



# School of Social Work

The Master of Social Work (MSW) program at California State University, Los Angeles educates students to assume leadership roles in professional practice. Our advanced urban generalist graduates analyze, intervene, evaluate, and advocate with diverse, underserved, and oppressed clients and communities. Our urban generalist focus prepares students to provide service across the spectrum of practice.

Located just outside of downtown Los Angeles, Cal State LA equips students with effective and responsive strategies for working in urban environments at the micro (individual/family), mezzo (group/community), and macro (policy/societal) levels. Our students empower the multi-national, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural communities that surround the campus (Alhambra, downtown Los Angeles, East Los Angeles, Glendale, Lincoln Heights, Monterey Park, Pasadena, and other nearby communities).

## Advantages of Attending Cal State LA

- Excellent education at an affordable price. Ranked top 3 for schools of social work in Southern California (UCLA < CSULB & CSLA) by US News and World report 2025. <https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-health-schools/social-work-rankings/california>
- Ranked # 60 among top social work schools by 2025 US News and World Report <https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-health-schools>
- We Provide Individual attention to students by faculty and staff
- Opportunity to contribute to social work research through the completion of a thesis.

## PROGRAM:

The MSW degree requires the completion of 60 semester units over the course of a 2-year program or 3-year program plan. We also offer an 11-month Advanced Standing Program (ASP) option (33 semester units) for those applicants who have completed a bachelor's degree in social work from a CSWE-accredited program in the last 5 years.

## CLASS SCHEDULES:

Students attend classes in accordance with their program plan as follows:

- 11-Month - Advanced Standing Program (ASP) classes: Mondays and Tuesdays during the daytime at the Downtown Los Angeles (DTLA) campus.
- 2-YEAR program classes: Tuesday and Thursday during the daytime,
- 3-YEAR program classes: one evening per week & Saturdays during the daytime.

## Applicant Criteria for the program:

Advance Standing Requirements:	MSW Program 2- or 3-year Requirements:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bachelor's degree in social work completed within the last 5 years from an accredited school</li><li>• 3.0 cumulative GPA</li><li>• 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.</li></ul> <p><i>Please check the web site for additional requirements</i> <a href="#">MSW - Application Packet Cal State LA</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Bachelor's Degree</b></li><li>• <b>2.75 GPA in the last 90 quarter units or 60 semester units</b></li><li>• <b>Completion of 3 prerequisites:</b> <i>Research Methods and Statistics (intro or elementary Statistics)</i> <i>2 - upper-division social science courses</i>  <i>A "C" grade or better is required in all prerequisites.</i></li></ul>

## PRACTICUM EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to on-campus coursework, the MSW curriculum at Cal State LA requires students to complete more than 1,000 hours of supervised practicum education in professional social work settings between September and May. Advanced Standing (ASP) students complete one nine-month practicum sequence during their single year of study, attending placement on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays for a total of 24 hours per week. Students in the two-year program complete two nine-month practicum sequences: the first during their initial year at 16 hours per week, and the second during their final year at 20 hours per week. Students in the three-year program follow the same practicum hour requirements as those in the two-year program, but placements occur in the second and third years of study rather than the first and second.

For more information regarding the MSW program at Cal State LA prospective applicants should review information at this link [www.calstatela.edu/sites/default/files/2024%20Must%20Read%20Information%20.pdf](http://www.calstatela.edu/sites/default/files/2024%20Must%20Read%20Information%20.pdf)

***"Please note the following information is subject to change. Please refer to the website for complete and updated information."***

## FALL 2026 MSW ADMISSION & APPLICATION INFORMATION

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

All applicants must apply to the University by completing the graduate online application through <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>. The MSW application is located in Quadrant 4 (Q4) of the university application. Please note you will also need to upload your personal statement, resume, and unofficial transcripts from all schools attended in this section. Applicants must also provide the names and email addresses of individuals who will serve as references. Upon submission, the University will contact each reference directly and provide a standardized reference form. **Currently recommenders are not able to upload separate letters of recommendation.**

Prospective applicants are encouraged to attend an MSW Information Meeting prior to applying to the program. The dates and locations of the meetings listed below and posted on the School of Social Work website.

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

### Information Meeting Schedule

MSW Information Meetings will be offered via zoom or in person on Cal State Los Angeles main campus on the following dates and times.

Saturday, September 27, 2025,	10:00 to 11:30 A.M.	In-person Main Campus in SH 162
Tuesday, October 14, 2025,	6:00 to 7:30 P.M.	Virtual
Saturday, October 25, 2025,	9:00 to 10:30 A.M.	Virtual
Saturday, October 25, 2025,	11:30 to 1:30 P.M.	Virtual <b>ASP Option only</b>
Saturday, November 1, 2025,	9:00 to 10:30 A.M.	In-person Main Campus in SH 162
Saturday, November 1, 2025,	11:00 to 12:30 P.M.	In-person <b>for DCFS employees only in SH 162</b>
Saturday, November 22, 2025,	9:00 to 10:30 A.M.	Virtual
Saturday, November 22, 2025,	11:30 to 1:30 P.M.	<b>DTLA Campus Open House ASP Only</b>
Saturday, December 6, 2025,	10:00 to 11:30 A.M.	Virtual
Saturday, January 31, 2026,	10:00 to 1:30 A.M.	In-person at <b>DTLA Campus - ASP Option only</b>

### Application Deadlines

<b>Application Acceptance Begins:</b>	<b>October 15, 2025</b>
<b>Priority Deadline:</b>	<b>November 15, 2025</b>
<b>**International Deadline:</b>	<b>December 1, 2025</b>
<b>Traditional 2 &amp; 3-year Admissions Deadline:</b>	<b>January 15, 2026</b>
<b>Advance Standing Deadline:</b>	<b>February 28, 2026</b>

### International Applicant Requirements:

**\*\*Applicants are considered international if they possess academic transcripts from institutions outside the United States. Please note that the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is a university admission requirement for all international applicants; the MSW program does not grant waivers for this requirement.**

Cal State LA requires international graduate applicants to submit a foreign credential evaluation report for advisory purposes. To fulfill this requirement, applicants must submit non-U.S. academic records or transcripts to the International Education Research Foundation (IERF) or World Education Services (WES) for official evaluation. Beginning with the Fall 2024 admission term, the University will also accept evaluation reports from agencies that are members of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES), provided these reports are accompanied by official transcripts.

<https://www.calstatela.edu/admissions/international-applicants>

If you have, any questions please feel free to contact the School of Social Work at [mightburn@cslanet.calstatela.edu](mailto:mightburn@cslanet.calstatela.edu)