



School of Social Work

The Advanced Standing Program (ASP) is an accelerated, eleven-month, 33-unit Master of Social Work (MSW) program designed for candidates who hold a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)-accredited institution. Admission to the ASP allows qualified students to complete the MSW degree in an abbreviated timeframe, as the first-year foundation curriculum is waived. Applicants must have earned a BSW within the past five years and demonstrate readiness to perform at the level of a second-year MSW student, as evidenced through relevant post-BSW social work or human services experience.

Advantages of Attending Cal State LA

- Excellent education at an affordable price.
- Ranked in the top 3 Schools of Social Work in Southern California
- <https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-health-schools/social-work-rankings/california>
- Ranked # 60 among top social work schools nationwide by 2024 US News and World Report
- <https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-health-schools/social-work-rankings/california>
- *The Washington Monthly magazine 2022 College Guide and Rankings listed [Cal State LA at number three](#) in the “Best Master’s Universities” category.*
- Individual attention to students by faculty and staff.

Class /Field Schedule:

- Students attend classes Mondays and Tuesdays during the daytime (8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.) at the Downtown Los Angeles (DTLA) campus.
- Field Internship is consecutive days Wednesdays-Thursdays-Fridays for a total of 24 hours per week.

Practicum Education Requirements:

ASP students must complete a minimum of 720 hours of practicum internship for the academic year (August through May). Students are placed throughout Los Angeles County and must successfully match with a Second Year MSW placement.

Students are expected to develop an increased insight and depth of understanding of agency and client systems, and social work practice skills, and are exposed to diverse experiences. The goal of the second-year practicum placement is to help students develop advanced and more focused social work skills—including clinical interventions with diverse populations, and effective treatment strategies on a micro/macro level where appropriate.

Applicant Criteria for the program:

- Bachelor's degree in social work completed within the last 5 years from a CSWE accredited school with a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA.
- Successful ASP candidates will demonstrate readiness to be placed in a second-year field placement if admitted. For example, the candidate has work experience in social or human services post-BASW.

Please check the website for additional requirements: <https://www.calstatela.edu/hhs/sw/masters-social-work>

Cost:

The total cost for the Advanced Standing Program is \$525 per unit for a total of \$17,325. Please note that this cost does not include University Student Fees and are subject to change.

How to Apply:

To apply to the university and the MSW ASP program, you will be submitting only one online application.

Starting February 1, to 28, 2026 complete and submit the University application online through Cal State

Apply: <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply> for Summer 2026.

The MSW supplemental program application is in Quadrant 4 (Q4) within the Cal State Apply online application. You will need to upload the personal statement, resume, and unofficial transcripts from all schools attended in this section. You will also need to provide the names and email addresses of the individuals who will be completing your reference forms, and they will be sent an email with the reference form to complete. Please note that the reference form and all supplemental application documents (personal statement, resume, and transcripts) must be submitted by the application deadline of **February 28, 2026**. Please be aware that currently it is not possible for your reference to submit an additional letter on your behalf. The reference form is the only required document that must be completed.

Reference Forms are required from each of the following:

1. **One academic (A) from a professor who gave you a letter grade.**
2. **One from your Integrative Seminar Instructor (F)**
3. **One from the field instructor from your BASW internship**
4. **(F) The Application process:**
 - Complete the university online application at www.calstate.edu/apply
 - Pay the \$70 application fee.
 - Apply for the **Summer 2025** MSW Graduate Program at the **DTLA campus**.
 - All documents must be submitted by February 28, 2025, deadline.
 - Send your official transcripts to the Office of Admissions and Outreach if required (Cal State LA current and former students do not need to provide official transcripts).
 - Once your application has been submitted, you will receive your Campus Identification Number (CIN) and your Personal Identification Number (PIN) which will be assigned to you.
 - When you receive your CIN and PIN information be sure to set up your **GET Account** so you can monitor the status of your application and check your "To Do" list for missing documents and university updates.
 - The School of Social Work and the Office of Admissions will review your complete application.
 - If your application passes the first phase you will be invited for an interview.
 - Applicants will be notified of the final admission decisions ASP by e-mail.

For more information about the ASP program, please visit <https://www.calstatela.edu/dtla/master-social-work-advanced-standing-downtown-la> You may also contact Michelle Lightburn at 323-343-4684 or milightburn@calstatela.edu.