

Master of Social Work

MSW Program Mission and Goals

The following mission statement guides APU's Master of Social Work (MSW) program (<https://www.apu.edu/bas/programs/msw/>):

The Master of Social Work (MSW) program develops competent advanced social work practitioners and leaders who can integrate knowledge based on scientific inquiry, values, and skills of social work to advance human well-being, promote social and environmental justice, and advocate for equity for diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities, in the context of their environment both locally and globally, informed by our Christian faith tradition.

We value:

- The Social Work Code of Ethics
- Diversity and inclusive excellence
- Service
- Innovative teaching and scholarship
- Integration of faith and learning
- Social work leadership development
- Strengthening communities in local, national, and global contexts

The following outcome goals are derived from the mission statement and purposes of social work education congruent with accreditation standards:

1. Graduates will exhibit competence in generalist and advanced social work practice with diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities, including appropriate uses of supervision, consultation, and discernment, to seek necessary organizational change.
2. Graduates will demonstrate knowledge, built on a liberal arts foundation, of the history of the social work profession and empirically supported theoretical frameworks that provide understanding of individual development and behavior across the life span and interactions among and between individuals and families, groups, organizations, and communities.
3. Graduates will demonstrate critical thinking skills, skills related to the effective integration of research in practice, and adequate preparation for leadership, advanced study, and lifelong learning.
4. Graduates will demonstrate knowledge and skills to partner with communities to advocate for the development of policies and programs that seek to advance human rights and well-being; promote social, racial, economic, and environmental justice; empower clients; and respect diversity.
5. Graduates will practice according to the values and ethics of the profession and understand the ethical integration of Christian faith in practice, including nondiscrimination in the areas of age, class, culture, color, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation.
6. Faculty will engage in ongoing scholarship reflecting the goals and needs of professional social work practice.

Accreditation

- All Azusa Pacific University programs are accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC). (<https://www.wscuc.org/>)
- The MSW program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) (<https://www.cswe.org/>).
- The MSW program's Pupil Personnel Services Credential in School Social Work and Child Welfare and Attendance is accredited by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) (<https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/req-services/>).

Specializations

The Master of Social Work (MSW) program offers two specializations:

Clinical Practice with Individuals and Families

This specialization prepares students for clinically oriented practice with individuals, children, and families in contexts such as mental health clinics, veterans' services, managed care facilities, shelters, group homes, child welfare agencies, hospice, schools, correctional institutions, and other settings where personal helping relationships are developed. Specific emphasis is placed on advanced clinical practice skills with children, adolescents, adults, families, and older adults; group therapy skills; and policies specific to health and mental health concerns.

Community Leadership and Program Administration

This specialization prepares students to provide leadership in nonprofit agencies, government programs, and policy and advocacy organizations in a variety of local and global contexts. Drawing on the significant cultural diversity characterizing the Los Angeles area, and the expertise of faculty, the curriculum prepares students to be proactive leaders and to collaborate with communities to improve upon the complex local, national, and global social problems they encounter. Curriculum content in this specialization includes social work leadership and management, program and grant management, organizing for community change, and social policy, with additional coursework to enhance clinical skillsets as well as research for evidence-informed practice.

Program Options

The **full-time** program (two years, 60 units) includes classes two days per week and supervised practicum internships requiring approximately 16-20 hours per week in both years of the program. All students take the same first-year generalist foundation courses. Specialization courses are taken in the second year of the program (Azusa campus).

The **part-time** program (three years, 60 units) at the Azusa and Inland Empire campuses includes classes one weekday per week beginning at 4:20 p.m. (two classes per term, scheduled back-to-back) and a Saturday intensive course (five Saturdays per semester) in years one and three of the program. In addition to fall and spring semesters, summer-evening and Saturday courses are also required. All students take the same generalist foundation courses in the first half of the program. Specialization courses are taken in the second half of the program. Supervised practicum internships requiring approximately 16-20 hours per week occur in the second and third years; placements are available in San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura counties.

The **full-time Advanced Standing** program (36 units) allows graduates of CSWE-accredited BSW programs to earn their MSW degree in 10 months. Students complete two 3-unit Advanced Standing bridge courses during an 8-week summer session (July-August, three evenings a week) prior to the start of their specialization curriculum, in which they join existing full-time MSW students for the remaining two terms (30 units) of the MSW program. Supervised Advanced Standing practicum internships require 20 hours per week for fall and spring terms (Azusa campus).

The **part-time Advanced Standing** program allows graduates of CSWE-accredited BSW programs to earn their MSW degree over the course of two years. Students complete two 3-unit Advanced Standing bridge courses during an 8-week summer session (July-August, three evenings a week) prior to the start of their specialization curriculum, in which they join existing part-time MSW students for the remaining two years (30 units) of the part-time MSW program. Supervised Advanced Standing practicum internships require 20 hours per week for fall and spring of the second year of the program (Azusa campus).

The two bridge courses for Advanced Standing are:

Code	Title	Units
SOCW 550	Advanced Standing: Intermediate Praxis	3
SOCW 551	Advanced Standing: Social Work Ethics and Practice	3

Practicum Internships

Practicum education is a required component of the MSW curriculum. The practicum application and placement process occurs during the term prior to the onset of internships. Over the course of the program, students complete two yearlong internships totaling 960 hours, with a focus on applying and integrating professional social work knowledge, values, and skills in a supervised community agency setting. Internships occur Monday-Friday during business hours. Successful completion of the internship/seminar curriculum, with a credit grade (80% or higher for the final grade), is required for practicum credit and to proceed to the next practicum course sequence. Students are concurrently enrolled in practicum seminar during internship terms. Full-time students complete internships during both years of the program, and Azusa and Inland Empire part-time students complete internships during the second and third years of the program. Students in the two- and three-year options earn a total of 12 semester units for practicum education coursework. Advanced Standing students complete a total of 6 practicum education units over two terms totaling 600 hours. **Course credit is not given for life experiences or for previous or current work experience.** Students are required to obtain their own individual liability insurance policy prior to entering their practicum internship. Information regarding insurance is available through the MSW program. Students are responsible for ensuring they have reliable transportation to and from internship agencies.

Practicum education faculty select internship sites using strict criteria consistent with accreditation standards set forth by the Council on Social Work Education, including the congruence of practicum agency mission and goals with those of professional social work ethics and standards. Agencies must also provide student supervision consistent with accreditation requirements.

Policy Regarding Transfer of MSW Credits

The MSW program takes responsibility for ensuring that transferred courses are congruent with the curriculum policy statement of CSWE and meet program objectives. Students seeking admission to the program after enrollment at another CSWE-accredited MSW program may submit a list of MSW generalist foundation-level courses completed within the last five years for evaluation for transfer of credits. A maximum of 12 units may be transferred. No credit is given for prior field internship hours. A petition for transfer credit must fulfill the conditions listed below:

1. The work must have been completed while the student was enrolled in good standing as a graduate student. *A letter from the MSW program director is required verifying that the student was in good standing.*
2. The work must have been done within five years prior to starting the MSW program at Azusa Pacific University.
3. The school from which the credits are transferred must be accredited by a regional accreditation agency and by the Council on Social Work Education.
4. No transfer grade is lower than a *B*.
5. None of the transfer coursework consists of extension or workshop courses.
6. *Petition for transfer of credit occurs after acceptance into the MSW program and prior to the start of the first semester. All required documentation must be sent to the MSW graduate program director prior to August 1.*

Course credit is not given for life experiences or for previous or current work experience.

Procedure Regarding Transfer of MSW Credits

1. Contact the MSW director of admissions and student services before starting the program to request transcript review.
2. Each course will be evaluated by the program on a case-by-case basis for compatibility with program requirements.
3. This process includes a comparison of syllabi from transfer institutions to ensure course content equivalency to APU required courses.
4. Student will be notified via email of transferable credits before course enrollment.
5. The director of admissions and student services will discuss program requirements met through the credits, and provide academic advising for course planning.

Policy and Procedure Regarding Transfer of Elective Credits

The MSW program requires two elective courses (total of 6 units). Students transferring from another graduate program may petition to have up to 6 units evaluated for possible elective credit. The course(s) must be relevant to the MSW program and preferably have been taken within five years prior to admission. Syllabi will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to assure that prior content is not outdated. Petitions must be submitted to the MSW program for evaluation. Due to the importance of MSW program compliance with CSWE accreditation standards, students may be asked to provide course syllabi in order to assess the relevance and timeliness of course material.

Procedure

1. Submit a request to evaluate relevant coursework, along with a copy of syllabi, to the MSW program, preferably completed within five years **prior** to admission, to the director of admissions and student services.
2. Syllabi will be reviewed by the graduate program director for compatibility.
3. The student will be notified of the outcome via email, by the MSW program.
4. The director of admissions and student services will discuss program requirements met through the credits, and provide academic advising for course planning.

Social Work Student Conduct Code

In addition to maintaining academic standards, students must demonstrate professional standards and adherence to the Department of Social Work conduct code. Violation of the code may result in probation or termination from the program. Refer to the MSW Student Handbook (<https://www.apu.edu/bas/programs/msw/#students>) for the full description of the conduct code and appeals process.

Academic Performance Expectations

GPA Requirements and Academic Probation

Continuation in the MSW Program requires a demonstration of academic ability. Students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average in all coursework and must pass all classes with a B- or higher.

Students who do not meet the GPA requirements and/or do not pass one or more classes with a B- or higher are placed on academic probation. Failure to meet 3.0 GPA requirement after repeating specified classes will result in graduation delay and/or academic dismissal.

Procedure for Addressing Academic Probation

- Meet with program director to discuss current academic standing in the program
- Discuss expectations for good academic standing, (<http://catalog.apu.edu/policies-procedures/graduate/good-academic-standing/>) as outlined in the APU Academic Catalog (<http://catalog.apu.edu/policies-procedures/graduate/good-academic-standing/>)
- Student is placed on academic probation for one semester in which student's grade point average must be 3.0 and all course grades are a minimum B-
- Student participates in the development of a performance improvement plan
- Student will meet with program director during probationary semester to discuss progress toward meeting performance improvement plan
- Student restores good academic standing when minimum academic requirements are met
- Failure to meet improvement plan may result in academic dismissal
- Students can appeal a decision by using the university grievance process outlined in the graduate catalog

Course Requirements

Code	Title	Units
Generalist Foundation Coursework		
SOCW 510	Social Work Foundations in Law and Ethics	1
SOCW 511	Introduction to the Social Work Profession	2
SOCW 512	Social Welfare Policy and Policy Practice	3
SOCW 513	Micro-Theory and Human Development	3
SOCW 514	Practice I - Interviewing and Assessment	3
SOCW 517	Generalist Practicum I	3
SOCW 518	Generalist Practicum II	3
SOCW 522	Diversity and Social Justice	3
SOCW 523	Macro-Theory and Communities/Organizations	3
SOCW 524	Practice II - Intervention and Evaluation	3
SOCW 538	Clinical Practice with Groups	3
Coursework by Specialization		30
Clinical Practice with Individuals and Families		
SOCW 547A	Applied Clinical and Advanced Policy Practice	
SOCW 549	Advanced Practicum I: Clinical Practice	
SOCW 557	Advanced Practicum II: Clinical Practice	
SOCW 574	Applied Research for Evidence-Informed Practice	
SOCW 536	Adult Behavioral Health and Diagnosis	
SOCW 537	Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health and Diagnosis	
SOCW 541	Capstone Leadership Project	
SOCW 546	Family Therapy in Context	
XXX	Elective (3 units)	
XXX	Elective (3 units)	
Optional Pupil Personnel Services Credential (PPSC) ²		
SOCW 540	Educational Policy	
SOCW 563	School Social Work	
SOCW 572	Advanced Practicum I: School Social Work	
SOCW 573	Advanced Practicum II: School Social Work	
Community Leadership and Program Administration		
SOCW 530	Organizing for Community Change	
SOCW 533	Social Work Leadership and Management	
SOCW 541	Capstone Leadership Project	
SOCW 543	Program and Grants Management	

SOCW 558	Advanced Practicum I: Community Leadership and Program Administration
SOCW 559	Advanced Practicum II: Community Leadership and Program Administration
SOCW 574	Applied Research for Evidence-Informed Practice
XXX	Elective (3 units)
XXX	Elective (3 units)
XXX	Elective (3 units)
Total Units	60-66

¹ Students may test out of SOCW 574 but still need to complete the required unit total for the program. Contact the Department of Social Work (<https://www.apu.edu/contact/directory/?id=163>) for more details.

² Students from either specialization can take any of the 3-unit credential courses as part of the two-elective graduation requirement—or *in addition* to that requirement—so they could end up with 63 or even 66 units. The courses meet both elective and PPSC requirements. But even if a community specialization student takes all credential courses, they DO NOT earn the credential, because only clinical specialization students can receive the credential.

Students from the clinical specialization seeking to complete credential requirements must complete PPSC field and field seminar courses SOCW 572 and SOCW 573 as part of the 6-unit field education graduation requirement. The courses are taken in place of clinical field and field seminar courses SOCW 549 and SOCW 557.

Requirements for Advanced Standing Program

Code	Title	Units
Bridge Courses		
SOCW 550	Advanced Standing: Intermediate Praxis	3
SOCW 551	Advanced Standing: Social Work Ethics and Practice	3
Specialization Coursework		
Select one of the following		30
Clinical Practice with Individuals and Families		
SOCW 534	Field Seminar III (1)	
SOCW 536	Adult Behavioral Health and Diagnosis (3)	
SOCW 537	Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health and Diagnosis (3)	
SOCW 539	Field III-Clinical Practice (3)	
SOCW 527	Research for Evidence-Informed Practice (2) ¹	
SOCW 541	Capstone Leadership Project (3)	
SOCW 544	Field Seminar IV (1)	
SOCW 546	Family Therapy in Context (3)	
SOCW 547	Health and Behavioral Health Policy (2)	
SOCW 548	Field IV - Clinical Practice (3)	
XXX Electives 3 units		
XXX Electives 3 units		
Optional Pupil Personnel Services Credential (PPSC) ²		
SOCW 540	Educational Policy	
SOCW 553	Field V Clinical: School Social Work (PPSC students enroll in SOCW 553 in place of SOCW 539)	
SOCW 554	Field Seminar V Clinical: School Social Work (PPSC students enroll in SOCW 554 in place of SOCW 534)	
SOCW 555	Field VI Clinical: School Social Work (PPSC students enroll in SOCW 555 in place of SOCW 548)	
SOCW 556	Field Seminar VI Clinical: School Social Work (PPSC students enroll in SOCW 556 in place of SOCW 544)	
SOCW 563	School Social Work	
Community Leadership and Program Administration		
SOCW 533	Social Work Leadership and Management (3)	
SOCW 552	Program Planning and Evaluation (3)	
SOCW 528	Research for Data Driven Change (2) ¹	
SOCW 529	Human Rights and Sustainable Development Policy (2)	
SOCW 530	Organizing for Community Change (3)	
SOCW 534	Field Seminar III (1)	

SOCW 535	Field III - Community Leadership and Program Administration (3)
SOCW 541	Capstone Leadership Project (3)
SOCW 544	Field Seminar IV (1)
SOCW 545	Field IV - Community Leadership and Program Administration (3)
XXX Electives 3 units	
XXX Electives 3 units	
Total Units	36 - 42

- ¹ Students may test out of SOCW 527 and SOCW 528 but still need to complete the required unit total for the program. See department for more details.
- ² Students from either specialization can take one or both credential courses as part of the two-elective graduation requirement—or *in addition to* that requirement—so they could end up with 39 or even 42 units. But even if a community specialization student takes both courses, they DO NOT earn the credential, because only clinical specialization students can receive the credential.

Electives

The following is a list of approved electives for the MSW program:

Code	Title	Units
These electives may be taken for either specialization:		
SOCW 540	Educational Policy	3
SOCW 543	Program and Grants Management	3
SOCW 560	Social Work Practice in Healthcare Settings	3
SOCW 561	Treatment of Substance Use Disorders	3
SOCW 563	School Social Work	3
SOCW 565	Clinical Spanish Practice	3
SOCW 566	Social Work, Health, and Aging	3
SOCW 567	Couples Therapy	3
SOCW 568	Military Social Work	3
SOCW 569	Human Sexuality and Sex Therapy	3
SOCW 595	Special Topics	1-6
Clinical specialization students may take any of these required community courses as electives:		
SOCW 530	Organizing for Community Change	3
SOCW 533	Social Work Leadership and Management	3
SOCW 543	Program and Grants Management	3
Community specialization students may take any of these required clinical courses as electives:		
SOCW 536	Adult Behavioral Health and Diagnosis	3
SOCW 537	Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health and Diagnosis	3
SOCW 546	Family Therapy in Context	3
SOCW 547	Health and Behavioral Health Policy	2

Professional Expectations

The university catalog outlines professional expectations of students. Social work students have further expectations for professional behavior as outlined by the NASW Code of Ethics and as outlined in the social work conduct code, which can be found in the MSW Student Handbook (<https://www.apu.edu/bas/programs/msw/#students>).

Coursework Approved for Prelicensure Requirements

Additional coursework approved by the Board of Behavioral Sciences (<https://www.bbs.ca.gov/>) for meeting prelicensure requirements, as follows, is embedded in the generalist foundation MSW curriculum. Refer also to the MSW Student Handbook, Appendix 1, BBS Coursework Map.

- Human Sexuality (10 hours)
- Alcohol and Other Chemical Substance Dependency (15 hours)
- Child Abuse Assessment (7 hours)*
- Spousal or Partner Abuse (15 hours)
- Aging and Long-Term Care (10 hours)

- California Law/Professional Ethics (18 hours)
- Suicide Assessment and Intervention (6 hours)
- Provision of Mental Health Services via Telehealth (3 hours)

*The Child Abuse Assessment requirement (7 hours) must be met within five years of applying for licensure.

Advanced Standing students may complete prelicensure requirements in MSW elective courses, as listed below, or may satisfy requirements through qualifying undergraduate coursework.

- SOCW 537 Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health and Diagnosis (Child Abuse Assessment Requirement)
- SOCW 561 Treatment of Substance Use Disorders (Alcoholism/Chemical Dependency Requirement)
- SOCW 566 Social Work, Health, and Aging (Aging and Long-Term Care Requirement)
- SOCW 567 Couples Therapy (Spousal or Partner Abuse Requirement)
- SOCW 569 Human Sexuality and Sex Therapy (Human Sexuality Requirement)

The California Law/Professional Ethics requirement (18 hours) is met in SOCW 551 Advanced Standing: Social Work Ethics and Practice.

The prelicensure requirements can also be taken postgraduation through the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) (<https://courses.socialworkweb.com/>) or other approved continuing education providers.

Students are responsible for meeting prelicensure requirements and should save relevant course syllabi as proof of hours and content completed. See the BBS website for full information on licensure requirements (<https://www.bbs.ca.gov/applicants/lcsw.html>), and see the MSW Student Handbook for more information.

Admission

University graduate admission and program-specific requirements must be met before an application is complete (see Admission to the University (<http://catalog.apu.edu/admissions/>)). **Program-specific application requirements are available online (<https://www.apu.edu/graduateprofessional/apply/>).**

International students should contact Graduate and Professional Admissions (<https://www.apu.edu/graduateprofessional/apply/>) for application procedures.