MSW Program
Shape your future, Reshape the world
Make a World of Difference

There’s a great big world out there—and you want to help ensure it keeps getting greater. You want to make a difference. You want to leave an impression that lasts.

You want to be a social worker.

That could mean helping people function the best they can in their environment. Or, maybe it’s about working for change so you can improve social conditions. Either way, attacking complex problems demands collaboration. And social work is unique for bringing a multi-level, multi-systems perspective to the table. Effective communication is one of our most prized professional skills.

That’s where we come in. One of the top social work graduate programs in the country, the University of Southern California has a long history of preparing future social workers like you with the skills to thrive in one of the world’s most dynamic professions. While USC is recognized as one of the best programs for preparing clinical social workers, many of our alumni are just as successful in policy practice, advocacy and program administration.

Whether your passion lies in mental illness, homelessness, child abuse, military reintegration, work/life balance or global poverty, the USC School of Social Work can help you carve out your own personalized career path. And don’t be surprised if it’s a winding road. Because of our profession’s broad knowledge base, it’s easy to translate skills from one type of work setting to another. Thousands of diverse, rewarding career opportunities await you.

2018

Employment for social workers is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through 2018.

-BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

www.usc.edu/socialwork

Sample Careers
Adoption case manager
Community organizer
Couples therapist
Employee assistance counselor
Gerontologist
Health outcomes researcher
High school counselor
Human rights spokesperson
Legislator or other elected official
Mental health therapist
Military social worker
Nonprofit executive director
Personnel director
Policy analyst
Probation officer
Psychiatric social worker
Substance-abuse counselor
Victims’ advocate
Youth counselor

Sample Work Settings
Advocacy programs
Area agencies on aging
Churches, synagogues, mosques
Crisis centers
Corporations
Correctional facilities
Court systems
Domestic violence centers
Employee assistance programs
Family and children agencies
Foster care programs
Government
Homeless centers
Hospitals
Long-term care facilities
Military installations
Mental health centers
Private clinical practice
Residential treatment centers
Veterans facilities

Chelsey Jones, MSW ’04
A World of Opportunity

MSW

Master of Social Work
Our flagship Master of Social Work program provides advanced preparation for a career serving those in need. We train social workers who will provide life-enhancing services, just as we develop leaders who will influence policy to create a more just and humane world.

PhD

Doctor of Philosophy
The USC School of Social Work established the first social work doctoral program in the western United States in 1953. Today we continue the tradition of admitting highly motivated, self-directed individuals interested in a career in university teaching and research.

MSW Concentrations

Community Organization, Planning and Administration (COPA)
COPA prepares students to become administrators, planners and community organizers in urban settings. Students develop skills in management and finance, program development and evaluation, and community organization.

Families and Children
This concentration prepares students for practice in multicultural urban communities. Students are trained to work in schools, health clinics, juvenile justice or child protection agencies and community-based organizations.

Health
Health social workers help people navigate an increasingly complex health care environment and make thoughtful decisions about treatment options. Students learn to offer culturally sensitive services in a variety of health care systems.

Mental Health
Students develop skills in the psychosocial assessment of commonly encountered mental health problems, design of appropriate intervention plans and delivery of preventive and rehabilitative mental health services.

Work & Life
This concentration teaches students how to deliver such services as mental health counseling, family therapy, crisis intervention, program development and organizational consulting within a work setting.

Not all programs are available at each academic center.

Shape your future, Reshape the world
MSW Sub-Concentrations

**Older Adults**
Graduates are prepared for roles with seniors and their caregivers in geriatric health and mental health centers, hospitals and long-term-care facilities, multipurpose senior centers, welfare planning bodies and retirement communities.

**Military Social Work and Veteran Services**
This specialized area of study prepares individuals to provide a full range of human services to the nation’s armed forces personnel, military veterans and their families, helping them cope with the stresses of military life.

**Public Child Welfare**
Students gain an understanding of the practice methods and continuum of services that protect children and preserve families. Course work focuses on strategies for productive change in service delivery systems.

**School Settings**
School social workers address concerns about a child’s adjustment in school and assist students, parents and school personnel with problems that hinder academic success.

**Systems of Mental Illness Recovery**
Designed for students in the mental health concentration, graduates are prepared for practice with severely and persistently mentally ill clients.

Dual Degree Programs

**Master of Business Administration**
USC Marshall School of Business

**Master of Science in Gerontology**
USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology

**Master of Arts in Jewish Communal Service**
Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion

**Juris Doctor**
USC Gould School of Law

**Master of Planning**
USC School of Policy, Planning, and Development

**Master of Public Administration**
USC School of Policy, Planning, and Development

**Master of Public Health**
Keck School of Medicine of USC

**Doctor of Philosophy (MSW to PhD Direct)**
USC School of Social Work

www.usc.edu/socialwork

Only available at UPC campus.
In an increasingly “networked” world, it’s easy these days to bring everyone “together.” But for some, nothing comes close to the in-person experience. And, Southern California is pretty hard to beat for graduate school. Especially for future social workers. Home to some of the largest school districts, hospitals, mental health and child welfare agencies, military installations, correctional facilities, Fortune 500 companies and grassroots organizations in the country, Los Angeles represents the world’s most vibrant urban laboratory – and the perfect testing ground for complex 21st century social problems. And with four regional locations, you can choose which campus suits you best!
Technology has conquered distance and brought people together from all parts of the world. Through our global immersion programs, teaching and research exchanges, and “web-based” lectures with professors at universities across the ocean, we truly are a global village. And, now with our new Virtual Academic Center, you can earn a Master of Social Work almost anywhere – no matter where you live or work.

Virtual Academic Center
Virtually anywhere

It’s a Small World After All

The MSW@USC mirrors the admissions and academic standards of the school’s flagship program in Los Angeles, Irvine and San Diego. The highly interactive, web-based platform makes it easy to connect – and feel connected – to the University of Southern California. As an MSW@USC student, you’ll join a community of like-minded individuals dedicated to social work ideals and practice, linking up with them via video for classes, study groups and chat sessions – just like you already do on today’s popular social networking sites. And when you’re not logging on, you’ll be in the field, receiving hands-on, supervised training in your local community.

www.usc.edu/socialwork
## MSW Curriculum

### Full-time (2 year)

**Foundation**

**Fall Semester:** 14 Units  
Human Behavior & Social Environment I (503) 3  
Policy & Practice in Social Service Orgs. (534) 3  
Social Work Practice: Individuals & Families (543) 3  
Field Practicum (586a) 3  
Integrative Learning Seminar (587a) 2  

**Spring Semester:** 17 Units  
Human Behavior & Social Environment II (505) 3  
Social Policy (535) 3  
Social Work Practice: Groups & Complex Cases (545) 3  
Social Work Research (562) 3  
Field Practicum (586b) 3  
Integrative Learning Seminar (587b) 2  

**Concentration**

**Fall Semester:** 16 Units  
2 Concentration Courses 6  
1-2 Elective(s) 3-6  
Field Practicum 4  

**Spring Semester:** 13 Units  
Concentration Course 3  
Leadership in the Social Work Profession & Orgs. 3  
1 Elective 3  
Field Practicum 4  

### Part-time (3 year)

**Foundation**

**Fall Semester:** 6 Units  
Human Behavior & Social Environment I 3  
Policy & Practice in Social Service Orgs. 3  

**Spring Semester:** 6 Units  
Human Behavior & Social Environment II 3  
Social Policy 3  

**Fall Semester:** 8 Units  
Social Work Practice: Individuals & Families 3  
Field Practicum 3  
Integrative Learning Seminar 2  

**Spring Semester:** 11 Units  
Social Work Practice: Groups & Complex Cases 3  
Social Work Research 3  
Field Practicum 3  
Integrative Learning Seminar 2  

**Concentration**

**Fall Semester:** 16 Units  
2 Concentration Courses 6  
1-2 Elective(s) 3-6  
Field Practicum 4  

**Spring Semester:** 13 Units  
2 Concentration Courses 6  
1 Elective 3  
Field Practicum 4  

### Part-time (4 year)

**Foundation**

**Fall Semester:** 6 Units  
Human Behavior & Social Environment I 3  
Policy & Practice in Social Service Orgs. 3  

**Spring Semester:** 6 Units  
Human Behavior & Social Environment II 3  
Social Policy 3  

**Fall Semester:** 8 Units  
Social Work Practice: Individuals & Families 3  
Field Practicum 3  
Integrative Learning Seminar 2  

**Spring Semester:** 11 Units  
Social Work Practice: Groups & Complex Cases 3  
Social Work Research 3  
Field Practicum 3  
Integrative Learning Seminar 2  

**Concentration**

**Fall Semester:** 10 Units  
2 Concentration Courses 6  
Field Practicum 4  

**Spring Semester:** 7 Units  
Concentration Courses 3  
Field Practicum 4  

**Fall Semester:** 6 Units  
1-2 Elective(s) 3-6  

**Spring Semester:** 6 Units  
Leadership in the Social Work Profession & Orgs. 3  
Elective 3  

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Curriculum subject to change.
## MSW@USC Curriculum
(Virtual Academic Center)

### Full-time (2 year)

#### Foundation
- **First Semester:** 17 Units
  - Human Behavior & Social Environment I (503) **3**
  - Policy & Practice in Social Service Orgs. (534) **3**
  - Social Work Practice: Individuals & Families (543) **3**
  - Social Work Research (562) **3**
  - Field Practicum (586a) **3**
  - Integrative Learning Seminar (587a) **2**
- **Second Semester:** 14 Units
  - Human Behavior & Social Environment II (505) **3**
  - Social Policy (535) **3**
  - Social Work Practice: Groups & Complex Cases (545) **3**
  - Field Practicum (586b) **3**
  - Integrative Learning Seminar (587b) **2**

#### Concentration
- **Third Semester:** 16 Units
  - 2 Concentration Courses **6**
  - 2 Electives **6**
  - Field Practicum II (686a) **4**
- **Fourth Semester:** 13 Units
  - Concentration Course **3**
  - Leadership in the Social Work Profession & Orgs. **3**
  - Field Practicum II (686b) **4**
  - 1 Elective **3**

### Accelerated Part-time (3 year)

#### Foundation
- **First Semester:** 6 Units
  - Human Behavior & Social Environment I (503) **3**
  - Policy & Practice in Social Service Orgs. (534) **3**
- **Second Semester:** 6 Units
  - Human Behavior & Social Environment II (505) **3**
  - Social Policy (535) **3**
- **Third Semester:** 11 Units
  - Social Work Practice: Individuals & Families (543) **3**
  - Social Work Research (562) **3**
  - Field Practicum (586a) **3**
  - Integrative Learning Seminar (587a) **2**
- **Fourth Semester:** 8 Units
  - Social Work Practice: Groups & Complex Cases (545) **3**
  - Field Practicum (586b) **3**
  - Integrative Learning Seminar (587b) **2**

#### Concentration
- **Fifth Semester:** 16 Units
  - 2 Concentration Courses **6**
  - 2 Electives **6**
  - Field Practicum II (686a) **4**
- **Sixth Semester:** 13 Units
  - Concentration Course **3**
  - Leadership in the Social Work Profession & Orgs. **3**
  - 1 Elective **3**
  - Field Practicum II (686b) **4**

### Part-time (4 year)

#### Foundation
- **First Semester:** 6 Units
  - Human Behavior & Social Environment I (503) **3**
  - Policy & Practice in Social Service Orgs. (534) **3**
- **Second Semester:** 6 Units
  - Human Behavior & Social Environment II (505) **3**
  - Social Policy (535) **3**
- **Third Semester:** 11 Units
  - Social Work Practice: Individuals & Families (543) **3**
  - Social Work Research (562) **3**
  - Field Practicum (586a) **3**
  - Integrative Learning Seminar (587a) **2**
- **Fourth Semester:** 8 Units
  - Social Work Practice: Groups & Complex Cases (545) **3**
  - Field Practicum (586b) **3**
  - Integrative Learning Seminar (587b) **2**

#### Concentration
- **Fifth Semester:** 10 Units
  - 2 Concentration Courses **6**
  - Field Practicum II (686a) **4**
- **Sixth Semester:** 7 Units
  - Concentration Course **3**
  - Field Practicum II (686b) **4**
- **Seventh Semester:** 6-9 Units
  - Leadership in the Social Work Profession & Orgs. **3**
  - 1-2 Elective(s) **3-6**
- **Eighth Semester:** 6 Units
  - 1-2 Elective(s) **6**

*Required if electives are not completed in seventh semester.*
Research
A portfolio of $35 million, the school actively promotes evidence-based social work.

Military Social Work
This unique program prepares students to treat soldiers, veterans and their families.

All School Day
The annual event celebrates diversity and encourages learning about our differences.

Study Abroad
Global immersion programs offer experiential learning in places like India.

High-Profile Speakers
Admiral Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, leads a town hall meeting.

School Social Work
We offer the largest credential-directed training program in Southern California.

Shape your future, Reshape the world
Community Immersion
Faculty-led teams explore urban neighborhoods to learn about diverse communities.

Top 10 Program
U.S. News & World Report ranks us among the best social work graduate programs in the nation.

Field Internships
Students complete 1,050 hours of hands-on training in their local communities.

Web-based Education
Students can now earn a complete MSW through our Virtual Academic Center.

Diversity
USC embraces different cultures, nationalities, religions and points of view.

Trojan Family
Ours is a support network that is truly worldwide and lifelong.

www.usc.edu/socialwork
Student caucuses promote awareness of specific constituencies and special interests, service to the community and leadership development through professional, educational, social and community events. Many caucuses have created signature events that annually yield great success in bringing awareness to important issues or raising funds for a favorite cause.

**Caucuses**

Asian Pacific Islander Social Work Caucus  
Black Social Work Caucus  
Christian Social Work Caucus  
Clinical Social Work Caucus  
Forensic Social Work Caucus  
International Social Work Caucus  
Latino/a Social Work Caucus  
Men in Social Work Caucus  
Orange County Social Work Caucus  
Part-time Social Work Caucus  
Rainbow Alliance Caucus  
San Diego Academic Center Caucus  
Skirball Academic Center Caucus  
Social Action Caucus  
Virtual Academic Center Caucus

**Interest Groups**

Military Social Work Interest Group  
T.E.A.C.H (Trojans for Environmental Awareness Conservation & a Healthy planet)
Real-World Experience

Field internships give you the opportunity to apply what you learn in the classroom and work with real-life clients and agencies under the supervision of a seasoned social worker. All MSW students complete two internships, logging at least 1,050 hours of valuable hands-on training. While these internships build on previous life and work experience, our goal is to help you develop new areas of professional competence. In deciding your placement, we take into consideration your geographic location, experience, future goals, professional interests, agency needs and stipend requirements. Hundreds of social service agencies, government entities, schools, hospitals and businesses participate in USC’s field internship program. And, if you’re a Virtual Academic Center student, we find field education opportunities for you in your hometown!

Typical Field Placements
9am – 5pm
Monday through Friday
16-20 hours per week

www.usc.edu/socialwork
Welcome to Our World

You’re serious about graduate school and a career in social work…and, you have a lot of questions, including, “Where do I go from here?” It’s easy to learn more about us at our website – www.usc.edu/socialwork – or just have a chat with one of our admissions counselors. Plus, you can always meet us in person at an open house, information session or graduate fair. But, don’t wait. Those application deadlines always come too quickly. Especially the ones for financial aid!
Criteria

- A bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university, with an interdisciplinary liberal arts background, including study in the social, behavioral and biological sciences
- Minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0
- Strong academic promise
- Commitment to social work values
- Maturity, sensitivity and self-awareness
- Experience in providing service strongly encouraged

Application Materials

- Online USC Graduate Application
- Supplemental Form: Social Work
- Resume
- Statement of Purpose
- Recommendations (two required, third optional)
- Official Transcripts

The GRE is not required to apply to the MSW program.
You should apply for Financial Aid regardless of your admission status.

To receive maximum eligibility, all documents should be completed and submitted by their respective deadlines.

www.usc.edu/finaid
Scholarships & Stipends

Dean’s Leadership Scholarships*
Awards for students with demonstrated leadership capacity and experience.

School of Social Work MSW Scholarships
Awards for MSW students enrolled in eight or more units.

CalSWEC/IUC Stipends*
Stipend programs of $18,500 funded by the State of California are available in public child welfare and mental health.

Sample 2-Year Package
(Full-time)
2010-2011 Tuition & Fees
$41,120

Typical Awards
Federal Stafford Loan
(Maximum $20,500 per year)
Federal Perkins Loan*
(Maximum $3,500 per year)
Federal Work Study*
(Maximum $6,500 per year)

Sample 3-Year/4-Year Package
(Part-time)
2010-2011 Tuition & Fees
$18,208

Typical Awards
Federal Stafford Loan
(Maximum $20,500 per year)

* Virtual Academic Center applicants are not eligible. However, other financial aid options are available, including the Virtual Academic Center Dean’s Scholarship.

90%

This is the percentage of our MSW students who receive some form of financial aid. Options for financial aid include federal loans, work study funds, scholarships and stipends.

MAY

02

USC Supplemental Form and Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) deadline†
code: 001328

†Deadline does not apply for Virtual Academic Center applicants. VAC applicants are encouraged to apply for financial aid as early as six weeks before the start of class or as soon as possible thereafter.

www.usc.edu/socialwork
Contact Us

Admissions & Financial Aid
MSW Admissions & Financial Aid
applymsw@usc.edu
213.740.2013
MSW@USC Admissions & Financial Aid
sswvac@usc.edu
877.700.4MSW
PhD Admissions & Financial Aid
sswphd@usc.edu
213.821.7657

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Los Angeles, CA  90089-0411
213.740.2013

Academic Centers
Orange County Academic Center
2300 Michelson Drive
Irvine, CA  92612-1351
949.437.0043

Skirball Academic Center
2701 North Sepulveda Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA  90049
310.440.4621

San Diego Academic Center
16870 West Bernardo Drive
San Diego, CA 92127
858.675.0167

Virtual Academic Center
Your Computer
877.700.4MSW