



California State University  
**Dominguez Hills**

*College of Health, Human Services, & Nursing and Department of Social Work*

## **Master of Social Work (MSW) Program**

# **MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM PACKET 2015-16**

Department of Social Work  
Master of Social Work Program  
1000 E. Victoria St.  
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(310) 243-3170





California State University  
**Dominguez Hills**

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## MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW) PROGRAM

The CSUDH MSW Program is dedicated to the pursuit of a more just, global society through a critical, theoretical approach to education, scholarship, research, and community practice addressing societal dynamics stemming from the intersection of race/ethnicity, culture, gender, immigration, and socio-economic status, and membership in other categories historically subjected to oppression, discrimination and indifference. Located in a diverse, complex urban setting, the program prepares Master level social workers to professionally and ethically deliver social work practice grounded in analysis, intervention, evaluation and advocacy which addresses oppression and structural inequality to enhance the well-being of individuals, families and communities.

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### MSW Workshops

For more information, please come to an MSW Workshop and learn more about our two program options, application process, and accreditation status. Prospective students will also have an opportunity to get their individual questions answered.

Please check the Master of Social Work website for dates of upcoming information sessions and to sign-up online: <http://csudh.edu/cps/hhs/sw/infosessions.htm>

*Date	Time	Location
Wednesday, September 16, 2015	6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	SAC 3165
Saturday, October, 17, 2015	9:30 am – 11:30 am	LSU Ballroom
Wednesday, November 18, 2015	6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	SAC 3165
Saturday, December 12, 2015	9:30 am – 11:30 am	LSU Ballroom
Wednesday January 13, 2015	6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	LSU Ballroom

LSU = Loker Student Union  
SAC = South Academic Complex

***\*Tentative Dates/locations: Please check website periodically for any changes***

## **Accreditation**

The program at CSUDH is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) as of February, 2010. Obtaining full accreditation is a lengthy process involving several steps and lasting for at least four years. Accreditation is essential for all graduate social work programs especially in states where there is licensure, because only graduates from accredited programs are permitted to take the licensing exam. The accreditation process for programs involves several steps: (1) Application (2) Completion of an initial self study referred to as Benchmark 1 followed by an on campus site visit results in admittance to candidacy. Candidacy is the first level of accreditation and graduates from programs in candidacy are granted the right to collect hours toward licensure. (3) Benchmark 2 is completed in year two of the program followed by another site visit; (4) A Draft Self Study is completed in year three of the program, with another on campus site visit and a recommendation the program complete a full Self Study and prepare for a full site team visit. (5) During year four the full Self Study is written and a team of social work educators visit campus to review the program. The program is then eligible for full accreditation. (6) Initial accreditation is granted for four years. The program has been reaffirmed through 2022.

## **Program Overview**

The Master of Social Work program at California State University, Dominguez Hills is strategically located to focus on the diverse social service needs and problems particular to the South Bay area of Los Angeles County, a large metropolitan area, which includes a socially and culturally diverse population. Because of this diversity the program will prepare social work students for contextually competent social work practice, inclusive of the issues of culture, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, class, gender differences, sexual orientation, religion and the effects of bias, prejudice and institutionalized racism. These issues and concerns may obscure helping efforts if they are not appropriately recognized and dealt with in practice and in social policy development and implementation. Thus, the program aims at increasing students' understanding of the underlying causes and resulting effects of prejudice, discrimination, and stereotyping from a variety of perspectives and teaches ways of identifying strategies and interventions for addressing these concerns and problems in social work practice.

The Department of Social Work has developed a psychosocial, ecological and cross-cultural orientation to social work practice and is designed to educate contextually competent social work practitioners. The curriculum is developed and organized as a coherent and integrated whole consistent with program goals and objectives. Social work education is grounded in the liberal arts and contains a coherent, integrated professional foundation in social work practice from which an advanced practice curriculum is built at the graduate level.

## Curriculum

The curriculum is organized around the 2008 (Educational Policy Accreditation Standards) EPAS and is designed to prepare students for the following:

1. To educate social work practitioners to engage in autonomous, professionally competent practice, which includes culturally appropriate interventions tailored to enhance the well-being of individuals, families, and the successful functioning of groups, organization.
2. To educate social work practitioners to engage in economic and social justice work through the practice of culturally and contextually competent interventions at all levels, including analysis, advocacy, direct interventions and evaluation with communities in diverse urban environments.
3. To educate social work practitioners to develop a life-long learning philosophy based on ongoing self-evaluation of practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities informed by social research.
4. To educate social work practitioners to engage in ethical social work practice which is consistent with the values of the profession through expectations and opportunities in work with clients in community practice.
5. To educate social work practitioners to engage in a critical and theoretical approach to social work practice through exposure to and participation in faculty scholarship and research in the classroom and in the community.

We have selected the theoretical framework of Critical Race Theory and Intersectionality as an organizing principle of the curricula of the MSW program.

California State University, Dominguez Hills offers one concentration: **Social Work Practice in Communities (SWPC)**. There are three specializations in the full-time program that students can choose: **(1) Children, Youth and Families, (2) Community Mental Health, (3) Community Capacity Building**. Students in the accelerated part-time program share one specialization: **Advanced Generalist Practice**. Courses are evenly divided between foundation and specialization curricula. Field placements in these practice areas will further expose students to the complex issues that face diverse communities and prepare them for employment in these fields after they graduate.

The foundation curriculum is considered the basis for social work practice. The intent of the foundation experience is several folds:

1. To give students grounding in the social work profession.
2. Teach student assessment, practice and research models at all levels of social work practice.
3. Teach them about the social welfare institution and its many facets.
4. Engage them in practice opportunities utilizing the full range of social work roles in working with the breadth and scope of social work client systems, and
5. Expose them to advanced theory in preparation for autonomous practice.

The foundation curriculum coupled with the Social Work Practice in Communities concentration prepares students for autonomous professional social work practice. At the advanced levels students are expected to understand theory, analyze it for its contextual properties and implement cultural and contextually competent practice in one of the specialization areas.

Additionally students will be prepared to evaluate their practice, programs and create research questions that demonstrate advancement of ideas with specific populations. Students are expected to understand the connection between personal troubles and issues and realize that social change is a natural extension of social work practice at all levels. They will therefore be prepared to advocate and organize for this end. Under the supervision of program approved Fieldwork Instructors students will complete internship hours that allow them to carry out concentration curriculum objectives. And, at the conclusion of their study students will present a capstone project that reflects their knowledge, skills and values as professional social workers.

### **Program Requirements and Course Schedule**

The MSW program requires completion of 60 semester credit hours which can be accomplished with two program options:

- 1) A two year full-time program with classes that meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the day, with fieldwork hours on Mon, Wed, and/or Fridays
- 2) An Accelerated three-year part-time program with year round classes held in the evenings and weekends and field work hours on Mon, Wed and/or Fridays in the second and third years

***Special Note: Field placements are held during regular business hours.***



## -MSW Course Schedule for Full-time Two Year Students-

### Foundation Year Course Schedule

Fall	Spring
MSW 500 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I (3)	MSW 501 Human Behavior and the Social Environment II (3)
MSW 510 Social Welfare Policy I (3)	MSW 511 Social Welfare Policy Practice (3)
MSW 520 Generalist Social Work Practice I (3)	MSW 521 Generalist Social Work Practice II (3)
MSW 540 Fieldwork Practicum (3)	MSW 530 Social Welfare Research (3)
MSW 595 Critical Race Studies in SW Practice (3)	MSW 541 Fieldwork Practicum II (3)

### Concentration Year Course Schedule: Children Youth and Families Specialization

Fall	Spring
MSW 550 Advanced SW Practice in Communities (3) *	MSW 523 Social Justice (3) *
MSW 570 Fieldwork Practicum III (3) **	MSW 555 Advanced Practice in Administration and Leadership (3) *
MSW 580 Seminar in Child Welfare Issues (3) ***	MSW 560 Social Welfare Policy III: Children Youth and Families (3) ***
Elective (3) MSW 592****	MSW 571 Fieldwork Practicum IV (3) **
MSW 595.03 Capstone Seminar pt. 1 (3) *	MSW 595.04 Capstone Seminar pt. 2 (3) *

\* Courses required of all students regardless of concentrations

\*\* Courses required of all students but placement is in a setting that supports their specific specialization

\*\*\* Courses required of CYF specialization only unless approved by specialization instructor

\*\*\*\* **Suggested** Elective for stipend students & Mental Health Concentration

### Concentration Year Course Schedule: Community Mental Health Specialization

Fall	Spring
MSW 550 Advanced SW Practice in Communities (3) *	MSW 523 (3) Social Justice*
MSW 570 Fieldwork Practicum III (3) **	MSW 555 Advanced Practice in Administration and Leadership (3)
MSW 582 Seminar in Mental Health Issues (3)	MSW 561 Social Welfare Policy III: Community Mental Health (3) ***
****Elective (3) MSW 592****	MSW 571 Fieldwork Practicum IV (3) **
MSW 598 Capstone Seminar Pt. 1 (3) *	MSW 599 Capstone Seminar Pt. 2 (3) *

\* Courses required of all students regardless of concentrations

\*\* Courses required of all students but placement is in a setting that supports their specific specialization

\*\*\* Courses required of CMH specialization only unless approved by specialization instructor

### Concentration Year Course Schedule: Community Capacity Building Specialization

Fall	Spring
MSW 550 Advanced SW Practice in Communities (3) *	MSW 523 Social Justice (3) *
MSW 570 Fieldwork Practicum III (3) **	MSW 551 Social Welfare Policy III: Community Capacity Building (3) ***
MSW 581 Seminar in Community Capacity Building (3) ***	MSW 555 Advanced Practice in Administration and Leadership (3) *
Elective (3)	MSW 571 Fieldwork Practicum IV (3) **
MSW 598 Capstone Seminar Pt. 1 (3) *	MSW 599 Capstone Seminar Pt. 2 (3) *

\* Courses required of all students regardless of concentrations

\*\* Courses required of all students but placement is in a setting that supports their specific specialization

\*\*\* Courses required of CCB specialization only unless approved by specialization instructor

## -MSW Course Schedule for Accelerated Three-year Part-time Students-

MSW Intensive Program  
CSUDH – College of Extended Education  
Evening and Weekend Format

<b>Fall Semester Yr 1</b>	<b>Spring Semester Yr 1</b>	<b>Summer Yr 1</b>
HBSE 500 (3) – Sat	SW Policy 510 (3) - Sat	*Advanced Policy Practice 511. (3)
* Critical Race Studies 595 (3) - Sat	SW Research 530 (3) – Sat	HBSE 2 501 (3)
Gen Practice 1 520 (3)– Wed	Gen Practice 2 521 (3)- Wed	
		<i>Total Credit Hrs. 24</i>
<b>Fall Semester Yr 2</b>	<b>Spring Semester Yr 2</b>	<b>Summer Year 2</b>
Field 1 540 (3)– Wed	Field 2 541 (3)– Wed	Social Justice 523 (3) - Sat
Advanced SW Practice in Communities 550 (3)– Sat	Integrated Seminar 595 (3) – Sat	Integrated Policy 595 (3) - Sat
MSW Elective (592) Diagnostic Assessment of SW Practice - Sat (2)	MSW Administration and Leadership 555-/Sat (2) - Sat	
		<i>Total Credit Hrs. 24</i>
<b>Fall Semester Yr 3</b>	<b>Spring Semester Yr 3</b>	
Field 3 570 (3)- Thur.	Field 4 571 (3) - Thur.	
*Capstone Seminar Pt. 1 598 Thur. (3)	*Capstone Seminar Pt. 2 599. (3)- Thur.	<i>Total Credit Hours 12</i>
<b>*Course # may change</b>		
		<i>Total Credit Hours (60)</i>

### Notes:

- Courses on Wednesdays will be held in the evening during the regular 16 week semester format.
- The two courses designated as Sat courses will follow an intensive format meeting for four hour blocks every other Saturday for approximately 10 weeks along with a hybrid learning component.
- Field (internship) will run in years two and three following the traditional semester format.

## MSW Department Admissions

CSUDH's Rolling Admissions process accepts applications during a specified application period. Applications may be accepted after the specified application period until the program has reached capacity. Once the program is filled, eligible students who have been reviewed may be placed on a waiting list. Applications received after the application period, may or may not be reviewed.

The application period for fall 2015 begins on Thursday, October 1, 2015 and will close on February 5, 2016. The MSW Department has a rolling admissions process, meaning that applications are reviewed in the order they are received and until spaces are full. Therefore, applications that are received late in the application period may not be reviewed if the Program becomes filled. Applicants are encouraged to submit their application early. The MSW program only offers fall enrollment; we do not offer spring or summer enrollment.

University guidelines require that all prospective graduate students must apply **to both the University (CSUDH) and the MSW department**. Students should apply to the university first and then to the department. Students can apply on-line to the university at <http://www.csumentor.edu>

### Admissions Criteria

The CSUDH MSW program Admissions Committee welcomes applications that demonstrate high academic achievement and potential for professional social work practice.

1. Completed bachelor's degree with a liberal arts background (recommended) from an accredited institution. Coursework should include a minimum of three (3) courses in the behavioral sciences (social work, sociology, cultural anthropology, psychology, economics, political science, gender or ethnic studies), two (2) courses in the humanities (philosophy, history, literature, religious studies, performing or visual arts, etc.), one (1) course in English composition and the two outlined prerequisites.
2. Students are required to have a 2.75 GPA in the last 60 semester units (or 90 quarter units) to be admitted to the MSW program. Applicants with a lower GPA may be considered based on their meeting certain other criteria.
3. Students are required to have taken and earned a C or higher grade in one (1) course in Human Development, or an equivalent.
4. Students are required to have taken and earned a C or higher grade in one (1) course in Elementary Statistics.
5. Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores are strongly recommended if GPA is below 3.0.

**Application packet:** <http://www.csudh.edu/cps/hhs/sw/>



## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: When is the deadline for admissions?**

A: The Department of Social Work will accept applications until February 5, 2016.

**Q: Can I apply in the spring or summer semester?**

A: No, not at this time. The MSW program only accepts applications for the fall semester.

**Q: How long is the program?**

A: We currently offer a two (2) year full-time curriculum and a (3) year Accelerated three year part-time program

**Q: Does the Department of Social Work offer an advanced standing program?**

A: This option is being strongly considered. Please check our website periodically for any updates.

**Q: What type of undergraduate degree do I need?**

A: We invite candidates with an undergraduate degree with a liberal arts background. This includes coursework in the humanities, social and behavioral sciences, and English composition. We believe these set of courses provides a solid foundation that adequately prepares students for generalist social work education. However, if you have a different undergraduate degree, you may still submit your application.

**Q: What is the minimum GPA? Do I need to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE)?**

A: We invite candidates who have a minimum GPA of 2.75 in the last 60 semester units or 90 quarter units; Candidates who possess a GPA less than 3.0, should strongly consider submitting GRE scores with their application. For Candidates that have a GPA of 3.0 or higher the GRE is strictly optional.

**Q: What are the prerequisites?**

A: We request that all students have passed at least one (1) course in human development, (please check the website for a list of equivalents) and one (1) course in elementary statistics.

**Q: Do I need to have completed all the requirements and/or prerequisites before applying for the MSW program?**

A: No, however at least 80% of the requirements and/or prerequisites should be completed prior to submitting an application. Please note that all requirements and/or prerequisites must be formally completed before actually enrolling in the program.

**Q: Does the MSW program give social work course credit for life experience or previous work experience?**

A: In accordance with the Council of Social Work Education, the Department of Social Work cannot grant course credit for life experience or previous work experience.

## Contact Information

### **California State University, Dominguez Hills**

University Telephone: (310) 243-3300

Website: <http://www.csudh.edu>

Telephone Registration System (T.O.R.O.S.): (310) 243-2000

Toro Web: [www.toroweb.csudh.edu](http://www.toroweb.csudh.edu)

### **College of Health, Human Services & Nursing**

(310) 243-2046

Website: <http://www4.csudh.edu/chhsn/mission/index>

### **Deans Office: Dr. Gary Sayed**

(310) 243-2042

Welch Hall A-310

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### **Department of Social Work**

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### **Other Important University Phone Numbers**

Admissions & Records Office (310)-243-3645

Student Financial Services (310)-243-3802

Bookstore (310)-243-3789

Cashiers Office (310)-243-3812

Financial Aid Office (310)-243-3647

Welch Hall C-290

Welch Hall B-270

Loker Student Union

Welch Hall B-270

Welch Hall B-260

# CSUDH Admissions Online!

California State University's CSU Mentor

Simply use this website <http://www.csumentor.edu> and locate

California State University Dominguez Hills

On-line applications are encouraged by the College of Health, Human Services & Nursing.

CSU Mentor is free to use.

You will only pay the \$55 application fee charged directly by the CSU campus when  
An application for admission is submitted.

Submit your application today!

Personal data entered by the user is not released without the user's express consent and direction.

**<http://www.csumentor.edu>**