About the School

Commitment to Social Justice
Since its inception in 1899, San Francisco State University's (then San Francisco State Normal School) teaching methods have been described as “radical.” This description still applies to our coursework and approach today. The School of Social Work's social justice mission remains beautifully aligned with the legacy and practice of SF State's social justice history and activism.

Deep Roots at SF State
The BASW and MSW programs have been an integral part of SF State for decades. The BASW program began in the 1930s and the MSW program started in 1968. In fact, we just celebrated our 50th anniversary in Spring 2018.

Deep Roots in the Community
We have more than 5,000 graduates in the Bay Area and beyond making profound impacts on individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.

Contact Us
HSS 222
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
(415) 338-1003
socwork@sfsu.edu

Student Organizations
We have three student clubs for interested students. Please contact faculty advisors for details:

For BASW students:
SWAVE
Faculty advisor:
Sonia, Melara, smelara@sfsu.edu

For MSW students:
MSWC
Faculty advisor:
Jerry, Shapiro, jshap@sfsu.edu

For both BASW and MSW students:
PhiAlpha National SW Honor Society
Faculty advisor:
Yeon-Shim Lee, yl375@sfsu.edu

socwork.sfsu.edu
Mission

The mission of the School of Social Work (SSW) is to educate diverse learners to achieve progressive development and change throughout the Bay Area and beyond. The School cultivates ethical leadership for social justice and promotes professional advocacy, versatility, activism and cultural humility.

Accreditation

The SF State School of Social Work is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

Degrees Offered

- Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW)
- Master of Social Work (MSW)

Information for Applicants

We accept BASW and MSW applications each fall for admission to our programs the following year.

BASW applicants who are continuing SF State students must have completed the Lower Division General Education curriculum (or equivalent) and have junior standing (60 units or more) at SF State, have an all-college total GPA of 2.0 (California residents) or 2.4 (non-residents) or higher at the time of application, and have completed the five required prerequisite courses with an “A” or higher prior to admission into the BASW Program.

BASW applicants who are transferring into the BASW program must be eligible for admission to undergraduate studies at SF State and must apply to our program through CalState Apply. GPA standards match those for continuing SF State students.

MSW applicants must meet the general university requirements pertaining to the admission of graduate students. In addition, applicants must demonstrate academic and professional commitments to Social Work and the values and philosophical foundations of the School’s mission. To be considered for admission into the MSW Program, you must apply for and be admitted into both Graduate Studies and the School of Social Work.

Field Education

Field represents the heart of social work education. Internships provide the opportunity to apply the theoretical learning gained in the classroom to real world situations with clients, colleagues, organizations, and communities. Our placement process is student-driven, and students are supported in choosing individually tailored internships within a wide variety of settings. The School has internship agreements with over 300 public and private non-profit social and human service agencies.

Study Abroad

BASW students have an opportunity to participate in long-term study abroad through bilateral exchange programs and the California State University International Programs (CSU-IP).

BASW students participate in their internships during their senior academic year, while MSW students have internships in both years.

Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Project

In January 1993, the California Department of Social Services contracted with the California Social Work Education Center (CaS-WEC) to provide public child welfare education to Social Work students. Since then, federal Title IV-E stipends have been given to MSW students who qualify for the program. For every stipend year, students must agree to work a comparable year in public child welfare upon their graduation.

MSW PPSC Credential Program

The School of Social Work offers a Pupil Personnel Services Credential (PPSC) in Social Work to support the case management and mental health needs of students in our public schools. Two additional classes are required for PPSC students: SW 865- Social Work Practice in Public Schools and SW 760- Social Work and The Law. Candidates must complete a field internship at a school and their supervisor must hold the PPSC. PPSC candidates must also pass the CBEST test to qualify for the credential.

Visit socwork.sfsu.edu to learn more about our programs.