



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK MSW ADMISSIONS FALL 2026

Please Note: These questions are condensed from our School of Social Work [website](#), please visit there to learn more about the application process and requirements.

SOCIAL WORK EXPERIENCE QUESTIONS

Q. What can I do with a Social Work degree?

A. For more information, please click on the [link](#).

Q. What is considered Social Work experience?

A. Experience working in the social work field, case management, health and human services, and/or has been supervised by a credentialed social worker (B.S.W., M.S.W., L.C.S.W., Ph.D., or D.S.W.).

Q. Where can I volunteer to get more Social Work experience?

A. We don't keep a list of local agencies looking for staff or volunteers. You can search online for agencies that interest you and contact them for more information. Check out the VolunteerMatch [website](#) to get started!

Q. How can I find out more information about getting an LCSW?

A. For more information please review the information posted on the California Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) [website](#).

APPLICATION PROCESS QUESTIONS

Q. What do you recommend I do before applying to the program?

A. Before applying, applicants are encouraged to thoroughly review the [MSW Admissions page](#), which features dropdown sections with detailed information about the programs. It is also recommended to review the [Cal State Apply Application Guide](#) to help you prepare a complete and accurate application.

Q. When is the deadline to apply to the MSW Program?

A. The deadline to apply to the School of Social Work MSW Program is January 15th. The deadline to apply to the University is also January 15th.

Q. When do you start accepting applications?

A. The School of Social Work will begin accepting applications for Fall 2026 on October 1st.

Q. Do you have Spring admissions?

A. No. We only admit students for fall semester.

Q. Do you have any online or hybrid programs?

A. No. All three of our programs are in-person and physically done at locations.

Q. Do you have any part-time MSW programs?

A. No. The time commitment for classes and internships makes all MSW programs full-time.

Q. Who can I contact to get feedback on my personal statement and resume?

A. The [Graduate Center](#) provides feedback on statements of purpose and resumes through their [Program Materials Feedback Service](#).

Q. How can I request a fee waiver for my Cal State Apply Application?

A. Fee waivers are handled through the CSU website. You can apply for one by visiting [Application Fee Waiver | CSU](#)

Q. Do I need to mail my application, or can I drop it off in person?

A. Applications are submitted electronically via [Cal State Apply](#) website.

Q. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis for the MSW Program, what does that mean for me as an applicant?

A. Applications are processed on a "first-come, first-served" basis. Evaluation is done as soon as an application is deemed complete, in Department Review by University Enrollment Services and ready for review; applications are evaluated until available spaces are filled. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications early.

Q. When should I contact the Cal State Apply Liaison?

A. Contact [Cal State Apply Liaison](#) for help with technical issues, submitting your application, the Recommender Portal, fee waiver eligibility, or login problems.

Q. What should I do if I made an error on my MSW application after submitting it?

A. Once applications are submitted on Cal State Apply, they cannot be edited. If the error occurred in quadrants one through three, please contact [University Enrollment Services](#) and [Graduate Admissions](#). If the error occurred in quadrant four, please email the School of Social Work at CHHS-SW@csulb.edu for more guidance.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE QUESTIONS

Q. Do I have to have a Bachelor's degree?

A. Yes. If your degree is "in progress" when you submit your application, it must be completed no later than the end of Spring 2026. You will need to submit official transcripts to Enrollment Services to verify that your Bachelor's degree has been conferred.

Q. Do I have to have a degree in Social Work in order to apply to the MSW program?

A. No. As long as you hold a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, you may apply to the MSW program for the 2 Year and 3 Year programs. The Advanced Standing program does require a BASW from a CSWE-accredited school.

ADMISSIONS TESTING/GRE QUESTIONS

Q. Is the GRE required?

A. No. The GRE is not required.

GPA QUESTIONS

Q. Can I apply to the program with a low GPA?

A. No. The minimum GPA to apply is a 2.5 cumulative GPA.

GPA Calculator

Q. How can I increase my GPA?

A. The only way to increase your GPA for consideration into the MSW program is by taking upper division (300- or 400-level) courses through Open University at the CSULB [College of Professional and Continuing Education](#). You can also take upper division undergraduate courses at another college or university ONLY WHILE ENROLLED AT THAT FACILITY. These courses MAY NOT be taken through continuing education at other universities.

RECOMMENDATION QUESTIONS

Q. Do I have to have an Academic and a Professional reference?

A. Yes. In order to apply to the MSW program, you must have three (3) references. One reference must be from an academic source (i.e. a professor or instructor), one reference must be from a professional source (i.e. a supervisor in a volunteer or paid position), and the third reference can be from either an academic or professional source. You can submit a fourth Recommendation in case one of the first three individuals doesn't follow through, but will rank them in Cal State Apply because the application will only be evaluated with three recommendations. Personal references are not appropriate and will not be accepted.

Q. I graduated more than four years ago. Do I still need an academic reference?

A. No. In this instance, an academic reference is not necessary. Three professional references are acceptable.

PREREQUISITE QUESTIONS

Q. What are the prerequisites for the MSW program?

A. You must complete a prerequisite course in Elementary Statistics with a grade of "C" or better no later than Spring 2026. A grade of "C minus (C-)" does NOT meet this requirement.

Q. Am I allowed to use any statistics course for my MSW application?

A. No. The statistics course must be on the [School of Social Work Approved Elementary Statistics Courses - Fall 2026 \(PDF\)](#) list. If your course isn't listed, you must submit it for evaluation to see if it meets the requirements.

Q. When should I submit my statistics course for evaluation if it is not on the list?

A. Its highly recommended that applicants submit their statistics course for evaluation before submitting their Cal State Apply Application. The application will ask for details about your statistics course.

Q. How can I verify that the statistics class I took is equivalent to the Elementary Statistics prerequisite?

A. We have posted a list of approved statistics courses linked below. If the course you took is not included on the posted list, you must submit a course syllabus to the School of Social Work Admissions Office via email for evaluation. To obtain this document, please contact your school and department from where the courses were taken. They should have a copy of the file, and we do accept the current school syllabi. You will receive an email confirmation as to whether the course was approved or denied.

[School of Social Work Approved Elementary Statistics Courses - Fall 2026 \(PDF\)](#)

TRANSCRIPT QUESTIONS

Q. Do I need official transcripts from all of the colleges that I've attended?

A. University Enrollment Services requires an official transcript from the postsecondary school where you received your undergraduate degree or your undergraduate degree is in-progress. The transcript deadline is the same as the application deadline, January 15, 2026 for Fall 2026 admission.

Q. How do I verify you received my official transcripts?

A. Official transcripts are managed by the University. We recommend contacting Enrollment Services directly at (562)-985-5471 or via email ES-LBinquiry@csulb.edu

Q. Do I need unofficial transcripts from all of the colleges that I've attended?

A. The School of Social work requests an unofficial transcript be uploaded via Quadrant Four in Cal State Apply if your elementary statistics course was done at a different institution from your undergraduate degree. If the course is in-progress at the time the application is submitted, you need to email an updated unofficial transcript once the coursework is completed to CHHS-SW@csulb.edu.

TRANSFER QUESTIONS – MSW PROGRAM

Q. Can I transfer credit from another MSW program?

A. Graduate credit for social work courses taken in another accredited graduate social work program may be recommended for transfer of credits up to 6 semester credit hours.

ON-CAMPUS SERVICES QUESTIONS

Q. Does CSULB have services available for veterans?

A. Yes. CSULB Veterans Services provides veterans with information about applying for admissions to CSULB. Check out their [website](#) for more information.

Q. Does CSULB offer services for students with disabilities?

A. Yes. The Bob Murphy Access Center assists students with disabilities as they secure their university degrees at CSULB. Check out their [website](#) for more information.

Q. Does CSULB offer any resources to help me get ready for graduate school?

A. Yes. The [Graduate Center](#) at CSULB supports current and prospective graduate students by offering resources, advising, and workshops to promote academic and professional success. The Center also provides guidance on funding opportunities, preparing application materials, and understanding graduate level expectations.

WEBSITE LINKS

CSULB - SSW - admissions - <https://www.csulb.edu/college-of-health-human-services/school-of-social-work/master-of-social-work-msw-admissions>

CSULB, SSW - Approved Stats classes

- <https://www.csulb.edu/sites/default/files/2025/documents/Approved%20Elementary%20Statistics%20Courses%20June%202025.pdf>

CSULB Enrollment Services [Enrollment Services | California State University Long Beach](#)

CSULB Graduate Center [Graduate Center | California State University Long Beach](#)

Cal State Apply - <https://www.calstate.edu/apply>

Cal State Apply Liaison [Cal State Apply Applicant Help Center - Liaison](#)

Tuition and Fees for Graduate Studies - <https://www.csulb.edu/financial-aid-and-scholarships/graduate-student-cost-of-attendance>

Financial Aid [Prospective Graduate Students | California State University Long Beach](#)

Office of Graduate Studies, CSULB - <https://www.csulb.edu/graduate-studies>

Center For International Education [International | California State University Long Beach](#)

For Veterans [Veterans Services | California State University Long Beach](#)

Applicant Self-Service [Applicant Self-Service | California State University Long Beach](#)

CSULB Tours [Tours | California State University Long Beach](#)