

# Master of Social Work

Fall 2016 Admissions



CSUN

CALIFORNIA  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
NORTHRIDGE

Learn ▪ Empower ▪ Change



# Department Mission

The mission of California State University, Northridge Department of Social Work, is to prepare professional social workers to promote the well-being of individuals, families and communities in the urban setting.

The Department will teach students research-based knowledge, values, and skills to:

- *Prevent* social, emotional, and behavioral problems; improve the wellbeing of individuals and families; and support the recovery process.
- *Develop* programs and policies which build on the strengths of urban families.
- *Empower* and be relevant to the needs of the multi-national, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural San Fernando Valley and its surrounding communities.
- *Advocate* for a diverse and just society.



# MSW Cohorts



Dr. Amy Levin,  
*Department Chair*

Our program offers a graduate-level social work education that concentrates on urban family practice. This focus offers students opportunities to learn and develop strategies for working in any urban environment at any level – from individual/family to group/community to societal/policy. CSUN's MSW degree prepares students for careers as administrators, community advocates, counselors, policy makers, researchers, supervisors and service workers in a wide variety of settings, including community and government organizations, behavioral health centers, hospitals, and schools.

Because the program features a substantial field-education component, students are exposed to practice with vulnerable and at-risk populations, an experience that stimulates student interest in advocacy and social justice.

We aim to train passionate critical thinkers who are ready and able to support and advocate with and on behalf of the diverse communities and clients found within the Los Angeles area and beyond. To meet the needs of our applicants we offer four cohort options.



## On-Campus Cohorts

### TWO YEAR ON-CAMPUS COHORT

Students complete 60 graduate units, including 16 hours per week of field placement internship in the first year, and 24 hours of field placement internship in the second year.

Foundation-year (first-year) students attend classes on Tuesdays and Fridays, and are in their field placements two business days per week. Concentration-year (second-year) students attend classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and are in their field placements on Mondays, Wednesdays, and/or Fridays.

### THREE YEAR ON-CAMPUS COHORT

Students complete 60 graduate units, including 16 hours per week of field placement internship year-round in the 1st and 2nd years. In the 3rd year, students are in classes only, and complete their capstone graduate project. Students attend classes year-round. Classes are held Tuesdays from 6:00-10:00pm, Thursdays from 6:00-8:45pm and one Saturday per semester.

Field placement schedules vary based on agency business hours, but applicants must identify at least one business day per week for field availability. DCFS employees have their field placements in the 2nd and 3rd years of the program.



# Off-Campus Cohorts

## THREE YEAR COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS (COC) COHORT

Students attend classes year round. Classes are taught three at a time, in 16-week semesters. Students complete a total of 21 classes (63 graduate units). While CSUN's MSW is a 60-unit degree, students who participate in off-campus cohorts may be required to complete additional units to meet the specific Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) fieldwork requirements for each cohort/location. Classes are held on Wednesdays from 4-10 p.m., and occasional Saturdays. The College of the Canyons campus is located at 26455 Rockwell Canyon Road in Santa Clarita, CA.

Beginning the Fall semester of the first year, students are required to complete a minimum of 16 hours of field placement internship per week. Each internship will run from September through -May/June for the first and second years of the program.

## TWO YEAR ONLINE COHORT

The MSW online program is a two-year (four-semester), asynchronous, full-time program with the exception of a weekly synchronous field education class. This means that students do not have to be online at a specific time for the academic classes, but must attend a weekly, one-hour (synchronous) online field education class. Students take two eight-week courses at a time for a total of 20 classes (60 graduate units), plus ongoing 16-week field education classes.

Students will not be required to come to the CSUN campus or any other affiliate university campus during the four-semester online MSW program.

Field hours will be 16 hours per week during the entire duration of the program. Students must be available for field placement Monday-Friday, from 9-5pm. Evening and weekend field placements are unavailable. It is not possible for students to complete a field internship at their place of employment.

## APPROXIMATE TUITON COSTS

On-Campus Two-year:	\$16,724*	COC:	\$36,255
On-Campus Three-year:	\$27,500*	Online:	\$41,700

\* If you are not a resident of California, visit

[www.csun.edu/stufin/tuition](http://www.csun.edu/stufin/tuition)







**Humberto Solis-Flores**  
**On-Campus Two Year**  
**Cohort**  
**San Fernando, CA**

“The MSW program’s generalist perspective offers a plethora of experience in all facets of social work. From structural inequality and heteropatriarchy to the individual experience and how it all connects. The experience you gain is key in deciding what your focus will be once you graduate. Not only are the professors available in the classroom, but they are accessible outside of the classroom. The mentorship and support I have received from my professors has been unparalleled.”

## Field Education

Field placement days and times are determined by the CSUN MSW Field Education Department, based on agency needs, student schedules and employer approval. Students must be available for field placement Monday-Friday, from 9-5pm. Evening and weekend field placements are unavailable. It is not possible for students to complete a field internship at their place of employment. If offered admission to the CSUN MSW Program, students are required to successfully complete a field internship interview.

“The CSUN MSW program has served as a professional and personal growing experience. My first year placement at Olive View-UCLA Medical center was challenging. However, the support I received from the entire staff at the hospital as well as my field class was outstanding. Getting to class every morning and being able to debrief on what occurred the previous day at my internship while receiving feedback from classmates and professors helped me reflect on my experiences. It has also helped me become a better practitioner.”



**Jessica Reyes**  
**On-Campus Two Year**  
**Cohort**  
**Pacoima, CA**



# MSW Curriculum

## Foundation Courses

- 501: Human Behavior in the Social Environment I
- 502: Human Behavior in the Social Environment II
- 503: Psychosocial DSM-V-TR
- 510: Generalist Social Work Theory and Practice I
- 520: Social Work Practice in Multicultural Settings
- 521: Generalist Social Work Theory and Practice II
- 522: Foundations of Field Education I
- 523: Foundations of Field Education II
- 525: Social Policy and Services
- 535: Research Methods for Social Knowledge & Practice

## Concentration Courses

- 601: Advanced Social Work Practice
- 602: Advanced Social Work Practice with Urban Families II
- 621: Advanced Social Work Practice in Urban Communities
- 622: Advanced Field Practicum with Urban Families I
- 623: Advanced Field Practicum with Urban Families II
- 630: Family Crisis, Trauma and Grief
- 635: Advanced Skills in Program Evaluation and Research with Urban Families
- 645: Urban Social Policy and Advocacy
- 650: Elective
- 698: Graduate Project "Capstone Project"

# Capstone Project

Offered as the culminating experience of the MSW Graduate Program, students complete an individual or group research project reflecting the students' interests and needs in working with urban families. Outcomes of this seminar will require students to collect, analyze and report direct observations; write a research paper that includes a title page, abstract, background, methods and discussion sections conforming to APA Publication Manual guidelines; and present a poster in an open community-invited forum. This project meets the culminating experience requirements.



Capstone allowed us the opportunity to use photo voicing as an advocacy tool to examine the growing needs, concerns, and experiences of transgender and gender nonconforming community members through an empowering social justice lens. We learned a lot from the incredible individuals who participated in our projects, and we are humbled and forever grateful for the opportunity to hear their beautiful stories."



# Admissions Requirements

## For the University

To be admitted to CSUN as a graduate student, applicants must meet all of the following requirements:

- Have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited university or college.
- Be in good standing at the last institution attended.
- Have at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average (GPA) or in the last 60 semester/90 quarter units of their undergraduate degree. If the applicant is still in the process of completing their degree, we will look at the last 60 chronological units.

## For the Department of Social Work

Additionally, the Department of Social Work has the following requirements:

- Applicants must have earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college. A liberal arts background with some coursework in the social, behavioral and biological sciences is strongly preferred.
- Applicants must present evidence of the ability to complete graduate study. Applicants should have attained a GPA of 3.0, although an exception might be made in some circumstances. If you have less than a 3.0 overall GPA, the University requires the GRE.
- Individuals applying should demonstrate evidence of personal maturity, including the ability to withstand difficult emotional challenges, a commitment to interpersonal processing within the parameters of cultural expectations, respect for others and for their life decisions, a readiness to learn advanced clinical and macro practice and research skills, a commitment to social justice and to the profession's Code of Ethics (<https://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp>) and a capacity for flexibility and creativity.
- Preference will be given to applicants who have had post-baccalaureate work experience. Academic credit, however, cannot be given for prior life and work experience.

## Online Technology & Computer Competency Requirements

Please know that there are minimum technical requirements and computer skills that are specific to the Online MSW program. Information on the requirements is available at: <http://tsengcollege.csun.edu/programs/MSW/programrequirements>.



## Information Sessions

August 17, 2015 – 6:00-8:00pm  
September 16, 2015 – 12:00-2:00pm  
October 21, 2015 – 6:00-8:00pm  
November 19, 2015 – 6:00-8:00pm  
December 9, 2015 – 6:00-8:00pm

### Location:

CSUN Campus,  
Sierra Hall 451, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor in the  
Whitsett Room

Please click [here](#) for parking  
information and a map  
highlighting the event location.

## Important Dates

### Application Opens:

September 1, 2015

### Application Available:

[www.csun.edu/msw](http://www.csun.edu/msw)

### Deadlines:

Preferred – December 1, 2015\*\*

Regular – January 14, 2016

\*\*Preferred Deadline applicants who submit their online application and complete department application materials by this date will be considered first.



# Contact Information

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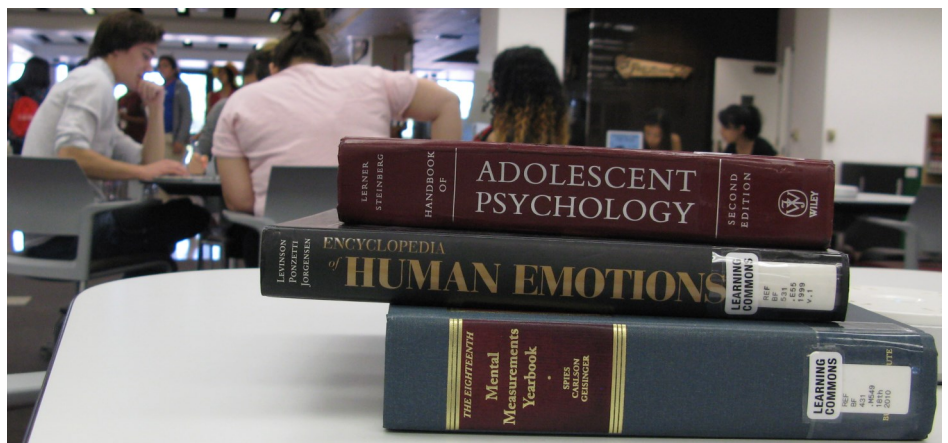
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