MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

Admission to Program

Applicants must first meet the general university requirements pertaining to the admission of graduate students. In addition, applicants must demonstrate academic and professional commitments to Social Work and the values and philosophical foundations of the School's mission. To be considered for admission into the M.S.W. Program, prospective students must apply and be admitted to both Graduate Studies and the School of Social Work. Admission to the M.S.W. Program is highly competitive. Application forms and materials can be accessed online via the School of Social Work website: http://socwork.sfsu.edu/admissions/msw. Applications for the Title IV–E Child Welfare Training Program are also available on the website and must be submitted in person or mailed to the Title IV–E Coordinator.

School admission decisions are based on several areas, including but not limited to, potential for professional practice as demonstrated by previous employment/volunteer experiences; value congruence to the School's mission; knowledge, experience, and relationship of the applicant to oppressed, under–served and under–represented individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities; and academic performance. To qualify for admission to the M.S.W. program, applicants must have attained a GPA of at least 3.0 in an acceptable earned baccalaureate degree or a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 in their last 60 units. The significance of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited undergraduate program in Social Work is recognized, but SF State University School of Social Work does not have an advanced standing program. In the event that a student with a BASW degree from a CSWE accredited institution is admitted into the M.S.W. program, a thorough transcript review will take place and a determination made about if and which course(s) may be waived. In the event that a course is waived, credits must be obtained in elective courses to meet graduation requirements and the adequate number of credits.

Level One Written English Proficiency Requirement

The University has a requirement for written English proficiency that is to be assessed at two different points in a student's program.

The School of Social Work is committed to enhancing all students' ability to communicate in an effective and professional manner, both orally and in writing. Further, the School promotes efforts to ensure that all forms of communication are culturally sensitive and appropriate.

To prepare practitioners for the challenges and responsibilities of advocacy within professional settings, the School of Social Work pursues a rigorous writing proficiency standard. Formal writing assignments are integrated into the structure of classes with the expectation that students progressively expand and refine their mastery of organizing ideas and expressing purposeful thinking. Written communication is a core competency in both the BASW and M.S.W. degree programs.

The level one written English proficiency assessment requirement is conducted during the applicant’s completion of the M.S.W. supplemental application. One of the application questions is specifically referenced as such.

Level Two Written English Proficiency

The culmination of student writing is completed when graduate students write their final culminating experience project for the M.S.W. degree. They choose either a professional practice project or a thesis. The final projects typically include, as a minimum, the following sections:

- Identification of the issues or problems that are the focus of the project or thesis;
- Description, foundation, discussion, comprehension, and analysis of the presenting problems or issues;
- Review of the literature relevant to the project subjects;
- Application and syntheses of the literature, principles, theories, and practice areas;
- Assessment;
- Evaluation;
- Implications for social work policies, programs, practices.

Advancement to Candidacy

Besides meeting all general requirements for advancement to candidacy, the school maintains the following additional requirements:

- The following are to be taken in the first year prior to other courses, 4 units of S W 740, and 2 units of S W 741. S W 740 is graded CR/NC only.
  - S W 700 History and Philosophy of Social Welfare 3
  - S W 710 Human Behavior and the Social Environment 3
  - S W 720 Research Methods in Social Work 3
  - S W 730 Social Work Practice Methods 3
  - S W 770 Ethnic and Cultural Concept and Principles I 3
  - S W 780 Global Poverty 3

- Maintenance of a 3.0 grade point average in graduate study.

Field Internship: The field education director meets and works with all students to help them locate an appropriate and rigorous field internship. M.S.W. students complete a total of 1200 hours of field internship (480 hours during year one and 720 hours during year two).

Mental Health Stipend Program

Principal Investigator: Jerry Shapiro

The California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) has granted stipends to the School of Social Work to support second–year graduate students committed to working in public mental health. These stipends are the result of the Mental Health Services Act (funded by Proposition 63) and are part of a workforce development initiative to train qualified social workers who can provide public mental health services. For the one–year academic year stipend of $18,500, the student agrees to “payback” by working in public mental health for one calendar year. This can include positions in public programs or contract agencies funded by Behavioral Health grants.

Students must meet all core M.S.W. Program requirements, and participate in various mental health workshops and trainings during their year in the program. Funding for the stipend program is scheduled to end in 2016. Current information can be obtained from the Principal Investigator, Dr. Jerry Shapiro at jshap@sfsu.edu.
Title IV–E Child Welfare Training Stipend Program

For information about the Title IV–E Stipend Program, please visit our School of Social Work website at http://socwork.sfsu.edu/content/title–iv–e–child–welfare–training–program–1

Master of Social Work — Minimum 60 Units

Core Requirements (Minimum 33 Units)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S W 700</td>
<td>History and Philosophy of Social Welfare</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S W 701</td>
<td>Social Policy Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S W 710</td>
<td>Human Behavior and the Social Environment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S W 720</td>
<td>Research Methods in Social Work</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S W 721</td>
<td>Seminar: Evaluative Research in Social Work</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or S W 820</td>
<td>Seminar: Advanced Research Methodology in Social Work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S W 730</td>
<td>Social Work Practice Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S W 740</td>
<td>Fieldwork Instruction</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S W 741</td>
<td>Graduate Fieldwork Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S W 741</td>
<td>Graduate Fieldwork Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S W 770</td>
<td>Ethnic and Cultural Concept and Principles</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S W 780</td>
<td>Global Poverty</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S W 895</td>
<td>Research Projects in Social Work</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or S W 898</td>
<td>Master’s Thesis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Units: 33

Program Emphasis (27 Units)

(One area selected from the emphases listed below)

Each student is admitted into the Individuals, Families, and Groups (IFG) emphasis, and may elect to simultaneously apply to the Title IV–E Child Welfare Training Program.

Individuals, Families, and Groups Program (IFG)

Social work practice with individuals, families, and groups is grounded in a bio-psycho-social approach to direct service. The social worker functions as a multi-role practitioner including the following: case worker, case manager, leader, facilitator, broker, advocate, counselor, educator, or resource specialist. The practice methods emphasize the importance of promoting the strengths of individuals, rather than focusing on deficits or pathology. The goal of IFG practice is to ameliorate stressors within a life course context of human development and functioning. The practitioner’s attention is directed toward enhancing the coping abilities of individuals, families, and groups in dealing with aspects of their interpersonal environment through empowering processes. Recognition of issues of diversity is fundamental to culturally competent IFG practice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S W 810</td>
<td>Health, Illness, and Disordered Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S W 740</td>
<td>Fieldwork Instruction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S W 740</td>
<td>Fieldwork Instruction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S W 741</td>
<td>Graduate Fieldwork Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S W 741</td>
<td>Graduate Fieldwork Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S W 830</td>
<td>Seminar: Social Casework</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S W 832</td>
<td>Seminar: Social Group Work</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S W 831</td>
<td>Seminar: Advanced Social Casework</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select 7 units of electives on advisement

Title IV–E Child Welfare Training Program

Project Coordinator: Gabriela Fischer

Principal Investigator: Susanna Jones

The School of Social Work is part of a consortium of graduate social work programs in California to administer the Title IV–E Child Welfare Training Program. This program, administered by the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC), was created to prepare MSW students for careers in public child welfare service. The full-time program provides a number of student stipends ($18,500 per year) for two years of graduate school. In return for receiving a stipend, students must work in public child welfare for at least two years after they graduate.

The Title IV–E Program is driven by child welfare competencies that were developed by universities and county welfare directors. These competencies are integrated throughout the curriculum and are further enhanced by special workshops on current topics relating to the field. Title IV–E students are expected to complete all core components of the MSW Program and are required to complete the first year field placement in a county child welfare department or non-profit program serving Title IV–E eligible children and families. The second year placement must be in a county child welfare department. In addition, Title IV–E students are required to complete two child welfare focused courses: S W 843, in the spring semester of the first year, and S W 701 (Child Welfare-specific section), the fall semester of the second year of the MSW program. Students are also required to participate in child welfare trainings and workshops as directed by the Title IV–E Coordinator.

Students who apply to the MSW program are also provided the opportunity apply for the Title IV–E Child Welfare Training Program simultaneously. Applicants will go through a selection process that includes an in-person interview. Priority is given to applicants who are current employees of county child welfare agencies and applicants who reflect the diversity of clients served by California’s public child welfare agencies. Students who receive the Title IV–E stipend award must attest that they have never been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor crime or any crime involving harm to children that would disqualify them from service in a county public child welfare services agency. All students must submit to Live Scan and criminal background checks via the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) for second-year placement. Continuation of this program is subject to funding availability.

Pupil Personnel Services Credential: School Social Work Designation

PPSC Coordinator: Christina Feliciana

The School offers a Pupil Personnel Services Credential (PPSC) program to graduate social work students who are simultaneously pursuing their MSW degree. This additional program is available only if resources permit. If offered, students in the PPSC Program are required to enroll in all courses in the Individual, Families, and Groups (IFG) emphasis and do a field placement in a public school (K–12), supervised by an individual with a PPSC credential. The PPSC field placement and specialized course work are designed to be completed in the second year of MSW preparation and are taken in the following order.

Course Title Units
Second Year
First Semester
S W 740 Fieldwork Instruction 3

Principal Investigator: Susanna Jones

Project Coordinator: Gabriela Fischer

The School of Social Work is part of a consortium of graduate social work programs in California to administer the Title IV–E Child Welfare Training Program. This program, administered by the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC), was created to prepare MSW students for careers in public child welfare service. The full-time program provides a number of student stipends ($18,500 per year) for two years of graduate school. In return for receiving a stipend, students must work in public child welfare for at least two years after they graduate.

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Pupil Personnel Services Credential: School Social Work Designation

PPSC Coordinator: Christina Feliciana

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Course Title Units
Second Year
First Semester
S W 740 Fieldwork Instruction 3
Post-Masters PPSC Program

The School of Social Work offers a Post Masters PPSC Program for persons who possess an MSW from an accredited social work institution.

Each student’s portfolio of prior classes and experiences are assessed to determine what must be completed to meet the requirements for a Post Masters PPSC.

This program is offered during the summer through the College of Extended Learning, and students are able to complete all requirements in one summer. For details, one may contact the Post Masters PPSC Coordinator, Christina Feliciana, at (415) 405–0942 or cfeli@sfsu.edu.

Mental Health Stipend Program

Principal Investigator: Jerry Shapiro

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Students must meet all core MSW Program requirements, and participate in various mental health workshops and trainings during their year in the program. Funding for the stipend program is scheduled to end in 2016. Current information can be obtained from the program’s coordinator, Sheila Hembury, at (415) 338–7530 or shehe@sfsu.edu.

1 S W 741 is taken concurrently with S W 740 and is required each semester that the student is in the field.

2 Post-Masters PPSC students do not take S W 740 and S W 741 concurrently.