



## Application Checklist for the CSUB MSW Program 2026 Cohort

Thank you for considering the Master of Social Work (MSW) Program at California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB)! Our program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). We are excited to welcome students who are passionate about making a difference through social work. Please note: The information contained in this checklist is for the CSUB MSW Program offered at the Main Campus and is not for the MSW Program offered at the Antelope Valley Campus through CSUB's Extended Education.

To support you through the application process, our admissions team has developed a checklist to help guide you through the steps for applying to the University, the MSW Program, and any financial stipends available through the department. We recommend reviewing this checklist before beginning your application. If you have any questions, please contact our admissions team at [mswadmissions@csub.edu](mailto:mswadmissions@csub.edu).

The CSUB MSW Program admits students once per year for each cohort. While application periods may vary (typically October through January for most cohorts), we encourage you to visit our MSW Admissions webpage for the most up-to-date information about when applications open and deadlines. All required materials must be submitted by 11:59 PM (Pacific Time) on the deadline date.

**Important Note:** Submitting a complete application by the deadline, including all required materials and meeting all requirements, does not guarantee admission to the CSUB MSW Program. Admission is competitive and space is limited. Applicants who were previously admitted and later withdrew from the program are not guaranteed re-admission in a future term. Please note that the program does not provide individual feedback on admissions decisions.

### Checklist Summary

*Here's a quick overview of the steps to take during the application process.*

1. Review program and admissions information including funding opportunities
2. Gather information and documents needed to apply
3. Apply to CSUB and the MSW Program using Cal State Apply
  - a. Apply to the CalWISE Title IV-E Stipend Program (optional) using Cal State Apply
4. Check your inbox and myCSUB for updates
5. Submit official transcripts
6. Complete the MSW Writing Exam
7. Apply to the Public Behavioral Health Training Program (optional)



### Checklist

\_\_\_\_\_ 1) Review program and [admissions information](#) including funding opportunities

**Program requirements:**

- A bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university
- A preferred cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 on a 4.00 scale
  - Applicants with a cumulative GPA of 2.50 to 2.99 may still be considered.
  - If your cumulative GPA is below 3.00, you may request that your last 60 semester or 90 quarter units GPA be considered instead. This GPA must be higher than your cumulative. To request this, please make the appropriate selection in Cal State Apply.
- Proof of writing proficiency as determined by the Department of Social Work
  - The department determines writing proficiency by reviewing the applicant’s MSW Writing Exam.

**The following requirements also apply to advanced-standing applicants:**

- A Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree from a program accredited by the CSWE
- Completion of the BSW within five years prior to admission to the graduate program
- An overall GPA of 3.00 or better in the BSW
- A grade of B or better in all social work courses in the BSW

**Cohort schedules:** We encourage all applicants to review the cohort schedules.

Cohort	Class Schedule	Practicum Schedule	Practicum Duration	Class Start Times
<b>1-Year (Advanced-Standing)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Daytime</b></li> <li>• Tuesdays &amp; Thursdays</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 hrs./wk. M/W/F</li> <li>• Starts in <b>Fall</b></li> </ul>	2 semesters	8:30 am, 11:30 am, 2:30 pm, 5:30 pm
<b>2-Year (Full-Time)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Daytime</b></li> <li>• Tuesdays &amp; Thursdays</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 hrs./wk. M/W/F</li> <li>• Starts <b>Spring (Yr. 1)</b></li> </ul>	3 semesters	8:30 am, 11:30 am, 2:30 pm, 5:30 pm
<b>3-Year (Part-Time)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Evenings</b></li> <li>• Tuesdays &amp; Thursdays</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 hrs./wk. (M–F)</li> <li>• Starts <b>Spring (Yr. 2)</b></li> </ul>	3 semesters	5:30 pm, 7:00 pm, 8:30 pm

Note: Practicum experience for all cohorts typically occurs between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm on weekdays.



### Checklist (continued)

#### \_\_\_\_\_ 1) Review program and [admissions information](#) including funding opportunities (cont.)

**Funding opportunities:** We encourage prospective applicants to explore the various funding opportunities available to support the cost of graduate education. You can find detailed information about tuition, financial aid, and other resources at the following sites: [CSUB's Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships](#) and [CSUB's Graduate Student Center](#).

In addition, the department offers two specific funding opportunities that require separate applications: [CalWISE Title IV-E Stipend Program](#) and [Public Behavioral Health \(PBH\) Training Program](#).

#### \_\_\_\_\_ 2) Gather information and documents needed to apply

Applicants will apply to CSUB and the MSW Program through Cal State Apply. The Cal State Apply application fee is \$70. The fee is non-refundable and cannot be waived.

Here is some of the information you will need to apply:

- Personal information (name, address, etc.)
- Academic history for all colleges and universities attended (GPA, etc.)
- Employment or volunteer history (for entry into our resume template)
- Verification of employment or volunteer history (must be provided with resume)
- Names and email addresses of two academic or professional recommenders

Applicants to the MSW Program can also apply to the CalWISE Title IV-E Stipend Program in Cal State Apply. Here are the documents you will need to apply for the stipend program. You will combine each of these documents into one .pdf for uploading into Cal State Apply.

- [CalWISE Title IV-E Stipend Program Application](#)
- Statement of interest
- Copy of a valid driver's license
- Copy of valid vehicle registration
- Copy of valid vehicle insurance
- Employer statement of support (3-year/part-time cohort applicants only)



### Checklist (continued)

#### 3) Apply to CSUB and the MSW Program using Cal State Apply

Access Cal State Apply and follow the prompts to apply to CSUB and the MSW Program. **Be sure to answer all questions carefully. Once submitted, your application cannot be modified.**

- Complete Quadrants 1, 2, and 4. You do not need to complete Quadrant 3.
- Quadrant 4 has four tabs:
  - 1) Home Tab – Review the summary of the program
  - 2) Questions Tab – Review and acknowledge each question.
    - Some questions require you to select an option.
  - 3) Documents Tab – Upload documents including:
    - Resume and verification documents (required for all applicants)
    - Certified translator materials (optional)
    - CalWISE Title IV-E documents (required if applying for stipend)
  - 4) Recommendations Tab – Send requests for recommendations
    - Enter two names and email addresses of individuals (like professors or supervisors – not family or friends) who can speak to your academic or professional experiences and potential as a social worker.
    - Let your recommenders know that they will receive an email from myliaison.com that includes a link to an online recommendation form. Recommenders do not need to submit a separate letter.
    - Recommenders must submit their recommendations before the application deadline.
    - If applying for the advanced-standing cohort, one of your recommendations must come from an individual associated with your practicum placement (like a practicum instructor or practicum supervisor) or your academic advisor for your BSW degree.

Need help with Cal State Apply? [Visit the Cal State Apply Applicant Help Center.](#)



### Checklist (continued)

#### \_\_\_\_\_ 4) Check your inbox and myCSUB for updates

Applicants should check their myCSUB To Do List and complete items promptly. Please note that the Department of Social Work does not maintain the To Do List in myCSUB. It may take time for the items to be cleared by the Office of Graduate Admissions.

#### \_\_\_\_\_ 5) Submit official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended

Applicants who graduated from CSUB/will graduate from CSUB in Spring 2026 – You do not need to request transcripts from CSUB. You do need to request transcripts from colleges or universities you attended after CSUB. Confirm that all transcripts for transfer credits are on file with CSUB. Please check your To Do List for more details.

All other applicants graduating with a degree in Spring 2026 – Please submit a transcript through the most recent semester. If admitted to the MSW Program, you will need to provide an official transcript after graduating in the spring. Please check your To Do List for more details.

Send all transcripts to [incomingtranscripts@csub.edu](mailto:incomingtranscripts@csub.edu). Do not send transcripts to the Department of Social Work.

#### \_\_\_\_\_ 6) Complete the MSW Writing Exam at the CSUB Testing Center

Applicants to the program must complete the MSW Writing Exam after applying through Cal State Apply. During the exam, you will respond to the prompts provided by the department. Applicants will have two hours to respond to the prompts. Applicants are encouraged to schedule their writing exam before January 15, 2026, as there are a limited number of testing dates and times available. Please contact the CSUB Testing Center at 661-654-3373 to schedule your exam. The CSUB Testing Center will send the results of your writing exam directly to the department. The writing exam costs \$45.

Applicants living outside the Kern County area should contact the Department of Social Work at [mswadmissions@csub.edu](mailto:mswadmissions@csub.edu) to discuss testing options.



### Checklist (continued)

**\_\_\_\_\_ 7) Apply to the Public Behavioral Health (PBH) Training Program (optional)**

Applicants to the MSW Program can also apply to the Public Behavioral Health Training Program if not applying to the CalWISE Title IV-E Stipend Program. Please visit the [PBH Page](#) on our site to learn more and apply.