



## CSUSM MSW PROGRAM INFORMATION AND PERSONAL STATEMENT PROMPT

Thank you for considering the MSW program at CSUSM! We strive to provide a supportive learning environment that is a competency-based educational experience. The program is rigorous with a combination of classroom and internship requirements to provide a solid foundation of experiences in the profession of social work. Prior to applying to the program, please thoroughly review the MSW program [website](#) and attend or watch an online [information session](#).

### Time Commitment/Educational Plan

Please be aware that the CSUSM MSW program demands a great deal of time and commitment. In addition to the time spent in classes, students are expected to spend a minimum of 2 hours outside of the classroom reading, studying, completing assignments, etc. each week for each unit of course credit (i.e., a minimum of 4 hours a week of outside of class effort for each 3-credit hour class).

Program Type	In-Class Hours	Work Outside Class *per 3-Unit Class	Field Practicum	Total Hours/Week each semester
2-Year (1 <sup>st</sup> Year)	15 hrs	4 hrs (x 5 classes)	16 hrs/week	<b>51 hrs/week</b>
2-Year (2 <sup>nd</sup> Year & Adv. Standing)	15 hrs	4 hrs (x 5 classes)	20 hrs/week	<b>55 hrs/week</b>
3-year (1 <sup>st</sup> Year)	6 hrs	4 hrs (x 2 classes)	--	<b>14 hrs/week</b>
3-year (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year)	9 hrs	4 hrs (x 3 classes)	16-20 hrs/week	<b>37-41 hrs/week</b>

## PERSONAL STATEMENT PROMPT

The CSUSM Department of Social Work application must include a personal statement (maximum of 2 double-spaced pages; 12-point font with one-inch margins), discussing each of the points listed below. The personal statement is an opportunity for applicants to share personal and professional experiences that have prepared them for graduate school in social work. The personal statement will also be used to evaluate the applicant’s critical thinking, self-reflective capacities, and advanced writing skills. **We value your unique voice and want to hear from you personally. ChatGPT or AI assistance is not allowed in formulating your responses.**

Please address the questions **in order** and include all headings in your narrative, (e.g., Personal Reflection, NASW Code of Ethics, Social Justice). **It is imperative that all questions are answered in detail. Any questions not addressed will affect the evaluation of your statement.**

### Personal Reflection (Prompts 1 -2)

1. This prompt is a video response only. Please click on the following link to upload a brief video response to the provided question prompts:  
[https://csusmpilot.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5ALoSQSIw1ACtZI](https://csusmpilot.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5ALoSQSIw1ACtZI)



Please do not write anything in your personal statement regarding your video response (prompt 1).

2. [Written portion of personal statement starts with this prompt]. Reflect on and discuss a difficult situation that you did not handle well in a volunteer, professional, or educational context. What was your role and how did you approach the situation? What did you learn from it? Would you do anything differently in the future? Why or why not? Please maintain the confidentiality of others.

### **NASW Code of Ethics (Prompt 3)**

3. Review the six National Association of Social Workers (NASW) core values in the *Preamble* and *Ethical Principles* sections of the NASW Code of Ethics  
<https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English>.

In the social work profession, you will adhere to the six NASW core values and commit to embracing the values of service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence. Please explain how you have applied two of these core values to situation(s) that you have encountered in your work, education, or personal life.

### **Social Justice and Diversity (Prompt 4)**

4. What do you believe is the role of the social work profession in working towards greater social justice? Give an example of an experience that raised concerns for you about diversity and/or social justice. What were your thoughts/reactions?

### **Additional Information (please only respond if applicable)**

**\*Please be prepared to successfully pass drug (including marijuana) and background screenings as part of the internship application process, which begins soon after acceptance to the program.**

Please use this space to address the below items if applicable:

- a. If your cumulative **GPA is under 3.0 for the last 60 semester units or 90 quarter units**, discuss the factors which contributed to this GPA and your plan to improve your academic performance.
- b. If you have been **unable to obtain a letter of reference** from an academic source, explain the situation. In this case, please submit a third professional reference.
- c. If you have a **criminal record**, please disclose any and all prior criminal records (including DUIs that occurred within the last 20 years). Describe the circumstances of the conviction(s), year of conviction(s), and how you will deal with the conviction(s) in terms of planning for a professional career in the human services. Most field agencies require background checks for student interns. While a criminal record will not



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- necessarily prevent admission to the MSW program, it may restrict the availability of potential practicum placements and future employment prospects.
- d. Is there anything else that you feel is important to share regarding your application?