



School of Social Work

Master of Social Work Advanced Standing Program

Program Overview

The Advanced Standing Program (ASP) is an accelerated, 11-month, 33-unit Master of Social Work (MSW) program 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 because the first-year foundation curriculum is waived. Applicants must have earned their BSW within the past five years and demonstrate readiness to perform at the level of a second-year MSW student. Readiness may be demonstrated through relevant post-BSW employment or experience in social work or human services.

Advantages of Attending Cal State LA

- Excellent education at an affordable cost
- Ranked among the top three schools of social work in Southern California
- Ranked No. 60 among social work schools nationwide by *U.S. News & World Report* in 2024
- Ranked No. 3 in the “Best Master’s Universities” category in Washington Monthly’s 2024 College Guide and Rankings
- Individualized attention and support from faculty and staff

For additional ranking information, visit the [U.S. News & World Report social work rankings](#).

Class and Practicum Schedule

- Classes are held on Mondays and Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. at the Cal State LA Downtown Los Angeles (DTLA) campus.
- Practicum internships are completed on three consecutive days—Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday—for a total of 24 hours per week.

Practicum Education Requirements

ASP students must complete a minimum of 720 practicum hours during the academic year, from August through May. Students are placed at agencies throughout Los Angeles County and must successfully match with an advanced, second-year MSW practicum placement.

The advanced practicum experience is designed to help students develop greater insight into agency and client systems while strengthening their professional social work practice skills. Students are exposed to diverse populations, settings, and practice experiences.

The goal of the second-year practicum placement is to help students develop advanced and focused social work competencies, including clinical interventions with diverse populations, effective treatment strategies, and micro- and macro-level practice skills, as appropriate to the placement.

Applicant Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Hold a bachelor's degree in social work from a CSWE-accredited institution
- Have completed the BSW degree within the past five years
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0
- Demonstrate readiness to enter an advanced, second-year MSW practicum placement
- Have relevant post-BSW social work or human services experience

Meeting the minimum eligibility requirements does not guarantee admission.

Applicants should review the [Cal State LA Master of Social Work website](#) for complete and current admission requirements.

Program Cost

The Advanced Standing Program is 33 units. Tuition is currently \$595 per unit, for an estimated program tuition cost of \$19,635.

This amount does not include university student fees, health insurance, textbooks, parking, housing, or other related expenses. Tuition and fees are subject to change.

Application Period

Applications for the Summer 2027 cohort will be accepted from **October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027**.

Applicants submit one online application through [Cal State Apply](#). When completing the application, applicants must select the **Summer 2027 MSW Graduate Program at the Downtown Los Angeles campus**.

The MSW supplemental application is in Quadrant Four (Q4) of the Cal State Apply application.

Supplemental Application Materials

Applicants must upload the following documents in Quadrant Four:

- Personal statement
- Current résumé
- Unofficial transcripts from every college or university attended

Applicants must also provide the names and email addresses of three individuals who will complete the required online reference forms. Each reference will receive an email containing instructions and a link to the form.

All supplemental documents and complete reference forms must be received by **February 28, 2027**.

References cannot upload or submit an additional recommendation letter. Only the required reference form will be accepted.

Required References

Three reference forms are required:

1. **Academic reference:** A professor or instructor from whom the applicant received a letter grade
2. **Integrative seminar reference:** The applicant's BSW integrative seminar instructor
3. **Practicum reference:** The field instructor who supervised the applicant's BSW internship

Application Process

1. Complete the university application through [Cal State Apply](#).
2. Select the **Summer 2027 MSW Graduate Program at the DTLA campus**.
3. Pay the \$70 application fee.
4. Upload all required supplemental application materials in Quadrant Four.
5. Provide the names and email addresses of the three required references.
6. Ensure that all documents and reference forms are submitted by **February 28, 2027**.
7. Submit official transcripts to the Cal State LA Office of Admissions and Recruitment, if required. Current and former Cal State LA students generally do not need to submit official Cal State LA transcripts.
8. After submitting the application, watch for an email containing your Campus Identification Number (CIN) and Personal Identification Number (PIN).
9. Use your CIN and PIN to activate your GET account.
10. Monitor your GET account regularly for application updates, missing documents, and items listed on your "To Do" list.

The School of Social Work and the Office of Admissions and Recruitment will review complete applications. Applicants who advance beyond the initial review phase will be invited to participate in an interview. Final admission decisions will be communicated by email.

Additional Information

For more information, visit the [Master of Social Work Advanced Standing Program website](#).

Program Contact

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