CSUN Master of Social Work
Fall 2015

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Creating Change One Student at a Time
Welcome from Dr. Levin

AN MSW DEGREE WITH A GENERALIST APPROACH TO WORKING WITH AND ADVOCATING FOR URBAN FAMILIES IN THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

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.

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.
Required Courses for MSW

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
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”

On-Campus Programs

Two-year Program

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 Fridays.

Three-year Program

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 6-10pm, Thursdays from 6-8:45pm 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.

Additional Information

Applications for the on-campus programs will open on October 1st and more information can be found by clicking here.

For questions regarding our on-campus programs, please contact our Administrative Admissions and Student Engagement Coordinator, Marlene Cardozo, at 818-677-7630 or marlene.cardozo@csun.edu.
Off-Campus Programs

Three-year College of the Canyons (COC) Program

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 August for the first and second years of the program.

Two-year Online 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 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.

Additional Information

We are currently accepting applications for our off-campus programs and more information can be found by clicking here.

For questions regarding our off-campus programs, please contact our Off-site MSW Program Coordinator, Rachel Navarro, at 818-677-5902 or rachel.navarro@csun.edu.

California State University, Northridge's MSW program has been recognized by OnlineU as No. 7 of 2014's 10 Most Affordable Social Work Degrees.
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. Lower - division courses or courses taken in extension, after obtaining the undergraduate degree, will be excluded from the GPA calculation.

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.

Application Process
The application process varies depending on your program(s) of interest. If you have questions or are unsure on how to proceed, please call or email us using the contact information on the last page of this brochure. To access the applications, please use the links listed on this page to the right.
Admissions Contact Information

Dr. Herman DeBose
On-Campus Admissions Chair
hdebose@csun.edu

Katie Mortimer
Executive Director of Grants, Field Education & Contracts
katie.mortimer@csun.edu

Marlene Cardozo
Admissions & Student Engagement Coordinator
marlene.cardozo@csun.edu
(818) 677-7630

Rachel Navarro
Off-site MSW Program Coordinator
rachel.navarro@csun.edu
(818) 677-5902

Approximate Tuition Costs

On-Campus Two-year: $16,724
On-Campus Three-year: $31,033
COC: $36,255
Online: $41,700

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Department of Social Work

18111 Nordhoff Street
Sierra Hall 208
Northridge, CA  91330-8226

Phone 818-677-7630
Fax 818-677-7662

www.csun.edu/msw