

SJSU SSW Online/Hybrid MSW Program

(Information Subject to Change and University Confirmation)

SJSU's School of Social Work is excited to offer a new Master of Social Work (MSW) degree program which was founded in Fall 2016. This is an online/hybrid program, fully accredited by the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE), that can open new employment opportunities to you. Complete your degree in only two years and one summer, allowing you more flexibility to maintain your employment, and attend classes and complete internship requirements in a more manageable format close to home. In this Online/Hybrid MSW program, academic courses are completed online (via asynchronous sessions and synchronous sessions, usually held on weekday evenings), and field education is completed in-person.

The Online/Hybrid MSW Program is a 2-year program that requires continuous part-time enrollment for 2 full calendar years. Average enrollment is in 2 academic courses and field education concurrently throughout the program. In this program, academic courses are completed online and field education is completed in-person. **Currently only those living in California can attend.**

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What are the Key Resources at SJSU?

The [SSW MSW Student Information and Resource Center \(SIRC\) Canvas site](#), the SJSU Catalog, MySJSU, Graduate Admissions and Program Evaluation (GAPE) Office, and School of Social Work (SSW) web sites are good resources to help familiarize yourself with the University and our MSW Program, as well as common policies and procedures.

Also, most updates and major announcements will be posted on our *MSW SIRC* Canvas site. Please note the following web addresses:

SJSU Catalog: <http://info.sjsu.edu/home/catalog.html>

MySJSU: <https://one.sjsu.edu/>

Graduate Admissions and Program Evaluations Office (GAPE): <http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/>

SJSU Registrar's Office: <http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/>

SJSU College of Professional and Global Studies (CPGA) [formerly known as College of International and Extended Studies, CIES]: <http://www.sjsu.edu/cies/>

SJSU SSW Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/socialwork/>

- Information shared during the Orientation including the above listed web addresses is available on the **SSW Online/Hybrid MSW Orientation Canvas site:** <https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1270982>
- Please note that all students are subscribed to the SIRC. Students should maintain current SJSU email addresses.

What are the key requirements for graduation?

Key [Requirements for Graduation](#)

- Complete at least 60 units and maintain a cumulative GPA OF 3.0
- Pass all letter-graded classes with a "C" or better grade
- Pass all field practicum courses with a credit "CR" grade
- Pass the Writing Competency requirement of SJSU
- Complete a "Capstone project" (the "298 project") in your final year
- Fill out the "Candidacy" Form and submit it to GAPE: The School will make an announcement about this and assist you throughout the process
- Apply for graduation through your MySJSU account after receiving your eligibility message in your MySJSU account.

For other requirements, please see the MSW Student Handbook at <http://www.sjsu.edu/socialwork/prospectivestudents/msw/>

What is involved in online learning?

Online learning can be quite different than learning in a traditional classroom setting. To be successful as an online student you should be able to answer "yes" to the following questions:

1. **Strong time management skills**

You will be responsible for completing assignments on time. Use of a calendar and a pattern of consistent work are necessary for success.

2. **Strong organizational skills**

The student organizes most of their own learning time, which requires strong organizational skills.

3. **Self-motivated**

Due to the flexibility and convenience of online learning it is often easy to put off class work until the last minute. Self-motivation is key to staying current on assignments and completing class work in a timely manner.

4. **Enjoy working independently**

The majority of your work will be completed on your own. There is little or no face-to-face contact with faculty or other students. Online learning requires greater than average self-discipline to be successful.

5. **Have adequate equipment and comfortable working with technology**

All online/hybrid students should have a fast and reliable internet connection, web-camera, and headphones with microphone. Students should have a proper place to attend synchronous sessions (i.e., a quiet and private room) and should expect to have their cameras turned on during these sessions. Students should participate and treat online classes in a professional manner as if you were meeting in-person and accountable to your professors, colleagues, and/or clients.

All assignments and correspondence with faculty are conducted 100% online. The ability to correspond via e-mail and to send, receive, and view documents via your access to a reliable Internet connection is mandatory.

6. **Enjoy a challenge**

Online learning requires most students to spend more time per week per class than they would typically spend in a traditional classroom setting. The very nature of learning online requires more in-depth study and interaction with faculty and class materials than what is traditionally required. Students can expect to spend 10 to 15 hours of study time per week per three-credit class.

What is the overall philosophy of the curriculum?

The School of Social Work envisions a just and equitable world in which diverse individuals, families, and communities thrive. The curriculum in the School of Social Work at SJSU is guided by a **transcultural perspective for social work practice**. The transcultural perspective is infused within all of the courses in the School of Social Work. This model includes five elements: 1) cultural knowledge, 2) cultural competency, 3) power, privilege and oppression, 4) positionality and self-reflexivity, and 5) respectful partnership.

We are an advanced generalist program, as opposed to a “clinical” or “macro-focused” program.

Courses in the foundation year

The MSW curriculum includes a foundation year in which students develop competencies within five content areas, which include:

- Field education
- Human behavior in the social environment
- Social policy
- Social work practice
- Social work research

Courses in the advanced/final year

In the advanced year, students choose one field of practice and focus on developing advanced competencies. Possible fields of practice include:

- Health and mental health
- Children, youth and families and
- Aging (currently, this is available within the on-campus program only)

Electives Courses

* Not all electives are offered, depending on interest and available resources *

- SW Practice with Children, Adolescents, and Families
- Social Work and the Law
- Health/Mental Health Practice and Psychopharmacology
- Social Work in Schools
- Multi-systems Practice in Substance Abuse
- International Social Work
- International Programs – Social work study abroad
- Some courses offered in other departments also qualify

What special certificates or credentials are available to Online/Hybrid MSW Students?

We offer the [Spanish Language Counseling Certificate](#): This certificate is for students demonstrating advanced levels of Spanish language proficiency and social work practice skills. Please contact Dr. Migdalia Reyes at migdalia.reyes@sjsu.edu for additional information.

As of Fall 2019, we also offer a pilot [Title IV-E Child Welfare Program](#) with limited number of students in specific geographical region.

Currently, the PPSC option is not available in the online/hybrid MSW program. However, certain classes, i.e. ScWk 263, are transferrable towards the Online [Post-Masters Pupil Personnel Services Credential \(PM-PPSC\)](#).

What are the differences between the on-campus program and the online/hybrid program?

	On-Campus Program	Online/Hybrid Program
Curriculum	Foundation year: 5 core curricular areas Advanced year: 3 fields of practice and students pick one: Health and Mental Health ; Children, Youth and Families; and Aging	Foundation year is the same as on-campus program: 5 core curricular areas Advanced year: 2 fields of practice and students pick one: Health and Mental Health, and Children, Youth and Families.
Format of academic courses (NOT field education)	In-person class format at the SJSU campus with some hybrid and online course offerings.	Online with a combination of <i>synchronous sessions</i> (i.e. all students log in from their computer at one time for a class session with professor) and <i>asynchronous sessions</i> (i.e. students can complete the class session on their own time with a specified due date).
Length of field education	1,200 hours (total) required 480 hours in year 1 (16 hours per week) 720 hours in year 2 (24 hours per week)	1,200 hours (total) required 600 hours in year 1 (16 hours a week) 600 hours in year 2 (16 hours per week)
In-person field education required?	Yes	Yes
Training programs, credentials and certificates offered	Pupil Personnel Services Credential (PPSC) Spanish Language Counseling Certificate, Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Program	Spanish Language Counseling Certificate & Pilot Title IV-E
* Estimated cost per unit, and total cost of the program	\$4,577.50 per semester Total estimated cost = \$18,310 for 2-Year/FT \$24,453 for 3-Year/PT Please see SJSU Bursar's website for latest fees	\$475 per unit (potentially increasing to \$550 per unit); \$28,500 total, not including books and other expenses (potentially increasing to \$33,000 total)

How is Field Education taught?

- The curricular design for field education includes a field instructor who provides weekly supervision and works with the Faculty Field Liaison who is an instructor with the School of Social Work. The Faculty Field Liaison communicates with the Field Instructor and the student to develop and monitor the student's learning goals. The Faculty Field Liaison also facilitates field seminars for students in their first year of field education (monthly for on campus students and bi-weekly for students in the online/hybrid program) and 1 field seminar per semester for students in their final year of field education. The seminar schedule for the final year students in the online/hybrid Program has not been finalized but will likely include bi-weekly seminars.
- In both years of field education, the placement provides learning experiences in direct service delivery to individuals, families, couples, and/or small groups. This may include counseling, crisis intervention, case management, and/or assessment.
- Field education also includes indirect practice interventions that offer students an opportunity to utilize community social work interventions. This may include social work administration and staff development, community organizing, legislative work, policy formulation, advocacy, and/or program development.
- The final year of the MSW program builds upon foundation content attained in the first year. The final year curriculum prepares students for practice from a transcultural multi-systems perspective. Because the mission of the MSW program has a special emphasis on meeting the needs of Latinos, African Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans, and other marginalized, oppressed and disenfranchised populations, families and communities are seen as critical nurturing and sustaining systems as well as important focal points for the problem-solving process.

Internship

- First-year internship is 16 hours per week and requires a total of 600 hours by the end of the Spring session.
- Second-year (final year) internship is also 16 hours per week and requires a total of 600 hours by the end of the Spring session.
- At least 1,200 field internship hours are needed in order to graduate in this program.
- Using a place of employment for internship must be requested.
- Summer internships are not available at this time.
- Some agencies prefer final-year students who can intern 24 hours per week, so if students have that flexibility, they might have more options for final-year internship placement.

Please keep your internship and personal profile current in the Internship Placement Tracking (IPT) system. More information about IPT will be discussed.

Field Fair and Internship Agencies

The School of Social Work Field Fairs are optional especially if distance and travel are issues. However, students are encouraged to attend and have found it beneficial to find out more information about the

agencies, and network with peers and other professionals. If you are not able to attend, field surveys will be collected to assist the Field Education Office in your placement process.

Students may propose agencies for internship sites. The process is to provide the agency name, location, name of agency representative and contact information so that the School can assess whether this is an appropriate internship site.

What is the Final-Year Special Project (SCWK 298)?

The 298 project is the Capstone experience required for all MSW students. It is an independent research project conducted usually with the support of your internship agency and your supervising ScWk 298 professor. Some projects are non-internship related.

Students are encouraged to think about what topics or issues they would be interested when they take research classes (SW 240 & 242).

It might be helpful to have a discussion with your professor who is teaching the research classes.

Currently, faculty-led research project opportunities for Online/Hybrid MSW students (i.e., as research assistants) are very limited.

How to remain connected with the School?

All MSW students have access to faculty via class sessions, office hours, and appointments. Student colleagues network in various ways, including in-person and online. All students are welcomed to attend University and School events, and occasionally there are activities away from SJSU, i.e., Lobby Days in Sacramento, for which students might want to travel.

Please read the news and announcements, especially from SIRC, to learn about activities, scholarships, employment and career growth opportunities, and co-sponsored activities with the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Social Work Alumni Association (SWAA), student organizations, and the School.

Important: Please use the SJSU email address. If needed, have this forwarded to your personal email address; official email will come from SJSU email system and Canvas. Please keep your email address and contact information current; students are responsible for maintaining current contact information and checking communication regularly.

Although students do not meet in-person for classes, it is highly recommended to network with and get and provide support to peers in the program through group projects, study groups, and other forms of communication.

Students may take initiative to coordinate social events and invite others in the program to join.

Previous ideas for support and networking include gathering by geographic region, if possible.

Students are encouraged to participate in other social events organized by the University, School, SWGSA, and On-Campus students.

How to be involved with the Social Work Graduate Student Association (SWGSA) and other student activities and efforts?

All MSW students are automatically part of SWGSA. We encourage students to be involved with activities and leadership as time and opportunity allow. There is a formal position called ***“Online/Hybrid MSW Program Student Liaison”*** on the SWGSA leadership, although there is no formal vote among the SWGSA executive committee.

- Students are encouraged to make sure they receive notifications from and check the “Announcements” section of the MSW Student Information and Resource Center (SIRC) on Canvas regularly.
- Students’ lives are busy, especially when they have jobs and families. However, it is important to get involved with SWGSA and make sure your voice is heard. If students have any concerns, questions, and/or suggestions, they are highly encouraged to contact the Online/Hybrid MSW Program Student Liaison, as well as other SWGSA officers. All students are part of SWGSA and would be welcomed to attend its monthly meeting either in-person or via Zoom Conference.

What SJSU Campus services and resources are available to Online/Hybrid MSW students?

Please check the following link: <http://www.sjsu.edu/openuniversity/academic/resources/>

- [Career Center](#)
- [ECampus](#) and [IT](#) are available to students
- Health Benefits: *Registered Special Session and Open University students may access SHC services during any school term/session/intercession by paying \$25/visit (plus the same augmented or specialty service fees that are paid by students who pay the MHF). To set up an appointment, call (408) 924-6122 or stop by the SHC appointment desk in room 106 of the Health Building.* http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_health/
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Educational counselors are available to assist enrolled students, individually, as a group, or in workshops with a variety of academic concerns.

Please note that Special Session students including our Online/Hybrid MSW students are not eligible to receive a SJSU Tower Card. To have it, students must become a member of Associated Students (AS) by paying the fee, and should take a picture at the Bursar's Office (in person). Students must bring their class enrollment record along with other forms of ID to the Bursar's office. For ore detailed information, please check the following link: <http://www.sjsu.edu/bursar/services/towercard/>.

What do I need to do when I have financial aid related questions?

Financial planning is very important throughout the program. Financial aid (including federal student loans) is not available during winter and summer sessions. It is very important that students know how many units they need to take and pay for during winter and summer sessions, so they can plan ahead and may accept higher amount of student loans offered during the academic year. ***Please contact the [Financial Aid and Scholarship Office \(FASO\)](#) directly for more information.***

- ***Federal Direct Loan Unsub Stafford 1 (Federal Student Aid)***
Tuition fee deferrals are automatically assigned to a student's MySJSU once all requested financial aid documents are received and file noted as complete.

- ***“Pay out of Pocket” - Students must pay attention to due dates according to MYSJSU. If you are not able to pay on-time, consult with FASO for payment plan options. If payments are not made or addressed, students will be dropped from classes. Usually FASO will allow an extra month to pay fees. Pay out of Pocket” is defined as funds coming from personal sources, or non-federal or non-SJSU related financial aid (i.e., bank loans, credit cards, private/family loans, etc.)***
 - *On-Campus students might also receive California state grants according to income criteria, but Special Session students (i.e., Online/Hybrid MSW Students) are not usually eligible for these grants. A state grant is money students receive but do not need to pay back.*

If students need to take out more loans than what are offered during the academic year, Federal Grad PLUS loan can be an option for those who meet credit eligibility requirements. More information can be found here: http://www.sjsu.edu/faso/Types_AID/Loans/plus_graduate/

It is highly recommended to apply as many scholarships as possible if finances are a concern. There are a number of Campus Based Scholarships available. More information can be found here: <http://www.sjsu.edu/faso/Scholarships/>. The School will also share scholarship opportunities on MSW Student Information and Resource Center on Canvas.

School of Social Work Scholarships are usually announced in January and are available to all MSW students. A few Online/Hybrid MSW students have been recipients of these scholarships.

Where can I find information about enrollment, fees, and textbooks?

Enrollment & Fees

Students should pay close attention to School email announcements regarding class schedule and enrollment dates. Please also check your MYSJSU account and see registration, enrollment, and fee due dates when the schedule is announced each session.

Please note that On-Campus and Online/Hybrid class schedules are different. Online students will often see On-Campus classes posted earlier than Online/Hybrid classes.

In general, fee due dates are 21 days from the date of registration for Spring and Fall and 15 days from the date of registration for Summer. For more information, please check the College of Professional and Global Education Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/pdp/faq/>

Textbooks

Textbooks are assigned by the School and respective professors for each class. Often there are online purchasing options or instructions for text rental/purchase specific to each class. There are also sometimes e-book options that professors will use. Check Amazon, SlugBooks, Chegg, publisher, and other websites for pricing options.

Students may ask if anyone is selling their used books on “**SWGSA**” Facebook page. Also there are books in the back room of the SSW Office.

When and where will the Graduation commencement be held?

SJSU sponsors the official University Commencement each year in May. This event has been free to all students and their guests, although limited tickets are available depending on venue size. In May 2019, each student was allowed 10 tickets, and additional tickets if they become available. Master degree “hooding” and ceremonial diplomas are awarded at the SJSU event; these aspects are not in school or department ceremonies.

The School of Social Work Convocation is organized by SWGSA and students (Graduation Planning Committee). Students are highly recommended to get involved if they can. It is important to be informed of the graduation-related updates and announcements by checking the MSW Student Information and Resource Center on Canvas regularly.

If you have any questions, please contact the School at SocialWork@sjsu.edu and put "MSW Program Inquiry" in the subject line.