field Director immediately if they have concerns about their ability to be placed in an agency, or their future employability in the social work field.

19. Q. What is considered Social Work experience?

A. Experience working in the social work field, case management, health and human services, and/or has been supervised by a credentialed social worker (B.S.W., M.S.W., L.C.S.W., Ph.D., or D.S.W.).

20. Does CSLA have services available for veterans?

A: Yes. CSLA Veterans Resources Center provides veterans with information about applying for admissions to CSLA. Check out their website <http://www.calstatela.edu/vets> for more information.

21. Does CSLA offer services for students with disabilities?

A. Yes. The Office of Student with Disabilities assists students with disabilities as they secure their university degrees at CSLA. Check out their website_ <http://www.calstatela.edu/osd> for more information.

22. Q. What can I do with a Social Work degree?

A. For more information, please click on the link http://www.calstatela.edu/sites/default/files/groups/School%20of%20Social%20Work/PDF/what_can_i_do_social_work_degree.pdf

23. For more in-depth information about our MSW program we invite interested applicants to attend one of our MSW Information Meetings. Information meetings will be monthly virtual meetings are offered from September to January. The information meetings offer applicants the opportunity to learn more about the program and the application process, ask questions, meet others who are interested in the social work field. **The information meeting will be offered via zoom or webinar at the dates and times listed below. To RSVP for a meeting please click the link below.**

<https://www.calstatela.edu/hhs/sw/msw-information-meeting-rsvp>

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| Saturday, September 26, 2020 | 10:00 to 11:30 A.M. (This meeting is full) |
| Saturday, October 10, 2020 | 10:00 to 11:30 A.M. |
| Tuesday, October 27, 2020 | 6:00 to 7:30 P.M |
| Saturday, November 7, 2020 | 10:00 to 11:30 A.M. |
| Saturday, November 14, 2020 | 10:00 to 11:30 A.M. (ASP Option only) |
| Monday, November 16, 2020 | 6:00 to 7:30 P.M. |
| Saturday, December 6, 2020 | 10:00 to 11:30 A.M. |
| Saturday, December 12, 2020 | 10:00 to 11:30 A.M. (ASP Option only) |
| Saturday, January 4, 2021 | 10:00 to 11:30 A.M. |
| Saturday, January 23 2021 | 10:00 to 11:30 A.M. (ASP Option only) |

Please continue to check the website for more information and updates. In the meantime, please visit <https://www.calstatela.edu/hhs/sw/msw-applications> for detailed information about our program criteria and application process. Additional questions may be emailed to milightburn@cslanet.calstatela.edu.