
Social Work

In the College of Health and Human Services

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San Diego State University is in the process of securing approval for a joint Ph.D. program in Social Work with the University of Southern California. For further information, contact the School of Social Work.

Master of Social Work Degree

General Information

The School of Social Work offers a two year full-time or three/four year part-time accredited graduate program leading to a Master of Social Work degree. The program qualifies students to apply for the Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) certification process by the Board of Behavioral Science Examiners of the State of California.

The goal of the Master of Social Work program is the education of advanced social work practitioners that enables them to provide services that assure people equal access to resources, programs, and opportunities; assist individuals in the accomplishment of life tasks, the alleviation of individual and social distress and the realization of aspirations as they relate to oneself, others and the society as a whole; and finally, because of its special geographic location in the Southern California border region, the school seeks to prepare professionals who will work with the predominate ethnic minority groups of the region in order to enhance the quality of life for economically disadvantaged groups. Special emphasis is currently given to those human needs that relate to the continuum of health care and well-being, families in transition, and social/environmental factors that create stress as it relates to individuals and groups in the home, workplace, and community.

The program is organized around student experience in a generalist social work foundation in their first year, a field of service focus area (Aging/Health, Mental Health or Children, Youth and Families), and a methods focus (direct practice or administration) in their second year. The school is extensively involved in local, state and national human service issues through individual faculty research and community intervention programs. In addition, the school has made commitments in the area of chemical dependency research and practice through the Center on Substance Abuse and policy research and intervention through the Social Policy Institute.

Admission to Graduate Study

The School of Social Work admits new students to the MSW program only in the Fall of each academic year. New students are not admitted to the program during the Spring semester. To be guaranteed a space in the two year program, new students must apply between November 1 and February 1 of the year before they desire entry. Applications received after the February 1 deadline but before April 30 will be considered on a space available basis. Students currently enrolled or on leave of absence from CSWE accredited schools of social work are considered transfer students and can apply to the program for either fall or spring admission.

All applicants must file two separate applications: one to the Office of Graduate Admissions and one to the School of Social Work. The School of Social Work will not consider any applicant who has not filed both required applications. Specific University admission requirements and procedures are outlined in Part Two of this bulletin. Specific School of Social Work requirements and procedures are outlined in the admissions packet as well as on the School of Social Work home page at www.sdsu.edu (click on S for social work in the alphabetical listing of departments).

Please be advised that the School does not accept life/work experience in lieu of any course requirements. The School does not accept transfer credit based on life/work experience. Students will have to retake any courses for which life/work experience was counted.

In addition to the regular application material, the University requires all applicants to take the Graduate Record Examination for admission. Scores must be reported to both the University and the School of Social Work. Applicants will not be reviewed by the School unless GRE scores are on file. Applicants must have taken and successfully passed one course in statistics or liberal arts foundation at the undergraduate or graduate level.

The School cannot accept any student into the program until the University has accepted them into graduate study. For this reason, we urge interested students to submit both applications as early as possible. Students who are qualified for admission but who submit applications after all students have been accepted are placed on a waiting list and can be admitted up until August 1.

Advancement to Candidacy

All students must meet the general requirements for advancement to candidacy as described in Part Two of this bulletin. In addition, the student must: (1) have earned at least 24 units of postbaccalaureate study with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (B) and received

credit (Cr) in field practicum; (2) have no incomplete grades; (3) be recommended by the faculty of the School of Social Work; (4) be approved for advancement by the Graduate Division; (5) successfully pass a written qualifying examination given during the Spring semester in which the student will complete the 31 units of first year coursework.

Specific Requirements for the Master of Social Work Degree

(Major Code: 21041)

In addition to meeting the requirements for classified graduate standing and the basic requirements for the master's degree in Part Two of this bulletin, the student must complete an officially approved 60 unit course of study including: (1) six units in social policy and services (Social Work 601 and Social Work 702B, 702C, or 702D); (2) nine units in human behavior and the social environment (Social Work 619, 620A or 620B and 720); (3) 15 units of social work practice (Social Work 630, 631, 632, 739 or 740, and 744 or 745); (4) six units of research (Social Work 690 and 791A or 791B); (5) 15 units of practicum (Social Work 650 and 750A or 750B); (6) three units of computer applications in social work (Social Work 610); and (7) six units of electives (Plan B students); (three units of electives and Social Work 799A (Plan A students). Within the 60-unit official program, students must complete (1) 25 units in generalist/foundation courses (Social Work 601, 619, 630, 631, 632, 650, 690); (2) 12 units in a field of service (Social Work 702B, 702C, or 702D; Social Work 720, and two elective courses); students in the administration focus have the option to take the elective courses within a field of service or with the consent of the graduate adviser to take coursework related to their methods focus; (3) 20 units in a Social Work Methods Focus Area (Direct Practice or Administration).

Direct Practice

SWORK 620A (3)
SWORK 739 (3)
SWORK 744 (3)
SWORK 750A (8)
SWORK 791A (3)

Administration

SWORK 620B (3)
SWORK 740 (3)
SWORK 745 (3)
SWORK 750B (8)
SWORK 791B (3)

The above courses exclude Social Work 610, 799A, 799B.

In addition, students must complete either a Thesis (Plan A) or a comprehensive written examination (Plan B)

At least 30 units of the program must be completed in residence at San Diego State University. A maximum of 30 units is transferable from another accredited graduate program in social work.

Six units of elective credit may be taken from other schools or departments within the University with the permission of the graduate adviser. See Student Handbook for specific elective policies.

To receive the degree, students must earn a 3.0 (B) grade point average in academic courses and demonstrate professional competence for required practicum (Cr for all semesters).

In addition, students must adhere to the NASW Code of Ethics. This document is included in the student handbook and all students must adhere to its principles of professional conduct. Students who knowingly or unknowingly violate any part of the ethical code may be dismissed from the program without further qualification regardless of coursework, research, or other academic achievement.

Student Handbook

The School of Social Work has a student handbook for graduate students. The handbook contains policies and procedures not specified in this bulletin in addition to information to aid students in completing the MSW degree program. Students must purchase a revised handbook at the beginning of fall as long as they are in the program. Handbooks are on sale at the SDSU Bookstore under Social Work, and available on the social work Web site.

Program of Study

The program is organized in the first year around a generalist/foundations first semester and a mixed generalist, and methods focus area in the second semester. The second year program is organized around a field of service focus area and a methods focus area.

Students will select one methods focus area during their second semester in the program and one field of service focus area in their third semester in the program. The following field of service focus areas and methods focus areas are available in the program.

Methods Focus Areas

Direct Practice Social Work

Focus is on interpersonal conflicts and social functioning with emphasis on appropriate intervention methods used primarily with individuals, families, and groups. Emphasis is placed on a problem-solving framework that utilizes assessment/diagnosis, intervention/treatment and evaluative skills.

Social Work Administration

Focus is on intervention in inter- and intra-organizational functioning of social welfare agencies. Particular emphasis is placed on intervention in problems of organizational administration and development of voluntary and public social agencies. The skills emphasized include service delivery design, budgeting, team building and organizational decision making.

Fields of Service Focus Areas

Social Work in Mental Health

This focus area addresses human and institutional problems related to personal and family dysfunction reflected in acute life crises, and emotional/behavioral/mental disorders. The objective is social work knowledge and skill development in interdisciplinary community mental health planning, practice and research, with emphasis on roles and modalities of intervention which promote mental health, prevent mental disabilities, and treat personal and family dysfunctions.

Social Work in Health and Aging

This focus area addresses a range of emerging and established social work roles, modalities and strategies, applied collaboratively with other disciplines in health promotion, prevention and treatment of psychosocial components of illness in individuals (with emphasis on children and the aged), families and groups. Humanizing health care through consumer advocacy, policy and program development, planning and administration is emphasized. The focus area addresses the implications of changing demography, characteristics and needs of elderly, functional and dysfunctional elements in service systems, and personal/social significance of life cycle changes.

Social Work with Children, Youth, and Families

This focus area addresses social work professional roles in delivery of service to children, youth, and families in public and voluntary social agencies. The functional and dysfunctional aspects of socialization processes and institutional influences on children and families are reviewed with respect to interventive strategies, social policy issues, and program development.

Master of Social Work and Juris Doctor Degree

General Information

The School of Social Work and the California Western School of Law offer a four-year concurrent graduate program which allows students to earn simultaneously a Master of Social Work and a Juris Doctor (JD) degree in law. The objective of the concurrent degrees program is to prepare students who are competent in advanced practice where social work and law converge.

Admission to Graduate Study

To request application materials for the concurrent dual degrees program in social work and law, applicants should contact the Office of Admissions at the School of Social Work, San Diego State University, and the Office of Admissions at California Western School of Law. Two separate application processes must be followed. Please see the Admission to Graduate Study section in this bulletin under the Master of Social Work degree program. (The only difference is that students earning the two degrees simultaneously may substitute the results of the LSAT examination for the GRE examination.) Applicants should indicate on the appropriate section of each application that they are applying for the concurrent dual degrees MSW/JD program. Please contact the MSW/JD program coordinator at California Western School of Law at (619) 525-1463 for more specific information about admissions processes and requirements.

Advancement to Candidacy

All students must meet the general requirements for advancement to candidacy as described in Part Two of this bulletin. In addition, students must also meet all criteria outlined under the Advancement to Candidacy section for the Master of Social Work program.

Specific Requirements for the MSW/JD Concurrent Degree Program

(Major Code: 21045)

In addition to meeting the requirements for classified graduate standing and the basic requirements for the master's degree as described in Part Two of this bulletin and all requirements listed in the California Western School of Law catalog for the JD degree, the student must complete an officially approved course of study as outlined below.

School of Social Work

(60 Units—Including six units transferred from California Western School of Law)

- SWORK 601 Seminar in Social Welfare Policy and Services (3)
- SWORK 619 Human Behavior in the Social Environment (3)
- SWORK 620A Seminar in Human Behavior and the Social Environment (3)
- or 620B
- SWORK 630 Social Work Practice: A Generalist Perspective (3)
- SWORK 631 Social Work Practice: Individuals, Families, and Groups (3)
- SWORK 632 Social Work Practice: Organizations and Communities (3)
- SWORK 650 Field Practicum (7) Cr/NC
- SWORK 690 Seminar in Social Work Research Methods (3)
- SWORK 702D Seminar in Social Welfare Policy and Services: Children, Youth, and Families (3)
- SWORK 720 Seminar in Selected Topics in Human Behavior and Social Environment (3)
- SWORK 750 Advanced Field Practicum (8) Cr/NC
- SWORK 797 Research (3) Cr/NC/RP
- SWORK 799A Thesis (3) Cr/NC/RP

Electives: Six units transferred from California Western School of Law courses and six units in a second year practice concentration.

Direct Practice	OR	Administration
SWORK 739 (3)		SWORK 740 (3)
SWORK 744 (3)		SWORK 745 (3)

**California Western School of Law
(89 Units—Including 12 units transferred from the School of Social Work)**

- Civil Procedures I and II (6)
- Contracts I and II (6)
- Criminal Law I (3)
- Legal Skills I and II (4)
- Property I and II (6)
- Torts I and II (6)
- Constitutional Law II (3)
- Criminal Procedure I (3)
- Evidence (4)
- Professional Responsibility (2)
- Interdisciplinary Program for Child Abuse and Neglect (6)
- Independent Study (3)
- Internship (5)
- Electives: 32 units (includes 12 units from SDSU)

The specific sequence of courses over the four year period is listed in the admissions material. Students attend the schools in the following pattern:

- Year 1 California Western School of Law only
- Year 2 San Diego State University School of Social Work only
- Year 3 (Fall) Both Schools
- Year 3 (Spring) California Western School of Law only
- Year 4 Both Schools

Master of Social Work and Master of Public Health Degrees

General Information

The School of Social Work and the Graduate School of Public Health offer a three year concurrent graduate program leading to a Master of Social Work and a Master of Public Health. The objective of the concurrent program is to offer preparation in the fields of public health and social work for the purpose of providing the knowledge and skills necessary to promote health, prevent disease, and enhance the delivery of social and health services in the community.

Admission to Graduate Study

For additional admission information refer to Admission to Graduate Study for the MSW. In order to be considered for the concurrent MSW/MPH program, applicants must:

1. Meet the general requirements for admission to graduate study at the University (see Part Two of this bulletin).
2. Have a minimum 2.75 grade point average in the last 60 semester or 90 quarter units in undergraduate work completed. Undergraduate preparation in at least one of the following areas is preferred: social work, social or behavioral sciences, or health science.
3. A satisfactory score on the GRE General Test. Applicants already holding another master's degree or higher degree from an acceptable accredited graduate school are exempt from the GRE.
4. Submit a narrative statement as described in Instructions for Applicants.
5. Submit three letters of recommendation.

A committee composed of faculty from Social Work and Public Health will make all admission recommendations to the Dean of the Graduate Division.

Advancement to Candidacy

All students must meet the general requirements for advancement to candidacy as described in Part Two of this bulletin. All core courses in social work and public health must be completed prior to advancement. In addition, the student must: (1) have earned at least 24 units of graduate study within the concurrent program with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 and no grade less than a B- in each core course (applies to Public Health courses only); (2) have been recommended for advancement by the combined faculty advisory committee; received credit (Cr) in field practicum; (3) have a thesis proposal approved by the combined faculty advisory committee.

Upon advancement to candidacy, the student will enroll in Social Work 797 (Research), Public Health 797 (Research), and Social Work 799A (Thesis) or Public Health 799A (Thesis). A thesis (Plan A) incorporating theory, method, and analytic techniques from both disciplines is the culminating experience for the concurrent program leading to the MSW and MPH degrees.

Specific Requirements for the MSW/MPH Degree

(Major Code: 12991)

In addition to meeting the requirements for classified graduate standing and the basic requirements for the master's degree as described in Part Two of this bulletin, the student must complete an officially approved course of study of not less than 83 units as outlined below.

Social Work/Public Health-Health Services Administration

Courses prerequisite to the program are Public Health 640 and Business Administration 650 or their equivalents as determined by the graduate adviser. If these courses or the equivalents have not been completed prior to admission, they should be included in the first semester course requirements.

BA 650	Financial Accounting (2)
PH 640	Public Issues in Financing Health Care (3)
SWORK 601	Seminar in Social Welfare Policy and Services (3)
SWORK 619	Human Behavior in the Social Environment (3)
SWORK 620B	Seminar in Human Behavior and Social Environment: Administration (3)
SWORK 630	Social Work Practice: A Generalist Perspective (3)
SWORK 631	Social Work Practice: Individuals, Families, and Groups (3)
SWORK 632	Social Work Practice: Organizations and Communities (3)
SWORK 650*	Field Practicum (7) Cr/NC
SWORK 690	Seminar in Social Work Research Methods (3)
SWORK 702C	Seminar in Social Welfare Policy and Services: Health and Aging (3)
SWORK 740	Advanced Seminar in Social Work Administration (3)
SWORK 745	Advanced Seminar in Selected Topics in Social Work Administration (3)
SWORK 750B*	Advanced Field Practicum: Social Work Administration (8) Cr/NC
SWORK 797	Research (3) Cr/NC/RP
PH 601	Epidemiology (3)
PH 602	Biostatistics (3)
PH 604	Environmental Determinants of Human Health (2)

PH 641	Introduction to Health Services (3)
PH 644A	Health Services Organizations (3)
PH 644B	Health Services Management (3)
PH 645	Health Economics (3)
PH 647A	Quantitative Methods and Health Data Analysis (3)
PH 742A	Health Services Financial Management (3)
PH 742B	Financing Health Systems and Services (3)
PH 797	Research (3) Cr/NC/RP
PH 799A or SWORK 799A	Thesis (3) Cr/NC/RP

* Social Work 650 and 750 (field practica) must have the approval of the faculty advisory committee. Responsibility for faculty field supervision will be assigned in social work.

Transfer units will not be accepted toward the concurrent MSW/MPH degree program. Graduate study or degrees obtained previously will not be accepted toward meeting the unit requirements of the concurrent MSW/MPH degree program.

If a student after entering the concurrent MSW/MPH program returns to a single degree program, all the requirements for the single degree program must then be met.

Pupil Personnel Services Credential

The School of Social Work is accredited by the State of California Department of Education to offer the Pupil Personnel Services Credential in School Social Work and the Pupil Personnel Services Credential in Child Welfare and Attendance. The credentials can be awarded under two conditions:

1. As part of the regular MSW program being completed during the second year coursework. Students would be assigned to a second year SWORK 750A (Direct Practice/Children, Youth and Families) internship in an approved and supervised school placement. In addition, students must take SWORK 758 (School Social Work) as their Fall elective course, and SWORK 758 (Practice in the Educational Arena) as their Spring elective course.
2. As a post MSW student through the College of Extended Studies. Interested professionals must contact the PPS coordinator and apply for the program which consists of 14 units taken over two semesters beginning in the Fall of each year. The program includes SWORK 758 (School Social Work—3 units), SWORK 758 (Practice in the Educational Arena—3 units), and SWORK 750A (4 units) each semester. SWORK 750A is a 20-hour per week internship required to accumulate the necessary time for the credentials.

Admission

Current students interested in the PPS credential need only file the regular SWORK 750A application during the Spring semester prior to enrollment. Unless demand is high, students will generally be admitted to the credential program.

Post MSW students must obtain the information packet for SWORK 750 in February of the year they wish to begin the program. Post MSW students must then file the necessary application to the Coordinator of Field Education by the deadline date established for all students. In entering the program, admission is based upon available internship sites. Preference is given to current students. Official acceptance does not occur until late Spring when all current students have been placed.

For further information contact Dr. Daniel J. Finnegan, PPS Coordinator, (619) 594-6850, or email: dfinnega@mail.sdsu.edu.

Courses Acceptable on Master's Degree Programs in Social Work (SWORK)

UPPER DIVISION COURSE

596. Experimental Topics (1-4)

Selected topics in social work. See Class Schedule for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree. Maximum credit of six units of 596 applicable to a bachelor's degree. Maximum combined credit of six units of 596 and 696 applicable to a 30-unit master's degree.

GRADUATE COURSES

601. Seminar in Social Welfare Policy and Services (3)

Social welfare as a social institution; philosophical, historical, and comparative analysis of the welfare functions, issues and problems in both policy and program development, implementation, and evaluation.

610. Computer Application in Social Work Practice (3)

Prerequisites: Social Work 631 and 632.

Computer technology in social work practice with emphasis on clinical and administrative applications, program monitoring, and support of service provision and delivery.

619. Human Behavior in the Social Environment (3)

Conceptual framework to view and interpret behavior and to understand functioning of individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities within ecological systems.

620. Seminar in Human Behavior and Social Environment (3)

Prerequisite: Social Work 619.

Human behavior theories and concepts appropriate to a methods concentration.

- A. Direct Practice
- B. Administration

630. Social Work Practice: A Generalist Perspective (3)

Overview of generalist social work practice as a method and process. Generalist social work presented as a basic helping approach used to assist individuals, groups, families, organizations, and communities to achieve personal and social change.

631. Social Work Practice: Individuals, Families, and Groups (3)

Prerequisite: Social Work 630.

Preparation for direct intervention with individuals, families, and groups. (Formerly numbered Social Work 631A, 631B, 631C, 631D.)

632. Social Work Practice: Organizations and Communities (3)

Prerequisite: Social Work 630.

Theoretical knowledge of elementary organizational and interorganizational decision making in human service programs.

650. Field Practicum (3-8) Cr/NC

Prerequisite: Concurrent registration in Social Work 631 and 632.

Field instruction in public or voluntary social work setting. Seven units required. Maximum credit seven units. Experiences emphasize application of social work objectives, principles, and skills in service to individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

690. Seminar in Social Work Research Methods (3)

Definition and purpose of research in social work. Techniques and methods used in collecting, organizing, and interpreting social welfare and related data; steps involved in planning a research project and selecting a research design.

696. Seminar on Selected Topics (3)

Intensive study in specific areas of social work. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit of nine units of 696 applicable to a master's degree. Maximum combined credit of six units of 596 and 696 applicable to a 30-unit master's degree.

702B. Seminar in Social Welfare Policy and Services: Mental Health (3)

Prerequisite: Social Work 601.

Policy and programs within the mental health field.

702C. Seminar in Social Welfare Policy and Services: Health and Aging (3)

Prerequisite: Social Work 601.

Policies and programs within the field of health and aging.

702D. Seminar in Social Welfare Policy and Services: Children, Youth, and Families (3)

Prerequisite: Social Work 601.

Policy and programs within children, youth, and families.

720. Seminar in Selected Topics in Human Behavior and Social Environment (3)

Prerequisite: Social Work 620A or 620B.

Selected topics related to current theories of natural and induced change in human behavior which have utility for social work practice within fields of service. See Class Schedule for specific content. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

739. Advanced Seminar in Social Work Practice with Families (3)

Prerequisites: Social Work 631, 632, and concurrent registration in Social Work 750A.

Family dynamics and social work practice related to family change.

740. Advanced Seminar in Social Work Administration (3)

Prerequisite: Social Work 631, 632, and concurrent registration in Social Work 750B.

Problems and roles of administrators in social agencies; administrative and organizational theories; executive functions of planning, budgeting, directing, reporting and staffing; multilevel relationships and communications.

744. Advanced Seminar in Selected Topics in Direct Practice Social Work (3)

Prerequisites: Social Work 739 and concurrent registration in Social Work 750A.

Study of a selected aspect of direct practice social work. Topics include treatment methodology, theoretical approaches, levels of practice, specific client groups, or special problem areas. See Class Schedule for specific content.

745. Advanced Seminar in Selected Topics in Social Work Administration (3)

Prerequisite: Social Work 740 and concurrent registration in Social Work 750B.

Study of a selected aspect of social work management in human services. Topics may cover such foci as program development, program evaluation, grant writing, resource development, financial management or management of nontraditional programs/projects. See Class Schedule for specific content.

750. Advanced Field Practicum (4-8) Cr/NC

Prerequisites: Social Work 650 and concurrent registration in Social Work 739 or 740 and 744 or 745.

Advanced field instruction in public or voluntary social work setting. Eight units required. Continuation and intensification of experiences in application of social work objectives, principles and skills in service to individuals, families, groups and communities related to:

- A. Direct Practice Social Work
- B. Social Work Administration

758. Seminar in Social Work and Selected Fields of Practice (1-3)

Traditional and emerging fields of practice and related social work responsibilities and roles. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

780. Seminar in Social Work and Selected Populations-at-Risk (3)

Social work practice with selected populations-at-risk such as one-parent families, children in institutions, ethnic minority immigrants, Native-Americans in the urban scene, and foreign-born brides of U.S. servicemen. See Class Schedule for specific content. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

781. Seminar on Selected Populations-at-Risk (3)

Knowledge about and analysis of selected populations-at-risk, social work responsibilities in emerging service demands by diverse and needful, high risk segments of the population in a complex society, and implications for social work practice. Population-at-risk for study to be announced in Class Schedule. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

791. Applied Social Work Practice Research Seminar (3)

Prerequisite: Social Work 690.

Preparation for practitioner-researcher role through application of social work research concepts and procedures in practice situations (in class and field) of interventions with individuals, families and groups or in community practice and management. Maximum credit three units of Social Work 791 applicable to a master's degree.

- A. Direct Practice Social Work
- B. Social Work Administration

797. Research (3) Cr/NC/RP

Prerequisite: Consent of Instructor.

Research in one of the areas of social work. Maximum credit three units applicable to a master's degree.

798. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC/RP

Prerequisite: Consent of staff; to be arranged with director and instructor.

Individual study. Maximum credit three units applicable to a master's degree.

799A. Thesis (3) Cr/NC/RP

Prerequisites: An officially appointed thesis committee and advancement to candidacy.

Preparation of a thesis for the master's degree.

799B. Thesis Extension (0) Cr/NC

Prerequisite: Prior registration in Thesis 799A with an assigned grade symbol of RP.

Registration required in any semester or term following assignment of RP in Course 799A in which the student expects to use the facilities and resources of the University; also student must be registered in the course when the completed thesis is granted final approval.

