Frequently Asked questions
Post MSW PPSC program

Prior to Admission:

• I would like to speak to someone about the program. Who do I contact?
  Please email questions to socialwork-post-masters@sjsu.edu Please
  remember to leave your phone number and the best times to reach you.
  You will receive a response via email or phone call.
• I hold a Master’s in Counseling or MFT degree. May I apply for this
  program?
  No, unfortunately this program is specific for those that hold an MSW
  degree
• Are these courses online only?
  Yes, each of the courses are offered online. Students will still need to
  complete fieldwork in their local area.
• Is there financial aid available for this program?
  No, unfortunately because this program is not a degree program, no
  financial aid is available. Payment options are available through the
  registrar’s office when enrolling/
• I heard I have to take the CBEST to earn my PPSC, Do I need to take this
  prior to admission?
  No, the CBEST can be taken at any point within the program, but must be
  passed within two years and prior to earning your credential. You may take
  this test at any time, even prior to getting accepted into the program. You
  only need to pass the CBEST once. If you have previously passed, you need
  not take it again. Previous students have encouraged future students to
  take the CBEST as soon as possible to avoid stress during your coursework.
  This also avoids a later time in applying for your credential.
• What material can I begin collecting to be ready to apply?
  Please refer to the application process link on our website for detailed
  application instructions.
• I heard I have to have a CTC Certificate of Clearance fingerprinting done. Do I have to do this if I have already been fingerprinted before?
Yes, a Certificate of Clearance (COC) fingerprinting clearance from the CTC is mandatory after admission, but before starting your fieldwork. You cannot earn a PPSC in the state of California without a COC. Agencies do not share fingerprints, so this means students must complete this process, even if they have been fingerprinted numerous times in the past.

• What if I already completed the fieldwork during my internship or I am already working as a school social worker?
You may request a waiver for hours that you have earned during your MSW program or since, but only if the experience was supervised by a field instructor with a PPSC and the experience must have been within the past 7 years. These requests are subject to a review, verification and approval process and determinations are made once students are admitted to the program.

• How much does the program cost?
Each unit is $475. Total cost of the program is $4,750 for all ten units. There is no program application fee.

• How long do I have to finish my internship hours?
One academic year is typical for most students to accrue the required 600 hours, two years is the maximum time allowed to finish the field requirements.

• How do I find an internship?
Students will find their own internship in their local school districts. SJSU already holds practicum agreements with many districts across CA. Please contact socialwork-post-masters@sjsu.edu to inquire about practicum agreements with districts in your local area. It can also be helpful to join our professional organization, CASSW and to search on the Edjoin website for field opportunities. Once admitted in the program, students will need to ensure a Practicum Agreement with district and SJSU.

• When will I receive my credential?
This varies per student, but once you have fulfilled all requirements (coursework, internship hours and other required documentation) your paperwork is approved through our office and then sent to SJSU credential services for processing.