Welcome!
The meeting will begin soon!
Celeste A. Jones, MSW, PhD, Program Coordinator, cajones@csuchico.edu

Melissa Cheatham, DL Advisor, mcheatham@csuchico.edu
Agenda

• Introduction of DL Team
• What is an MSW Degree?
• MSW Three-Year Program Admission Highlights
• MSW One-Year Program
• MSW DL Program at a Glance
• Field Program at a Glance
• Application Steps
• Beginning the Application Process — Setting up your account
• MSW Pre-Requisite Courses
• Personal Statement
• References
• Contact Information
• Questions
What is a Master of Social Work degree?

• An MSW is advanced professional degree with specialization/concentration that prepares you for advanced generalist practice at the graduate level
• Expand one’s knowledge and skills beyond direct practice
• A requirement for social workers who wish to be licensed
MSW DL Three-Year Program
Admission Highlights

The Three-Year MSW DL program admits students once every three years, with the next cohort of students starting fall 2021.

The application period opens fall 2020 for the next three-year cohort, the 2021-2024 cohort. Click here to learn more about applying.

Students interested in the Distributed Learning Three-Year MSW program must also apply to the CSU, Chico Graduate School.

For admission and program information, please visit the Office of Graduate Studies.
MSW DL One-Year Program

Please Note: the next 1-year MSW DL cohort does not begin until summer 2023.

The One-Year MSW DL program is an accelerated, advanced-standing program offered once every three years when spots become available.

This cohort joins the last year of the three-year MSW DL program. The next one-year cohort will begin summer 2023 through spring 2024.

The application period will be open in the fall semester 2022.

Students interested in the Distributed Learning One-Year MSW program must also apply to the CSU, Chico Graduate School. For admission and program information, please visit the Office of Graduate Studies.
3-year MSW DL Program at a Glance

- Three-Year MSW DL cohort beginning fall 2021
  - **Cohort model** starting 2021, 2024, 2027, etc. – Admission every three years
  - **Application opens October 1, 2020**
  - Please note, the one-year DL MSW program joins the three-year cohort in the last year of the three-year program. The 1-year application is not available this fall.
  - **MSW Three-Year DL Course Sequence 2021-2024 (PDF)**

- **Modalities:** Hybrid courses consisting of online (synchronous and asynchronous) via Blackboard Learn, video conferencing/webinar through Zoom platform, and on-campus, face-to-face weekends

- **On-campus, face-to-face weekends:**
  - Location: CSU, Chico
  - Duration: 2 full weekends each semester (fall, spring, and summer)
MSW DL Field Education at a Glance

- **Field practicum (the ♥ of social work)**
- MSW DL 3-year students must fulfill the **1200 field practicum hours** requirement as outlined:
  - First year - 0 hours
  - Second year - 480 hours (or 16 hours per week)
  - Third year - 720 hours (or 24 hours per week)

- **MSW field practicum site/internship placement:**
  - Employment site (you must meet Field Placement requirements)
  - Non-employment site
  - Field practicum hours must be completed in one of the following **Northern California Superior Region 18 counties**: Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, and Yuba
How do I apply to the MSW DL program?

**STEP ONE**
- Have at least a Bachelor’s degree
- Have a GPA of 3.0 (lower than 3.0 may be accepted with conditional status)
- Meet all prerequisites with C or better:
  - Human Bio/Physio/Anatomy
  - Human Diversity
  - Statistics
  - MSW and Liberal Arts Pre-requisite Worksheet

**STEP TWO**
- Fully read the MSW Application site and FAQs
- Read the step-by-step Application Walk-through
- Read the Application Guidelines (PDF)

**STEP THREE**
- Complete CSU Graduate Admissions Application for Chico Campus) through Cal State Apply

Note: If you are a first-time Chico State applicant, you must submit your Cal State Apply application at least 5 business days prior to beginning and submitting your MSW program application. This allows time for your account and student ID # to be created, which you will need to begin your MSW program application.

**STEP FOUR**
- Complete School of Social Work MSW Program Application online

**The application process is open October 1 through January 15**
New Applicants: Creating a New Account
(for students who did not graduate from Chico State)

The MSW application process must be initiated at least 5 business days prior to submitting your application.

1. Make sure your Cal State Apply application has been submitted.

2. Four business days (Monday-Friday) after submitting the Cal State Apply application, contact the School of Social Work by emailing swrk@csuchico.edu. In that email, please include your first and last name and the month and date of your birth (e.g., 07/23).

3. Obtain your Chico State ID number from the School of Social Work.

4. Create your account (generate your Wildcat email and Student Portal) using the Account Initialization Tool.

5. Allow one business day for our account records to update.

For troubleshooting and technical challenges with the online MSW application, contact Jaime Nelson at jlnelson@csuchico.edu.

For troubleshooting and questions about the Cal State Apply application, contact them directly at 1-857-304-2087.
Prerequisite Coursework

- In the application, applicants will be asked to list each course prerequisite title, year, and semester attended, indicate college/institution, units earned, and list if this course has been completed or is in progress.
- Courses may be counted more than once where applicable.
- MSW Program Prerequisites:
  - Statistics
  - Human Biology
  - Ethnic Diversity or Multi-Cultural Studies
  - These three prerequisites require a grade of C or higher, and may also be used to meet the Liberal Arts requirements below.
- Liberal Arts Prerequisites:
  - Quantitative Reasoning
  - Written & Oral Communication
  - Reasoning
  - Humanities
  - Natural Science
  - Behavioral & Social Sciences
  - Personal Development & Lifelong Learning
- Please visit the [application website](#) for more detailed information about the prerequisites and a prerequisite worksheet.
Personal Statement

Prepare a single document that contains one-page responses to EACH of the following questions. The essay must be double spaced using 12-point type, and be grammatically correct. Please include your name as a header on each page and include a subheading for each question.

1. Discuss your desire to pursue a degree in social work.

2. Describe any personal/lived experience you have had overcoming hardship or oppression and/or working or volunteering in a social or economically disadvantaged communities.

3. Discuss your unique personal qualities that you bring to the Social Work field. Also discuss areas that may need improvement and any personal biases you may be aware of that are relevant to your performance as a professional social worker.

4. Please describe an instance that posed a challenge in your professional work experience when you received critical feedback. Describe how you handled that feedback.

5. Applicants with a GPA lower than 3.0: What is your GPA and is it reflective of your ability to succeed in graduate school?

6. FOR DISTRIBUTED LEARNING (DL) APPLICANTS ONLY: In a paragraph or two, describe how the DL option is a good fit for your educational goals and emphasize your commitment to the north state after graduation.

Tips:
• Use each question as your header
• Use a professional tone
• Be specific and relevant
• Use self-reflective anecdotes with details about past experiences
• Show your individuality and what makes you stand out
• Be vulnerable, honest, and speak from your heart
• Draft, edit, repeat. Have a friend or coworker read your statements to provide feedback on content and grammar.

Links:
• Writing a Winning Personal Statement for Grad School
• 6 Tips for Writing a Great Graduate School Personal Statement (With Examples)
• Purdue OWL: Writing the Personal Statement
References

Each applicant needs 3 references total.

Applicants with a BSW will need one of each type of reference
• Academic Reference
• Professional Reference
• Field Practicum Reference

Applicants who do not have a BSW need at least one of each to total 3
• Academic Reference
• Professional Reference

Tips:
• Choose references from a diverse range of experiences (meaning, not all from the same level of work or from the same work place)
• Ask your references in advance for participation and give them a heads up that they will be receiving an automated email
• Remind references to check junk/spam folders in their email
• Login to the application to check on the status of references and send friendly reminders if needed
Reference Process

• Applicants will provide names and contact information for each reference.
• Once a reference is added they will immediately be contacted by the email address provided asking them to fill out a reference form.
• Please ensure that the email provided is correct.
• We recommend you inform your reference they will be receiving an email with instructions on how to provide their feedback.
Reference Email & Form

Social Work Program Application Reference

To: Melissa Cheatham

Today at 10:04 AM

Hello Reference First Name Last Name,

Melissa Cheatham is applying for admission to the Master of Social Work (MSW) Program at California State University, Chico CA and has chosen you to submit a Letter of Reference.

Please follow this link to submit a Letter of Reference: https://swrk.csuchico.edu/ReferenceHome/index#/reference-submit/3107c682-37ff-41c1-82e3-d1af13a4172b

Your Letter of Reference must be submitted before 5:00pm on January 15th, 2021.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact the School of Social Work by e-mail: mswadmissions@csuchico.edu

Thank you,

Jaime Nelson
MSW Admissions
School of Social Work
California State University, Chico

Reference Form

Melissa Cheatham is applying for admission to the Master of Social Work (MSW) Program at California State University, Chico, CA. Your assessment of this Applicant will greatly assist the MSW Admissions Committee.

Melissa Cheatham has disagreed to waive their right to review your recommendation, therefore your submission will be viewable upon request by Melissa Cheatham.

Please write a brief reference and/or attach a letter to this form. Please include how long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?

What is your overall recommendation of this Applicant?

- Highly Recommended - I highly recommend this Applicant for admission and feel that he/she has the capability to perform at a superior level.

- Recommended - I recommend this Applicant for admission and feel his/her performance should be comparable to that of most graduate students.

- Marginally Recommended - I feel that the Applicant’s qualifications are marginal; but if admitted, this Applicant would greatly benefit from study in the program.

- Not Recommended - I do not recommend this Applicant for admission to the CSU, Chico School of Social Work MSW Program.

Submit
CONTACT US

Celeste A. Jones, MSW, PhD
Distributed Learning Coordinator
530-864-2396
cajones@csuchico.edu

Melissa Cheatham
Distributed Learning Advisor
530-898-5235
mcheatham@csuchico.edu

Jame Nelson
SWRK Support Staff
MSW Application Troubleshooting
jnelson@csuchico.edu

Meka Klungtvet-Morano, MSW
MSW Co-Director &
Title IV-E Project Coordinator
530-898-6874
mklungtvet-morano@csuchico.edu

Chelsea Cornell, MSW
MSW Co-Director &
Title IV-E Project Coordinator
530-898-6754
ccornell1@csuchico.edu
Questions?