

SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

Prerequisites for MSW Program

MSW applicants must demonstrate that their academic background includes instruction in the behavioral and biological sciences. All entering students are expected to have prior coursework in the liberal arts that will promote the development of an educational perspective, values, and abilities necessary for professional social work practice. This liberal arts underpinning provides theoretical perspectives that facilitate understanding of factors that influence human behavior such as human biology, psychology, sociology, political science, economics, history, and encompasses the natural and physical sciences, arts and humanities, and social sciences. Undergraduate general education requirements commonly provide much of this liberal arts base. Note this requirement DOES NOT require the student to have a “Liberal Arts or Liberal Studies” major.

Applicants must have either completed the general education requirements at Fresno State or a similar institution and have completed at least one course each that focuses exclusively on human biological development over the life span and health issues, qualitative or quantitative data analysis in the social sciences or health sciences, and ethnic/cultural systems or women’s studies prior to acceptance to the MSW program.

The following courses found at CSU Fresno meet the prerequisite requirements for admission to the MSW. Please note that this listing is not exhaustive and could include similar lower and upper division courses taught at other colleges or universities. To find equivalent courses at a community college, see www.assist.org. Consultation is available from the chair of admissions or the MSW graduate program coordinator regarding eligible courses.

To inquire whether a course you have already taken meets one of the requirements listed below, you should make your request in writing (a brief memo or letter), explaining how the course(s) you took meet the requirement. Include a copy of the course description. In some situations, a copy of the course syllabus may be your best documentation.

1. Human Biological Development over the Life Span & Health Issues (3 units)

Contemporary Health Issues (HS 90), Rural Health (HS 129), Women’s Health (HS 130), Introduction to Human Disease (HS 135), Biological Psychology (Psych 36), Behavioral Neuroscience (Psych 125), Psychobiological Bases of Behavior (Psych 225T). (Health I at the community college level meets the Human Biological requirement. It is equivalent to HS 90.)

2. Data Analysis in the Social Sciences or Health Sciences (3 units)

Any quantitative/statistics or qualitative data analysis course taught in Social Work, Social Sciences, or Allied Health field, i.e., CSU Fresno courses: *SWRK-176, *Health Science 92, *Psychology 42, *Sociology 25, 175, Criminology or Education *ERF-153, or similar course taken as a requirement for an earned degree in one of these disciplines. Please note that we require a course that focuses exclusively on the analysis of quantitative or qualitative data rather than on research design. General Education statistics taught at the community college is not accepted.

* Check with the department as enrollment may be restricted to “majors” only.

3. Ethnic/Cultural Systems, Women’s Studies or Disability Studies (3 units)

An upper division course(s) in these areas that speaks to populations at risk and/or deepens your cross-cultural awareness by expanding your ability to identify, understand and appreciate the differences among individuals with respect to race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, socioeconomic background, or religion/spirituality. Applicants are strongly encouraged to have taken courses not only within their own reference group but to have extended themselves to those with whom they are much less familiar. Such upper division courses are typically found but not limited to Anthropology, Armenian Studies, Asian American Studies, Chicano, and Latin American Studies, Criminology, Africana and American-Indian Studies, Gerontology, Psychology, Sociology and Women’s Studies.

BEFORE ENROLLING IN A COURSE NOT LISTED ABOVE OR OFFERED BY AN INSTITUTION OTHER THAN FRESNO STATE, PLEASE CLEAR IT WITH:

Mitzi Lowe, Chair, Admissions Committee at 287-3996/ m Lowe@csufresno.edu or
Jane Yamaguchi, Graduate Program Coordinator at 278-7315/ janey@csufresno.edu