Department Mission

The mission of the California State University, Northridge Department of Social Work is to prepare professional social workers to be anti-oppressive, socially just agents of change who promote well-being in urban settings. As an advanced generalist program with a focus on urban communities, the Department will teach and create collaborative learning experiences with students.

Focus
Urban settings describe communities with densely populated areas and a vast array of subcultures. Utilizing a lens that espouses an intersectional, trauma-informed collaborative perspective, the Department celebrates a strengths-based inclusive identity, emphasized by the shared experiences of community, culture, and location.

Goals
We will:

- Examine and apply an intersectionality, power, and privilege lens to address social, political, and systemic change.
- Empower and be relevant to the diverse needs of the multi-national, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural San Fernando Valley and its surrounding communities.
- Advocate for an equitable and socially just society.
- Enhance critical consciousness through research, practice, and trauma-informed knowledge, values, and skills.
MSW Cohorts

Dr. Eli Bartle,
Department Chair

Our program offers a graduate-level social work education that concentrates on urban communities. 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.

Applicants may be interested in more than one cohort at the time of application. On-campus (state-support) and online (self-support) cohorts may differ by tuition cost, eligibility for various types of financial aid and grants, and/or eligibility for other types of resources and services (i.e. limited stipend opportunities that have specific eligibility criteria). If offered admission to the program, it is the applicant’s responsibility to clarify which type of aid, resources, and services they may be eligible for based upon their cohort choice prior to joining the program.

On-Campus Cohorts (state-support)

TWO YEAR ON-CAMPUS COHORT

Students complete 60 graduate units, including 16 hours per week of field placement internship in the first year, and 20 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 at least 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 throughout the year, including summers. Classes are held Tuesdays from 6:00-9:45pm and Thursdays from 6:00-8:45pm. Field placement schedules vary based on agency business hours, but applicants must identify at least one business day per week for availability. DCFS employees have their placement in the 2nd and 3rd years of the program.
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 most of the academic classes except to attend a weekly, one-hour (synchronous) online field education class. Students take two eight-week courses at a time, plus ongoing 16-week field education classes, for a total of 20 classes (60 graduate units).

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 for two days during the week from 9-6pm Monday-Friday. Evening and weekend field placements are unavailable. It is not possible for students to complete a field internship at their place of employment.

**APPROXIMATE TUITION COSTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On-Campus Two-year:</th>
<th>$16,644*</th>
<th>Online:</th>
<th>$44,220**</th>
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| On-Campus Three-year: | $27,754* | **Tuition rates determined by Tseng College; these are figures from Fall 2018 (TBA for Fall 2019)**

*Please see notes regarding non-California residents, [http://www.csun.edu/stufin/tuition](http://www.csun.edu/stufin/tuition)*
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 two days during the week from 9-6pm Monday-Friday. 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 offers a vast amount of opportunities to connect and network with other cohorts, staff and faculty, NASW and more through conferences and lectures throughout the country. It has empowered me as a first-generation, woman of color by enhancing my advocacy skills for underserved and marginalized communities. My cohort has developed a family dynamic, where the support is endless, and professors are empathetic to student needs. The necessary tools are provided to become an efficient practitioner. Being an MSW student has validated my passion and drive towards serving the people.”

Monica Montoya
On-Campus Three-Year Cohort
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 two days during the week from 9-6pm Monday-Friday. 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 in-

"Being part of the first CSUN-UNAM bi-national cohort is an amazing learning experience that encompasses the general Social Work practice among under-served communities. This unique opportunity provides a safe space to grow as an individual and professional. After graduation, I look forward to collaborating with transnational social work professionals and community members to emancipate cultural barriers and generational trauma."

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"The CSUN MSW Online program offers more than any student would expect from learning via an online platform. There is a plethora of support provided to the students by collaborative learning opportunities and highly communicative and accessible professors. While the accelerated schedule makes the program rigorous, the online platform allows the flexibility of accessing the program anywhere! Although the online program is considered distant learning, there is space for building close relationships that begin as classmates but eventually turn into colleagues and lifelong friends. "

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Christhi Vault
Two-Year Online Cohort

Janet Ramirez
UNAM Cohort
## MSW Curriculum

### Foundation Courses
- 501: Human Behavior in the Social Environment I
- 502: Human Behavior in the Social Environment II
- 503: Psychosocial Assessment and Diagnostic Formulation
- 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 and 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

## Graduation 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
- 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
- Applicants must have earned a baccalaureate degree from a regionally 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.
- 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/studentinfo/technical-requirements

Information Sessions

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<tr>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 9, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 8, 2019</td>
<td>1:00-3:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 14, 2019</td>
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<td>December 4, 2019</td>
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Location:
CSUN Campus,
Sierra Hall 451,
4th Floor in the Whitsett Room

Please click here for parking information and a map highlighting the event location.

Important Dates

Application Opens: October 1, 2019
Application Available: www.csun.edu/msw
Preferred Deadline: November 29, 2019
Final Deadline: January 10, 2020
Contact Information

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