Master of Social Work Program

School of Social Work
San José State University

MSW Program Bulletin
Master of Social Work
Program Bulletin

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The MSW Program in the School of Social Work at San José State University is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education

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# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San José State University</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Social Work</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Mission</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Goals</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accreditation</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Social Work Program</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcultural Practice and the MSW Program Curriculum</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcultural Generalist Perspective</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcultural Multi-Systems Perspective</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcultural Practice and the MSW Program Service Area</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Curriculum Plan</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Practicum</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fields of Practice</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Plans for the MSW Degree</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohort System, Course Enrollment, and Class Schedules</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substitution of Foundation Courses</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Descriptions</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificates and Credentials</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Requirements for the MSW Degree</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Resources</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Resources</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees, Financial Aid, and Scholarships</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Programs and Stipends</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Program and Stipend</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Training Program and Stipend</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerontology Training Program and Stipend</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pupil Personnel Services Credential (PPSC)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSW Program Application</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where to Find the MSW Program Application</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where to Find the Title IV-E Application</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Training Program and Stipend Application</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerontology Training Program and Stipend Application</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Questions</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the Master of Social Work Program at San José State University. Founded in 1969, and fully accredited by the Council of Social Work Education, our MSW Program has maintained an integrated and diverse student body. Our graduate program was originally designed to prepare students to work with California’s Spanish-speaking populations. Over time, demographic changes coupled with increasing challenges to the profession have contributed to the expansion of the original mission to reflect a transcultural perspective. We equip MSW students for transcultural professional practice at a multi-systems level, preparing them for culturally competent practice with Latinos, Asian and Pacific Islanders, African Americans, and those communities, groups, families, and individuals who are disenfranchised, oppressed, or marginalized. It is this emphasis on transcultural practice that makes our graduate social work program unique, and that continues to guide our curriculum to promote commitment of our graduates to enhance the well-being of individuals and their communities, to build upon the strengths of diverse cultures, and to advocate for social justice.

Our MSW Program offers students the option of completing the graduate program in two years as a full-time student, or in three years by redistributing some coursework over this period. The MSW Program requires a commitment to complete all coursework and training including a curriculum of in-class study and field education. As part of our transcultural generalist and multi-systems perspective, you will first learn the foundations of social work and then focus on a particular field of practice. These fields of practice, which are related to the service needs of the San José/Silicon Valley region and the larger San Francisco Bay Area, are the aging; children, youth, and families; school social work, and health and mental health.

Admission to our MSW Program is competitive and the course of graduate study rigorous. However, we hope that your interaction and learning opportunities with classmates, faculty, and professional community partners, who will challenge you to think and act beyond traditional notions of helping diverse populations, will be exhilarating, intellectually challenging, and worthwhile.

We need dedicated, qualified, and talented people who will make a positive impact in our society and promote our profession of social work. Although social work is difficult and demanding, we encourage those of you with a passion for our profession to consider seriously our MSW Program at San José State University. Thank you.
San José State University

Founded in 1857, San José State University is the oldest public university on the West Coast, and celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2007. The University has grown from a small teachers college to a large metropolitan university located in a growing and dynamic community.

The University’s seven colleges - Applied Sciences and Arts, Business, Education, Engineering, Humanities and the Arts, Science, and Social Science, enroll approximately 30,000 students in programs designed to meet the needs of an increasingly complex world.

The University is located in downtown San José, 48 miles south of San Francisco, in the heart of Santa Clara Valley and just north of the Santa Cruz-Monterey-Carmel-Big Sur area. San José is a major metropolitan area with a culturally diverse population which includes Latinos, Asian and Pacific Islanders, African Americans, Native Americans, and many other ethnic groups who reside in San José, the Silicon Valley, and surrounding communities.

San José State University is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.
School of Social Work

History

The School of Social Work includes the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and Master of Social Work Programs. The School is part of the College of Applied Sciences and the Arts (CASA).

The graduate program in social work at San José State University was approved in 1969, and the first class was admitted in 1971. The MSW curriculum was designed with a special mission to offer a core social work program enriched by the culture and experience of the Spanish-speaking people. In 1972, the program was elevated to School of Social Work status. The Bachelor of Arts in Social Work Program, formerly placed in the Sociology Department, was transferred to the School of Social Work in 1974. Between 1989 and 1991, the Departments of African American Studies, Mexican American Studies, and Urban Planning joined the School. The School of Social Work was designated as part of the College of Social Work on July 1, 1991 by the University, which included the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and Master of Social Work Programs, and the Departments of African American Studies, Mexican American Studies, and Urban and Regional Planning. In 2005, the Bachelor of Arts and Master of Social Work Programs were elevated back to the School of Social Work and joined the College of Applied Sciences and the Arts (CASA) to benefit from collaboration with similar professional programs such as health science, justice studies, occupational therapy, nursing, and gerontology.

With the influx of immigrant populations from the Pacific Rim, Asia, Central and South America, Europe, and other parts of the world into the San José metropolitan community, the mission of the School of Social Work has broadened to become inclusive of emerging populations-at-risk.
Our Mission

The School of Social Work at San José State University is committed to using and promoting a transcultural perspective. This transcultural perspective informs the curriculum and promotes advocating for social justice, honoring the strengths of diverse cultures, and enhancing the well-being of individuals and communities.

The mission of the School of Social Work at San José State University is to prepare social workers for effective, ethical social work practice from a transcultural perspective with Latinos, Asian and Pacific Islanders, African Americans, and those individuals, families, groups, and communities who are disenfranchised, oppressed, or marginalized. In the service of this mission, we are active in scholarship and professional leadership endeavors that advance a transcultural perspective in social work and promote social justice.

Program Goals

The goals of the BASW and MSW Programs derive directly from the School’s mission and are as follows:

- To prepare social workers for ethical social work and use of the transcultural perspective with diverse, disenfranchised, oppressed, and marginalized populations.
- To prepare social workers for effective practice from a transcultural perspective with individuals across the lifespan, and with families, groups, organizations, and communities.
- To prepare social workers capable of taking leadership in advocating for positive change and innovation in social work policies, programs and practices to enhance social justice and the well-being of individuals, families, and communities.
- To prepare social workers who are able to engage in critical inquiry in the service the above goals.
- To contribute to social work through professional leadership and scholarship that advances social work knowledge, practice, and values.

Accreditation

The MSW Program has been continuously accredited by the National Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education since 1973.
Transcultural Practice and the MSW Program Curriculum

The MSW Program at San José State University is dedicated to the achievement of social change, and social, economic, and political justice. Guided by social work values, the goal of the MSW Program is to prepare competent graduates for leadership and practice from a transcultural perspective with multiple systems at an advanced professional level. The program prepares social work students to meet the needs of Latinos, African Americans, Asian and Pacific Islanders, and those communities, groups, families, and individuals who are disenfranchised, oppressed, or marginalized.

In the MSW Program, transcultural practice is defined as a dynamic process of culturally-informed interactions between social workers, clients, and systems that collaboratively intervene towards the goal of maximizing the well-being of clients, clients’ families, and communities. Transcultural practice is conceptualized as an interactional process that involves reciprocity, respect, continual professional self-assessment, understanding, and sensitivity to diverse linguistic patterns, values, world views, resources, communication, and learning styles. Specifically, the transcultural perspective infused throughout the MSW curriculum, embraces five related but distinct elements: 1) recognizing the importance of culture in social work at all levels of practice; 2) demonstrating the capacity to work across cultural differences; 3) demonstrating respect; 4) understanding dynamics of power, privilege, and oppression; and 5) maintaining an awareness of one's own cultural perspectives, values, and beliefs. Although we view culture as an inclusive term, encompassing more than ethnicity and race to include class, gender, sexual orientation, and disability, the MSW Program targets the needs of specific ethnic/racial populations in the South Bay and California including Latino, Asian and Pacific Islander, and African American communities.

Transcultural Generalist Perspective

In the foundation year of the MSW Program, students will attain the values, knowledge, and skills for generalist practice defined as a multi-level (micro, mezzo, macro), client-centered, holistic, and goal-directed approach that involves planning, implementing, and evaluating interventions with client systems of various size (individual, family, group, organization, community) that are relevant to clients' bio-psycho-social functioning. Generalist practice, based on multiple theoretical orientations, is grounded in ecological system theories, a problem-solving process, and a transcultural perspective. Working across systems, the generalist practitioner formulates interventions based on situational assessments of problems, goals, and size of systems. The generalist practitioner applies research findings and critical thinking to assessment, intervention, and evaluation of his/her own practice.
Transcultural Multi-Systems Perspective

The advanced year of the MSW Program builds upon the foundation year content and provides students with a concentration in transcultural multi-systems practice. Rather than representing a single method of practice, a multi-systems perspective emphasizes the importance of understanding the cultural context and the dynamic interaction between clients and the systems and subsystems of which they are a part. Social work practice from this perspective involves assessment of clients from a holistic perspective and selection of appropriate theories, interventions, and practice evaluation strategies suited to the client’s unique needs and context, whether the client is an individual, family, or community, or a combination of these. The social worker who practices from a transcultural multi-systems perspective relies on a variety of practice skills which can be applied to a specific field of practice. Students are afforded an opportunity to develop these skills in relation to one of four fields of practice that are particularly connected to the mission of the program and the practice needs of the region: (1) aging, (2) children, youth, and families, (3) school social work, and (4) health and mental health. Demonstrating increased skill and more autonomous practice, the transcultural multi-systems practitioner is able to engage in research and evaluation, and is able to perform differential and multi-dimensional assessments in complex situations. Regardless of the field of practice, the transcultural multi-systems practitioner utilizes an integrated, culturally sensitive approach, based on critical thinking and a careful analysis of relevant problems and issues.

Many of the issues and problems professional social workers encounter are often related to multiple populations (i.e., are relevant to more than one specialized, field of practice). Please note that although the skills our students learn apply across fields of practice, students must select one field of practice. Your choice of field of practice is an important one; please consider this carefully when you apply to the MSW Program.

Transcultural Practice and the MSW Program Service Area

Although our services and agency partnerships extend throughout the greater San Francisco Bay Area, the main service area of the School of Social Work includes the counties of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito. These counties are ethnically, racially, and socioeconomically diverse, and need qualified professionals with social work values, knowledge, and skills to address individual, family, and community problems. The social work classes are offered at the main campus in San José and most field placements are located in counties surrounding the University.
Master of Social Work Program

General Curriculum Plan

Foundation - Generalist Year
The typical full-time program takes two years to complete. In the first year of the full-time MSW Program, students develop a solid foundation in generalist social work practice with the goal of effective performance under the guidance and supervision of a professional social worker. The primary skills and competencies that are taught consist of the ability to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate practice with systems of varying size from transcultural and strengths perspectives. In addition, generalist practitioners empower individuals, families, and communities in order to promote the well-being of communities of color, populations-at-risk, and groups that are disadvantaged, oppressed, or marginalized.

Concentration - Transcultural Multi-Systems Practice Year
The second year of the typical two-year MSW Program builds upon the foundation year and students become more competent in integrating theories, models, and professional values with transcultural multi-systems practice at micro, mezzo, and macro levels. As students progress through the program, they increase their levels of self-initiative, and leadership, utilizing greater discretion and judgment for self-direction and professionally autonomous practice as they engage in varied generalist roles at an advanced level. Field education and internship practicum experiences in the second year focus on the development of specialized knowledge and skills required for transcultural multi-systems practice. Although students will identify a field of practice to study more in-depth in this year, transcultural multi-systems practice is the single concentration for the MSW Program.

Full-Time and 3-Year Programs of Study
Our MSW Program offers students the option of completing the graduate program in two years, meaning attending school full-time, or in three years, meaning the redistribution of some coursework over this period. Regardless of curriculum plan, the MSW Program requires a commitment to complete all coursework and training including a curriculum of in-class study and field education.

The full-time program curriculum involves courses, including field education, in both the foundation-generalist year and the concentration-transcultural multi-systems practice year.

The 3-year program curriculum generally splits the foundation-generalist year (the first year of the full-time program plan) into two years, and classes for those at this stage of the 3-year program are typically on weekday evenings and Saturdays. Field education begins in the second year of the 3-year program. Note that the third year of the 3-year program is the equivalent to the full-time program’s final year, with students assuming a full class and field education load in this concentration-transcultural multi-systems practice year. If you are interested in the 3-year program, please plan accordingly and carefully. Students may request an extension to the 3-year program if needed.
Field Practicum

Internship Hours and Days

The field practicum spans four semesters with each semester being fifteen weeks. A minimum of 1,200 internship hours total is required. There are two consecutive semesters of field placements for each academic year. The first two semesters require two days of internship (these days are Tuesday and Wednesday or Thursday and Friday, 16 hours per week) while the last two semesters requires 3 days/24 hours per week (Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday). An exception to this 3 days/24 hours per week requirement for second year field placement is available to students requesting to spread their second year placement over 3 semesters (i.e., summer, fall, and spring), and requires 2 days/16 hours per week for each semester. This is sometimes a limited option, and this exception must be formally requested.

*** Please note that internship hours are during regular agency business operating hours. Thus, students might need to make sacrifices and re-prioritize other life activities in order to complete internship hours and attend classes. Please consider your choice to attend our MSW Program carefully, especially if you must maintain full-time or part-time employment while attending school, as scheduling options and flexibility in the curriculum are very limited.

The first year practicum is planned for students to develop generalist practice skills in work with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities within a transcultural perspective. The second year practicum provides further refinement of practice skills with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Students are placed in agencies serving within one of the fields of practice serving populations-at-risk. The internship experience within your chosen field of practice occurs in the second year of field practicum. In order to receive training for generalist and multi-systems practice, the field of practice that students serve in the first year of field practicum will differ from their selected field of practice declared at time of application. For example, students who declare health and mental health as their field of practice will serve in an agency related to one of the other three fields of practice in the first year of internship in order to receive the generalist training, and then will be placed in a health and mental health related agency in the second year of internship to compliment the chosen field of practice.

Additional Fees, Liability, and Agency Requirements

Students in field practicum carry professional liability insurance, which is covered by a fall semester fee. This field practicum fee (sometimes referred to by the University as a "lab fee") also covers some of the additional costs in administering the field education program, and will be charged via your University account accordingly. Also, agencies may require the use of a car, proof of auto insurance, finger printing, and background check as requirements for placement.

Worksites as Field Placement Locations

Full-time and 3-year program students may petition the MSW Field Education Committee to consider their work site as a possible first-year field placement. These requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis given accreditation standards and qualifications needed to approve agencies and organizations as official MSW Program internship sites.
Master of Social Work Program

Fields of Practice

In addition to developing the knowledge, skills, and values required for transcultural multi-systems practice, students will focus their attention in the final year of the program on a particular field of practice related to the service needs of the San José metropolitan area: (1) aging, (2) children, youth, and families, (3) school social work, and (4) health and mental health. Agency placements for the second year of field practicum are assigned accordingly. Please note that students must select one field of practice.

Aging

The fastest growing segment of the population is older adults. While the number of older adults and the services needed by them have increased, Latino, African American, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Native American older adults underutilize existing services and face severe social conditions. These conditions include poor health, poor housing, reduced income, limited insurance coverage, and limited access to programs and agencies. In addition to the need for services due to the increase in the number of older adults, there is an acute shortage of educated social work professionals with knowledge of transcultural multi-systems practice who are able to create, transform and utilize service delivery systems for older adults, particularly those that serve Latinos, African Americans, Asian and Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans.

Children, Youth, and Families

Children and youth are particularly vulnerable to societal conditions such as poverty, drug addiction, inadequate health care, lack of employment, homelessness and substandard housing, family and community violence, and limited educational opportunities. Child maltreatment occurs at disproportionate rates among economically and socially disadvantaged families. Course content provides the transcultural multi-systems practitioner with the theoretical knowledge about this field of practice and the unique problems impacting them and their families. The transcultural multi-systems practitioner is prepared to work in a variety of settings serving children, youth and families, with the skills necessary to provide a comprehensive range of services directed at promoting well-being, while strengthening and preserving the families in which they live. Particular emphasis is placed on preparation for practice in public child welfare settings serving high-risk children and their families.
Fields of Practice (continued)

School Social Work

The school social work field of practice is designed to train students for practice with children and youth specifically in the pre-school through grade 12 levels. Students in this field of practice usually also pursue the Pupil Personnel Services Credential (PPSC), which was established to permit the transcultural multi-systems practitioner to work in California public schools. Public school systems in the state are challenged to meet the educational needs of an increasingly diverse population of children and youth whose cultures, languages, and economic status differ greatly. Transcultural multi-systems practitioners are able to provide interventions with children, youth, and their families as well as with individual schools, school personnel, school districts, neighborhoods, and communities in order to promote, restore, maintain, and enhance social functioning. Required courses in the second year enable students to work toward earning the PPSC for practice specifically in the pre-school through grade 12 levels.

Health and Mental Health

The health and mental health field of practice is designed to prepare students to work in a wide range of health and mental health settings. While many Americans are confronted with the challenges of finding accessible and affordable health care, Latinos, African Americans, Asian and Pacific Islanders, and Native-Americans are confronted with cultural and economic barriers that create additional constraints in obtaining health and mental health services. Transcultural multi-systems practitioners are able to assume a variety of helping roles and utilize various interventions to address the needs of people with health and mental health disabilities. More specifically, they facilitate access to complex institutional systems, advocate for treatment that is culturally sensitive and participate in the delivery of primary care and preventive services that promote the health and well-being of clients and client systems. Demographic changes in the San José area and in California have resulted in an increase in populations who speak a variety of languages. Such changes have created a high demand in public and private agencies for professionals with second language abilities relevant to our service area, for example those proficient in Spanish, Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Korean.

Field of Practice and the Field Practicum

The internship experience within your chosen field of practice occurs in the second year of field practicum. In order to receive training for generalist and multi-systems practice, the field of practice that students serve in the first year of field practicum will differ from their selected field of practice declared at time of application.
### Course Plans for the MSW Degree

The MSW Program requires 60 units of specified coursework at the graduate level, including classes in human behavior in the social environment, policy, practice, research, and field education. The full-time program takes 2 years to complete this requirement, and the 3-year program, splitting the foundation year into two years, takes 3 years to complete. Students may request an extension to the 3-year program, if needed.

#### Overview of the Full-Time Program (60 units in 2 Years)

*** Please note that the foundation year courses for the full-time program are generally scheduled for weekday mornings and afternoons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation - Generalist</th>
<th>1st Year Fall</th>
<th>5 classes including field practicum</th>
<th>16 Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Year Spring</td>
<td>5 classes including field practicum</td>
<td>16 Units</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration - Multi-Systems Practice (specialization in a field of practice)</th>
<th>2nd Year Fall</th>
<th>5 classes including field practicum</th>
<th>15 Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd Year Spring</td>
<td>4 classes including field practicum</td>
<td>13 Units</td>
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**Total** 60 Units

#### Details of the Full-Time Program's Sequence of Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation - Generalist: 1st Year Fall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 202 - Social Policy and Services: History and Values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 212 - Human Behavior in the Social Environment I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 220 - Transcultural Generalist Practice I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 240 - Research Methods and Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 230 - Social Work Practicum I</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation - Generalist: 1st Year Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 204 - Social Policy Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 214 - Human Behavior in the Social Environment II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 221 - Transcultural Generalist Practice II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 242 - Research Methods, Data Analysis, and Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 231 - Social Work Practicum II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration - Multi-Systems Practice (specialization in a field of practice): 2nd Year Fall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 222 - Transcultural Multi-Systems Practice I: Family Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 223 - Transcultural Multi-Systems Practice II: Community Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 250, 260, 270, or 280 (depending on field of practice)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 298 - Special Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 232 - Social Work Practicum III</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration - Multi-Systems Practice (specialization in a field of practice): 2nd Year Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 251, 261, 262, 224, 271, or 281 (depending on field of practice)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 298 - Special Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk elective course (depending on field of practice)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 233 - Social Work Practicum IV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Course Plans for the MSW Degree (continued)**

**Overview of the 3-Year Program (60 units in 3 Years)**

*** Please note that the foundation year courses for the 3-year program are generally scheduled for weekday evenings and Saturdays.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation - Generalist</th>
<th>60 Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1(^{st}) Year Fall</strong></td>
<td>6 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 202 - Social Policy and Services: History and Values</td>
<td>3 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 212 - Human Behavior in the Social Environment I</td>
<td>3 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1(^{st}) Year Spring</strong></td>
<td>6 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 204 - Social Policy Analysis</td>
<td>3 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 214 - Human Behavior in the Social Environment II</td>
<td>3 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2(^{nd}) Year Fall</strong></td>
<td>10 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 220 - Transcultural Generalist Practice I</td>
<td>3 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 240 - Research Methods and Design</td>
<td>3 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 230 - Social Work Practicum I</td>
<td>4 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2(^{nd}) Year Spring</strong></td>
<td>10 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 221 - Transcultural Generalist Practice II</td>
<td>3 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 242 - Research Methods, Data Analysis, and Evaluation</td>
<td>3 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 231 - Social Work Practicum II</td>
<td>4 Units</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration – Multi-Systems Practice (specialization in a field of practice)</th>
<th>15 Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>3(^{rd}) Year Fall</strong></td>
<td>13 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 222 - Transcultural Multi-Systems Practice I: Family Systems</td>
<td>3 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 223 - Transcultural Multi-Systems Practice II: Community Systems</td>
<td>3 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 250, 260, 270, or 280 (depending on field of practice)</td>
<td>3 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 298 - Special Study</td>
<td>1 Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 232 - Social Work Practicum III</td>
<td>5 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3(^{rd}) Year Spring</strong></td>
<td>15 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 251, 261, 262, 224, 271, or 281 (depending on field of practice)</td>
<td>3 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 298 - Special Study</td>
<td>2 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk elective course (depending on field of practice)</td>
<td>3 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ScWk 233 - Social Work Practicum IV</td>
<td>5 Units</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Details of the 3-Year Program's Sequence of Courses

| Foundation - Generalist: 1\(^{st}\) Year Fall | 3 Units |
| ScWk 202 - Social Policy and Services: History and Values | 3 Units |
| ScWk 212 - Human Behavior in the Social Environment I | 3 Units |
| Foundation - Generalist: 1\(^{st}\) Year Spring | 3 Units |
| ScWk 204 - Social Policy Analysis | 3 Units |
| ScWk 214 - Human Behavior in the Social Environment II | 3 Units |
| Foundation - Generalist: 2\(^{nd}\) Year Fall | 3 Units |
| ScWk 220 - Transcultural Generalist Practice I | 3 Units |
| ScWk 240 - Research Methods and Design | 3 Units |
| ScWk 230 - Social Work Practicum I | 4 Units |
| Foundation - Generalist: 2\(^{nd}\) Year Spring | 3 Units |
| ScWk 221 - Transcultural Generalist Practice II | 3 Units |
| ScWk 242 - Research Methods, Data Analysis, and Evaluation | 3 Units |
| ScWk 231 - Social Work Practicum II | 4 Units |
| Concentration - Multi-Systems Practice (specialization in a field of practice): 3\(^{rd}\) Year Fall | 3 Units |
| ScWk 222 - Transcultural Multi-Systems Practice I: Family Systems | 3 Units |
| ScWk 223 - Transcultural Multi-Systems Practice II: Community Systems | 3 Units |
| ScWk 250, 260, 270, or 280 (depending on field of practice) | 3 Units |
| ScWk 298 - Special Study | 1 Unit |
| ScWk 232 - Social Work Practicum III | 5 Units |
| Concentration - Multi-Systems Practice (specialization in a field of practice): 3\(^{rd}\) Year Spring | 3 Units |
| ScWk 251, 261, 262, 224, 271, or 281 (depending on field of practice) | 3 Units |
| ScWk 298 - Special Study | 2 Units |
| ScWk elective course (depending on field of practice) | 3 Units |
| ScWk 233 - Social Work Practicum IV | 5 Units |
Cohort System, Course Enrollment, and Class Schedules

Cohorts and Foundation – Generalist Curriculum

The MSW Program currently uses a cohort system to assign class sections and guide enrollment of our graduate students. Prior to the first semester of the MSW Program, all incoming students are assigned a particular cohort in which all foundation classes are taken together with the same classmates. Students are also assigned faculty advisors according to their cohorts. Please note that all students, regardless of status in the full-time or 3-year program, are required to adhere to their assigned cohorts and class sections while enrolled in the foundation – generalist portion of the MSW Program. Changes in cohort and class section assignments may be requested.

Full-time students in their first year are assigned to a cohort that will have classes two days a week in the mornings and afternoons (i.e., Tuesdays and Wednesdays or Thursdays and Fridays) and internship two days a week (i.e., Tuesdays and Wednesdays or Thursdays and Fridays complementing their cohort class schedule).

3-year program students in their first two years are assigned to a cohort that will have classes two days a week (i.e., Monday and Wednesday evenings or Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings). In the second year of the 3-year program, in addition to the two classes per week, the first year of internship begins two days a week (i.e., Tuesdays and Wednesdays or Thursdays and Fridays).

Cohorts and Concentration - Multi-Systems Practice Curriculum

Although students might be in some of the same classes as their previous cohort-mates, cohort assignments no longer apply in the concentration – multi-systems practice portion of the MSW Program. Students will enroll in courses and class sections that fit within their specified field of practice. These sequences of courses are generally scheduled on Mondays and Tuesdays in the mornings, afternoons, and evenings. The three days of internship in the final year of the field practicum are on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

Why Cohorts?

Although the cohort system can be somewhat restrictive, it is designed to promote student networking and support, and facilitate enrollment and advising on the part of the School's faculty, staff, and administration.

Substitution of Foundation Courses

Although we do not currently offer advanced standing, requests can be made on a case-by-case basis to substitute certain foundation level courses. Please place your request immediately after gaining admission to the program with the MSW Program Admissions Director and Graduate Advisor.
Master of Social Work Program

Course Descriptions

The following list of course numbers and descriptions, as well as the above outlines of typical full-time and 3-year program course plans will guide your enrollment into the appropriate classes to attain the MSW degree. Each semester, MSW Program class schedules will be distributed and additional information can be found through links on the University website (www.sjsu.edu) and the social work website (www.sjsu.edu/socialwork/). Please note that some electives are required for certain fields of practice as well as for some training, certificate, and credentialing programs. Also, not all electives are offered each year, and under-enrollment may result in the unavailability of certain courses.

ScWk 202 - Social Policy and Services: History and Values
History of social welfare and social work with emphasis on diverse populations, particularly Latinos/as, African Americans, and Asian Americans. Social policy and social work values in relation to practice issues and social services. (3 units)

ScWk 204 - Social Policy Analysis
Frameworks for analyzing social policies using principles of social and economic justice. The role of policy in helping or deterring people in attaining well-being. Focus on diverse populations and populations-at-risk. (3 units. Prerequisite: ScWk 202)

ScWk 212 - Human Behavior in the Social Environment I
Systems theory and the ecological model presented with transcultural perspectives from infancy through the end of adult life cycle. Emphasizes behavior of individuals and families, especially Latinos/as, African Americans, Asian Americans and other diverse and oppressed populations. (3 units)

ScWk 214 - Human Behavior in the Social Environment II
Systems theory and the ecological model presented with transcultural perspectives. Emphasizes behavior in groups, communities, and organizations with a focus on Latinos/as, African Americans, Asian Americans and other diverse and oppressed populations. (3 units. Prerequisite: ScWk 212)

ScWk 220 - Transcultural Generalist Practice I
Transcultural generalist practice with client systems, particularly individuals and families, at micro, mezzo and macro levels. Assessment, planning and implementing interventions within a professional relationship, utilizing a strengths perspective, focusing on Latinos/as, African Americans and Asian Americans. (3 units. Must be taken concurrently with ScWk 230)

ScWk 221 - Transcultural Generalist Practice II
Transcultural generalist practice with client systems, particularly groups, organizations and communities to enhance well-being. Approaches and skills to ameliorate conditions affecting people adversely, particularly those of diverse backgrounds and fields of practice. Emphasis on promoting social and economic justice. (3 units. Prerequisite: ScWk 220 and 230. Must be taken concurrently with ScWk 231)
Course Descriptions (continued)

ScWk 222 - *Transcultural Multi-Systems Practice I: Family Systems Focus*
Transcultural multi-systems practice with an emphasis on family systems, diverse cultural patterns and varying family forms. Assessment of multi-systems interactions of communities and organizations with a focus on enhancing the health and well-being of marginalized populations and populations-at-risk. (3 units. Prerequisite: ScWk 221. Must be taken concurrently with ScWk 232)

ScWk 223 - *Transcultural Multi-Systems Practice II: Community Systems Focus*
Methods of community intervention at multiple levels focused on empowerment and developing the strengths of diverse groups, particularly Latino/a, African American, Asian American and other oppressed and marginalized populations. Includes community social work, assessment and interventions. (3 units. Must be taken concurrently with ScWk 232)

ScWk 224 – *Multi-Systems Practice: A Spanish/English Framework*
Analysis of cultural relevant services to linguistic minority Spanish-speaking population from a transcultural generalist perspective. Skills to include Spanish language interventions appropriate for cultural access, appropriate assessment, individual, family, and group interventions, and advocacy for clients systems at all levels. (3 units. Prerequisite: Pass preliminary Spanish language competency exam.)

ScWk 230 - *Social Work Practicum I*
Development of transcultural practice skills with families, groups, and individuals in their social contexts. Emphasis on developing professional roles and relationships, applying multi-systems assessment and interventions, particularly with Latino/a, African American, and Asian American clients/client systems. (4 units. CR/NC. Co-requisite: ScWk 220)

ScWk 231 - *Social Work Practicum II*
Development of skills to differentially assess the strengths and capacities of interacting individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. Application, termination and evaluation of problem-solving interventions from a transcultural generalist practice perspective. (4 units. CR/NC. Prerequisite: ScWk 230. Co-requisite: ScWk 221)

ScWk 232 - *Social Work Practicum III*
Development of multi-systems practice skills with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities from a transcultural perspective emphasizing family, community and policy practice. Development of skill to use self effectively with diverse clients, colleagues and community members from various backgrounds. (5units. CR/NC. Prerequisite: ScWk 231. Co-requisite: ScWk 222 and ScWk 223)
ScWk 233 - *Social Work Practicum IV*
Development of multi-systems practice skills with the aged, children and youth, health/mental health, or educational settings. Developing culturally competent skills to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate interventions from transcultural and strengths perspectives to address family and community well-being. (5 units. CR/NC. Prerequisite: ScWk 232)

ScWk 240 - *Research Methods and Design*
Scientific method and problems of knowledge. Basic concepts and models of research methodology, qualitative research, program and practice evaluation in social work. Critical analysis of existing research on ethnic minorities and other populations-at-risk, particularly Latinos. (3 units)

ScWk 242 - *Research Methods, Data Analysis and Evaluation*
Basic concepts and models for research methodology applied to the analysis of data in social work. Emphasis on quantitative analysis, using microcomputers. (3 units. Prerequisite: ScWk 240)

ScWk 245 - *Management in Human Services*
Examination of the organization and continuous operation of service delivery systems including the functions of management, decision-making, communication, authority, delegation, planning, and staffing. (3 units. An elective)

ScWk 246 - *Supervision and Consultation*
Focuses on the knowledge and skill base of the social worker in supervision and consultation. Identification and analysis of the functions of the social worker as supervisor and consultant. (3 units. An elective)

ScWk 250 - *Policy Practice in Aging*
Critical analysis of the impact of policies on the elderly and their families, particularly those who are Latino/a, African American, and Asian American. Assessment of organizations and policy implementation. Development of strategies to promote well-being and social change. (3 units. Prerequisite: ScWk 204)

ScWk 251 - *Social Work with Aging Populations*
Master of Social Work Program

Course Descriptions (continued)

ScWk 260 - Policy Practice in Child and Family Welfare
Critical analysis of the impact of social policies on children and families, particularly those who are Latino/a, African American, and Asian American. Assessment of organizational structure and policy implementation. Development of strategies to promote well-being and social change. (3 units. Prerequisite: ScWk 204)

ScWk 261 - Social Work Practice with Children
Skills and knowledge in working with high-risk children and families from a multi-systems perspective. Focus on understanding of child and family development as well as assessment and intervention at various levels in a transcultural context. (3 units. An elective)

ScWk 262 - Social Work Practice with Adolescents
Skills and knowledge in working with diverse populations of high-risk adolescents from a multi-systems perspective. Focus on understanding adolescent and family development as well as assessments and interventions at various levels in a transcultural context. (3 units. An elective)

ScWk 263 - Social Work and the Law
Analytical skills to understand the legal system, its functions, organization, jurisdiction and case processing methods. An examination of the legal environment of social work practice in selected settings: domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, sexual abuse and education. (3 units. An elective. Required for Title IV-E and PPSC Students)

ScWk 270 - Policy Practice in Schools
Critical analysis of the impact of educational policies on students and parents, particularly those who are Latino/a, African American, or Asian American. Assessment of policy implementation and schools as organizations. Development of strategies to promote well-being and social change. (3 units. Prerequisite: ScWk 204. Required for PPSC Students)

ScWk 271 - Social Work in Educational Settings
Knowledge and skill development for multi-systems practice in school settings. Roles and functions of social workers in education. Emphasis on schools as community service agencies to meet the needs of culturally diverse student populations and families. (3 units. Prerequisite: ScWk 270. Required for PPSC Students)
ScWk 280 - Policy Practice in Health/Mental Health
Critical analysis of the impact of health/mental health policies on populations-at-risk, particularly those who are Latino/a, African American, and Asian American. Assessment of organizations and policy implementation. Development of strategies to promote well-being and social change. (3 units. Prerequisite: ScWk 204)

ScWk 281 - Social Work in Health/Mental Health
Knowledge and skill development for multi-systems practice in health/mental health settings. Emphasis on Latino/a, African American, and Asian American clients/client systems interacting with service delivery systems. Conceptual frameworks for practice at micro, mezzo and macro levels. (3 units. An elective)

ScWk 283 - Psychopharmacology for Social Workers
Historical trends and specific cultural, ethnic, gender and age related issues of alcohol and drug use are presented. Psychotherapeutic drugs and the pharmacology basis of medicines for psychiatric disorders and culturally competent treatment interventions for substance abuse will be discussed. (3 units. An elective)

ScWk 285 - Social Work and Social Problems
Examination of selected social problems related to the direct practice of social work that focuses on in-depth knowledge of the problems and of the required direct practice skills and techniques. (3 units. An elective)

ScWk 287 – Multi-Systems Practice in Substance Abuse
An in-depth examination of major clinical issues in work with alcoholics and families. Analysis of major treatment methods including individual therapy, education, group therapy and conjoint family therapy with an exploration of socio-cultural variables as they affect assessment and treatment. (1 to 3 units. An elective, required for Title IV-E & PPSC students)

ScWk 298 - Special Study
Planning and implementation of research practica emphasizing culturally appropriate measures and design strategies. Students produce a professionally written evaluation study demonstrating understanding of the knowledge base underlying social work interventions. (1 to 3 units. CR/NC)

ScWk 299 - Master’s Thesis
Prerequisite: Admission to candidacy for the Master’s degree in Social Work, and approval of the School’s Research Committee. (1 to 3 units. CR/NC)

*** Note that not all electives are offered each year, and under-enrollment may result in the unavailability of certain courses.
Master of Social Work Program

Certificates and Credentials

The following certificates and credential are available for both full-time and 3-year program students who meet specified requirements. Students should notify the MSW Admissions Director or the MSW Graduate Advisor regarding their particular interest prior to entry into the MSW Program.

- **Spanish Language Counseling Certificate.**
  Requirements: ScWk 224

- **Certificate in Gerontology (in partnership with the SJSU Gerontology Program)**
  Requirements: ScWk 250, ScWk 251, Gero 260, Gero elective course, and a second year internship in an aging-focused services agency

- **Pupil Personnel Services Credential (PPSC)**
  The Pupil Personnel Services Credential (PPSC) may be obtained by MSW graduates who complete the CBEST examination and who meet the requirements of the PPSC program. Students must accept placements in an approved PPSC program school setting for their second year practicum experience.

Graduation Requirements for the MSW Degree

To be awarded the Master of Social Work degree, students must:

- Complete 60 units of specified graduate work in the MSW Program with a 3.0 or better grade point average (GPA);
- Complete all the prerequisites, course work, and agreements outlined by the MSW Program and San José State University, including completion of the human biology requirement, and proper submission of candidacy and graduation forms;
- Meet the University English Competency requirement via the fulfillment of the Social Work Professional Writing Competency Policy; and,
- Finish all degree requirements within seven years (California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Education).

*** Note that San José State University, not the MSW Program, is responsible for conferring the degree.
Student Resources

The following are University resources and contacts that our MSW students commonly use:

**San José State University**
408-924-1000
www.sjsu.edu

**San José State University**
Web Site Index
www.sjsu.edu/siteindex/

**Fees and Financial Help Web Site**
www.sjsu.edu/future_students_families/fees_and_financial_help/
408-283-7500

**Admissions & Records Office of Registrar Services**
Student Services Center, 1st Floor
9th and San Fernando
www.sjsu.edu/registrar/

**Financial Aid Scholarship Office Center**
Student Services Center, 1st Floor
9th and San Fernando
408-283-7500
fao@sjsu.edu
www.sjsu.edu/depts/finaid/

**Graduate Studies & Research**
Student Services Center, 1st Floor
9th and San Fernando
408-924-2480
www.sjsu.edu/gradstudies/

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library**
150 E. San Fernando
408-808-2000
www.sjlibrary.org/index.htm

**Disability Resource Center**
Administration Building 110
408-924-6000 (Main Office)
408-924-6542 (Deaf and HoH)
408-808-2123 (ATC)
info@drc.sjsu.edu
www.drc.sjsu.edu

**Career Center**
Buildings F & Q
(across from the Student Union)
408-924-6031
careerhelp@sjsu.edu
www.careercenter.sjsu.edu

**Student Health Center**
Health Bldg. 106
408-924-6120 general info
408-927-6122 appointments
www.sa.sjsu.edu/student_health/index.jsp

**Counseling Services**
Administration Bldg., Rm.201
408-924-5910
cs0035@email.sjsu.edu
www.sa.sjsu.edu/counseling/index.html

**International and Extended Studies**
210 North Fourth Street
Suite 301
408-924-2670
info@ies.sjsu.edu
www.iesweb.sjsu.edu

**University Housing Services**
408-795-5600
info@housing.sjsu.edu/contact_us.htm
http://housing.sjsu.edu/
Additional Resources

The following are additional resources, documents, and references that might assist you in your decision to become a professional social worker or to attend our MSW Program.

Books and Guides


Documents and Handouts Pertinent to Our MSW Program

Please visit our website and link to the following resources: www.sjsu.edu/socialwork/

- 2007 MSW Program Application
- FAQs about the 3-Year MSW Program
- Scholarship and Grant Information

Professional Organizations

- National Association of Social Workers
  http://www.naswdc.org/
- National Association of Social Workers – California Chapter
  http://www.naswca.org/

Post-MSW Licensure

Students graduating with an MSW degree from an accredited social work program are eligible to accrue hours towards the LCSW, ACSW, and other social work licenses. Hours obtained prior to obtaining your MSW degree (e.g., practicum, paid, and/or volunteer experience) do not count towards licensure. Please refer to the information provided by the California’s Board of Behavioral Sciences.

  http://www.bbs.ca.gov/

Other Resources

Additional resources and information regarding the social work profession can be found at your local university and college library, and via an internet search. Books about the experiences of social workers, choosing social work as a career, social work specializations, and finding social work jobs are generally available.
Legal residents of California are not charged tuition, but fees and nonresident tuition at all CSU campuses are charged on the semester system for all graduate students. Given California’s and the University’s financial and budget situation, fee and tuition amounts have been adjusted several times over the last few years. Please visit the following websites for current fee, financial aid, and scholarship information:

**Application Fees**

- SJSU Application Fee: $55.00 (non-refundable) through www.CSUMentor.edu
- MSW Program Application Fee: $25.00 (non-refundable) payable to the School of Social Work

**State University Fee** (subject to change without advance notice)

As of Fall 2006, the approximate fee per semester for full-time graduate students who are residents of California was $1,939.00. Total fees per semester will be determined by the number of units taken, including those in excess of fifteen. Also, fees are subject to change. Please visit the fees and financial information web site at:

http://www.sjsu.edu/future_students_families/fees_and_financial_help/

**Establishing California Residency**

The laws of California provide that every student at the California State University must be classified as either a resident or nonresident for tuition purposes. Students have the ultimate burden of proving their residence classification. Please visit the Graduate Studies and Research web site for details at:

http://www2.sjsu.edu/gradstudies/Prospective/California_Residency.htm

**Financial Aid Information**

Please contact San José State University’s Financial Aid Office at 408-283-7500 or visit their web site at:

http://www.sjsu.edu/future_students_families/fees_and_financial_help/

Information about scholarship, grant, and work study opportunities can also be found through this link. In addition, the School of Social Work and the College of Applied Arts and Sciences may have a limited number of grants and stipends for social work students, which are obtained through grants from various federal agencies. These grants and stipends vary from year to year, but usually indicate a priority for training in mental health, child welfare, gerontology, or the field of alcoholism. A few field agencies may offer a paid field-work placement to graduate students. Applicants seeking financial assistance should also complete the University financial aid form.

**Additional MSW Program Fees**

Additional fees will be charged for the field practicum. This field practicum fee (sometimes referred to by the University as a "lab fee") covers the liability insurance and some of the additional costs in administering the field education program. There is also a "lab fee" charged to students to fund the maintenance and usage of computer labs during the research sequence portion of the curriculum. These two fees will be charged via your University account accordingly.
Scholarship Information

The School of Social Work and the College of Applied Arts and Sciences have a limited number of scholarships available for applicants and MSW students; therefore, not all financial need can be met. For financial aid and other scholarship information it is recommended that the candidate contact the Financial Aid Office at 408-283-7500 or visit their web site at:

http://www.sjsu.edu/future_students_families/fees_and_financial_help/

The student should check the edition of the booklet titled, “Scholarship and Emergency Loan Programs”, a publication of the Financial Aid Office. Applicants to the program are encouraged to explore outside funding sources (e.g., through the Internet) as well.

The School of Social Work has three competitive scholarships that are awarded on the basis of the candidate’s academic performance and other specific criteria. They are as follows:

**The Dorothy Miller Scholarship:**
This scholarship was established by Dr. Jerry Miller and Dr. Rachel Miller Wrenn and is awarded yearly to a second year MSW student on the basis of academic performance and potential for making a contribution to the knowledge base of social work.

**The Helen S. Hansen Scholarship:**
This scholarship was established by friends of Helen Hansen to honor her many contributions to the social work profession and is awarded every other year. Candidates applying for this scholarship must have demonstrated leadership delivering social services to elderly population groups.

**The Helen Walsh Solderstrom Scholarship:**
This scholarship was established by Antoinette Broyles and her daughter Lucia Broyles-Gilbertson to honor their lifelong friend and SJSU alumna, Helen Walsh Solderstrom. This scholarship is awarded every other year to an MSW student whose career and life goals reflect those of Mrs. Helen Solderstrom. Candidates applying must have a demonstrated commitment in delivering social services to families and children, as well as to working in a public institution.

Information is posted on the School of Social Work bulletin board and/or distributed to students at the point when the scholarship applications are available. The bulletin board is located near the students’ mailboxes. The Scholarship Committee follows established criteria, and makes the final decision about scholarship awards.
Training Programs and Stipends

*** Please note that since these training programs and stipends are attached to a particular field of practice and curriculum sequence, students can only choose ONE to complete while in the MSW Program.

Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Program and Stipend

A limited number of stipends of $18,500 per year are available for full-time students who are committed to careers in public child welfare. Students must meet certain eligibility criteria and must go through an application and selection process after being admitted into the University and MSW Program. In return for the stipend, students must work after graduation in a county child welfare agency for at least two years. Students interested in this program and stipend must choose children, youth and families as their field of practice. Please see the Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Program Application and web site: http://www.sjsu.edu/title4e/

Mental Health Training Program and Stipend

A limited number of stipends are expected to be available for full-time students who are committed to careers in public mental health. Students must meet certain eligibility criteria and must go through an application and selection process after being admitted into the University and MSW Program. In return for the stipend, students must work after graduation in a county mental health or county contracted agency for a specified number of years. Students interested in this program and stipend must choose health and mental health as their field of practice. Since this is a relatively new program, additional information will be distributed upon request.

Gerontology Training Program and Stipend

In the next few years, a limited number of stipends may become available for full-time students who are committed to careers in gerontology. Students must meet certain eligibility criteria and must go through an application and selection process after being admitted into the University and MSW Program. In return for the stipend, students must work after graduation in an agency specializing in gerontology and that meets the criteria for this stipend. Students interested in this program and stipend must choose aging as their field of practice. Additional information will be distributed after this program is formalized.

Pupil Personnel Services Credential (PPSC)

The Pupil Personnel Services Credential (PPSC) may be obtained by MSW graduates who complete the CBEST examination and who meet the requirements of the PPSC program. There is currently no stipend attached to this credential program. Students must accept placements in an approved PPSC program school setting for their second year practicum experience. Students interested in this program and stipend must choose school social work as their field of practice. Additional information will be distributed upon request.
MSW Program Application

Where to Find the MSW Program Application

Please download and print the MSW Program Application from our web site:

www.sjsu.edu/socialwork/

or the contact the School of Social Work at 408-924-5800.

Where to Find the Title IV-E Application

Please contact the Title IV-E Program through the main office at 408-924-5834 or visit the Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Program Application and web site:

http://www.sjsu.edu/title4e/

Mental Health Training Program and Stipend Application

Actual applications are not yet available for the mental health stipend program. However, please indicate your interest on the cover page of the MSW Program Application. For more information about the mental health stipend program, visit:

http://calswec.berkeley.edu/

Gerontology Training Program and Stipend Application

Actual applications are not yet available for the gerontology stipend program. However, please indicate your interest on the cover page of the MSW Program Application. For more information about the gerontology stipend program, visit:

http://calswec.berkeley.edu/

General Questions

Please review these materials, the MSW Program Application, and any information posted on our web site:

www.sjsu.edu/socialwork/

to gain a better understanding about our graduate program. If you have any additional questions, please contact the School of Social Work at 408-924-5800.

Thank you for your interest in our MSW Program and a professional career in social work!