

SDSU | San Diego State
University

School of Social Work



**Bachelor of Arts Degree
in Social Work
Student Information Packet**

2026/27

Cultivating the knowledge for global change...one community at a time.

The Mission of the Baccalaureate Program

The mission of the BASW program is to prepare generalist social work practitioners for ethical, professional, and evidence-informed social work practice. The program focuses on entry-level social work practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities and is the foundation for advanced social work education. The program is committed to advancing equity and social justice, promoting human rights, and engaging in social action to enhance individual and community well-being in the diverse US-Mexico border-connected region, Tribal and Indigenous communities, and beyond.

Program Goals

Consistent with the Mission of the School, the Baccalaureate Program of the School of Social Work (BASW) prepares generalist practitioners for responsible, competent, entry-level social work practice with diverse populations in the Southern California area, in public and nonprofit social service agencies. It also provides the necessary foundation for advanced social work education. The goals of the BASW are to prepare graduates to:

1. Function effectively as entry-level professionals in beginning social work practice.
2. Demonstrate sensitivity to the diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural background of the Southern California border region and are able to work effectively in a variety of roles to meet the needs of the region's varied communities.
3. Understand and use social work values and ethics throughout their professional practice.
4. Identify, evaluate and apply existing research evidence to guide their practice decision-making.
5. Understand the contexts and purposes of social work practice, the changing nature of those contexts, and the nature and the dynamics of organizational behavior.
6. Demonstrate commitment to lifelong professional growth and learning.

Did you know?

- San Diego State University (SDSU) was established in 1897 and is a comprehensive university that has been classified as a R1 institution by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.
- SDSU is the largest of 23 campuses in the California State University system and is one of the largest Universities in the Western United States (5th largest in California).
- SDSU, a Hispanic-Serving Institution and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution, has a diverse student body of over 39,000. The main campus is situated on 283 acres atop a mesa in San Diego.
- The architectural richness of the campus reflects a combination of historical “mission” theme and contemporary design. For more information about SDSU visit www.sdsu.edu

A National Reputation for Academic Excellence

SDSU, designated as a R1 university, is ranked among the top 6.7 percent of higher education institutions in the United States. As you pursue your bachelors degree, you will learn from distinguished faculty, engaged in teaching and research.

Research Opportunities

SDSU ranks as the No. 1 California State University in federal research support, and as one of the top public research universities in California.

During fiscal year 2023-2024, faculty members were awarded a record-breaking \$229.8 million in grants and contracts. SDSU's teacher-scholar model ensures that you receive instruction from and collaborate on research projects with top faculty. Furthermore, our interesting geographic location, cosmopolitan context and widely diverse population provide unique opportunities for field work and applied inquiry.

San Diego Community: An International Hub

Known for its near-perfect climate, 70 miles of beaches, 93 golf courses, the world famous San Diego Zoo and Sea World, and breathtaking deserts and beaches to explore. San Diego is also recognized globally as a growing academic and research Mecca. San Diego's geographic location and diverse population help make the area a dynamic international hub.



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Overview

BASW Program Virtual Tour

The 65 unit undergraduate major is designed to apply to a wide variety of social work practice settings. The preparatory course work for this major includes a basis in the liberal arts requiring classes in human biology, economics, public health, psychology, sociology, statistics and social work. The upper division curriculum is intensive and exciting. It encompasses course work in social work practice, human behavior, cultural pluralism, social policy, macro level practice, and research. Elective seminars are available in specialized fields such as child welfare, aging, alcohol and other drugs, and family studies. A field work practicum experience is also required. The minor in social work consists of 24 units and is strongly recommended to all students with majors in the social and behavioral sciences who wish to broaden their competencies in a related discipline.

Program Details

A detailed program description may be found in the **Social Work section of the SDSU General Catalog**.

Applying

Applicants to the BA program must complete the **CSU Undergraduate application**. Select option from “first time freshmen” or “transfer.” SDSU accepts applications until capacities are reached. All new students in the Social Work program are considered pre-majors and are assigned the a pre-major Code. The code will stay in effect until students complete the 21 unit preparation for the major course work described in the catalog and the Social Work Undergraduate Student Handbook.

Two of the seven pre-major courses (SWORK 110 and SWORK 120) are available to community college students through “cross enrollment.” SDSU currently has an articulation agreement with Cuyamaca College (SW 100 and 110), San Diego City College (HUMS 110 and 120), and Palomar College (SWHS 110 and 120).

The following link enables incoming freshmen to “map out” their major academic plan: **SDSU MyMap**. Please see the Undergraduate Advisor if you are a transfer student for assistance with mapping out your academic plan.

Useful Websites

You may apply on-line for university admittance and scholarships. Following is a list of web sites that will provide you general and specific information on particular programs and activities:

- Social Work: socialwork.sdsu.edu
- Admissions Information: <http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/admissions/>
- Admissions Application: <https://www.calstate.edu/apply>
- Financial Aid/Scholarships: <https://sacd.sdsu.edu/financial-aid>
- Housing and Residential Education: <https://housing.sdsu.edu/>
- University Catalog: <http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/catalog/quickref.html>
- Campus Tours: <http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/admissions/yours/tours.html>
- Student Life and Leadership: <http://sll.sdsu.edu>

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Hepner Hall 119 / 619-594-1481
socialwork.sdsu.edu

Preparation for the Pre-Major/Major/Minor

Pre-Majors

All new students to this program are considered pre-majors and are assigned the pre-major code. The code will stay in effect until students complete the 21 unit preparation for the major coursework described in the Handbook at <https://socialwork.sdsu.edu/student-resources/references/basw-handbook/>. Pre-majors may also enroll in the upper division out of department electives, and SWORK 350 and SWORK 360, as long as they have completed 60 units or more. The approved “out of department electives” are described in the [Undergraduate Social Work Handbook \(pdf\)](#). Admission priority will be given to those transfer students who have completed the seven pre-major course requirements prior to enrolling in SDSU.

Majors

All pre-major courses must be completed before declaring a major. Students must declare a major to take SWORK 350, SWORK 360, SWORK 370,

SWORK 361, SWORK 382, SWORK 381, and SWORK 391. Students must change to the major code prior to mySDSU at my.sdsu.edu registration or the computer will not permit access to any social work course.

Declaration Of Pre-Major, Major/Minor Or Transferring

To declare the major, pre-major or minor, please review the requirements in the undergraduate handbook <https://socialwork.sdsu.edu/student-resources/references/basw-handbook/>. You will need to contact the major advisor, Dr. Jennifer Cosio, jcosio@sdsu.edu, to submit the Declaration of Major/Minor form via mySDSU. **If you are a transfer student accepted into a different major than social work, and you would like to switch to social work or add it as a second major (double major), our department will not be able to accommodate this request due to being an impacted major.**

Handbook

The Social Work Undergraduate Handbook describes all requirements of the Undergraduate Social Work Program. It is available online at <https://socialwork.sdsu.edu/student-resources/references/basw-handbook/>



Undergraduate Field Education (SWORK 489)

Field education is an essential element of the curriculum in the SDSU School of Social Work. It is the field practicum learning experience that allows the student to integrate classroom theory and knowledge and practice skills in developing professional competence and identity. This application includes social work theory in real-life practice situations, skill building, and upholding professional standards of social work ethics and values, under the professional supervision of qualified social workers in their role of field instructors.

Please see field manual located at <https://socialwork.sdsu.edu/field/student-resources/field-manual/>

Three Electives Required In Social Work Major

Although all electives can be taken in social work, only two are required to be a social work electives such as: SWORK 400, SWORK 410, SWORK 430, SWORK 497, SWORK 580, SWORK 590, SWORK 596, and GERO 520. One SWORK elective may be from the approved out of department elective list in the handbook. One of these out of department electives can also be used to meet the GE requirement for an upper division exploration elective. Please be sure the elective you choose is on the approved GE Exploration list in the catalog as well as the approved out of department list for social work.

Out of Department Electives

The approved out of department electives are listed

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in the Undergraduate Handbook. You may use one of your social work electives to also meet the requirements for one upper division general education elective (please be sure the elective YOU choose is on the approved GE list in the catalog).

Financial Aid

- SDSU Financial Aid and Scholarships
<https://sacd.sdsu.edu/financial-aid>

California Title IV-E BASW Stipend

The SDSU School of Social Work, Child Welfare Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) California Title IV-E Education Program is designed to advance the education of the public child welfare workforce. Similar to the existing MSW California Title IV-E Education Program, this program provides specialized education at the undergraduate level with financial support. Applicants must be enrolled full-time at SDSU and be a declared undergraduate social work major with a minimum of 2.4 GPA.

The application process occurs in the early Spring semester conjointly with the undergraduate social work field internship application. Announcements are made through the School of Social Work Undergraduate Announcements by email to social work majors and on the BASW California Title IV-E Education Program website. For more information, please visit socialwork.sdsu.edu/stipend or contact Cal IV-E Project Coordinator, Amalia Hernandez at amalia.hernandez@sdsu.edu. Funding will be available on a year-to-year basis.

Applicants must be 21 years and older to apply for the stipend program. Additionally, funding is limited and is available on a year-to-year basis. The program for the current academic year, 2026-2027, is not offering any stipends, and funding for the upcoming academic year remains uncertain.

Undergraduate Program Coordinator

Jennifer Cosio, Ed.D., MSW
Office hours by appointment
(619) 594-3870
jcosio@sdsu.edu

Undergraduate Advisors

Jennifer Cosio, Ed.D., MSW
Office hours: by appointment
via EAB Navigate or at
jcosio@sdsu.edu

Christie Jimenez, MSW, PPSC
Office hours: by appointment
via EAB Navigate or at
cojimenez@sdsu.edu

Field Education Faculty

Amanda Lee, LCSW
Director of Field Education (MSW Division)
Office hours listed in HH-119
(619) 594-5144
amanda.lee@sdsu.edu

Carmen Robles, LCSW
BASW Field Coordinator
Office hours listed in HH-105
ccrobles@sdsu.edu

Career Services for Social Work Students

Should you need assistance with preparing for the internship or job searching process, please contact Esmeralda Sanchez, essanchez@sdsu.edu. She is the Career Services Coordinator specially servicing our students from the School of Social Work.

Graduation Requirements

Please see the SDSU General Catalog for additional information about graduation requirements and visit Office of Evaluations for accurate, up to date information on the following topics: graduation writing assessment,

foreign language, and general education.

Catalogs

Access the catalog online: <http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/catalog/quickref.html>

Electronic Communication

Information about the University (including the entire undergraduate catalog) can be found on the Internet/www address: www.sdsu.edu. The address for the School of Social Work, San Diego State University-home page is socialwork.sdsu.edu

SDSU Undergraduate Social Work students contact our School of Social Work office at SOCWORK@sdsu.edu to participate in the school's e-mail information network. All students must use an SDSU email account for all SDSU related communication. To access your SDSU email account, please go to: <https://it.sdsu.edu/help/google>

Admissions

For Admissions information, please visit admissions.sdsu.edu or apply at Cal State Apply online at <https://www.calstate.edu/apply>. Applications are also available at California Community Colleges and on the web: www.sdsu.edu under "Prospective Students". To attend in the Fall you must submit an application October 1 – November 30th. **SDSU School of Social Work does not offer Spring Admission.**



I. Pre-Major – 24 units

- ☐ SWORK 110 (Fall and Summer)
- ☐ SWORK 120 (Spring only)
- ☐ ECON 101 or ECON 102
- ☐ Biology (100, 101, 204, or 261)
- ☐ Psych 101
- ☐ Soc 101
- ☐ Statistics (Stats 250, Psych 280 or Soc 201)

If taking course at a community college, check for equivalent course number by using Transferology (<https://www.transferology.com/school/sdsu>)

II. Major (Need to declare major status before taking these courses with exception of SWORK 350 & 360)

1. 300 Level Social Work Courses –21 units

Please note: classes below are semester specific. These courses should be taken in junior year, exactly as shown.

Fall ONLY

- ☐ SWORK 350 (Open to non-majors)
- ☐ SWORK 370
- ☐ SWORK 382 (Requires a minimum grade of “C”)
- ☐ SWORK 391

Spring ONLY

- ☐ SWORK 360 (Open to non-majors)
- ☐ SWORK 361
- ☐ SWORK 381 (Requires a minimum grade of “C”)

2. Social Work Practice and Field Courses –14 units/senior year

- ☐ Must have attained senior status (90 units) by the end of spring semester prior to entering field practicum and have successfully passed all 300 level Social Work courses (SWORK 350, 360, 361, 370, 381, 382, and 391).
- ☐ Must attend the Mandatory Planning Meeting (usually at the start of spring semester during junior year) in order to be considered eligible for field practicum.
- ☐ Students will NOT be eligible for field (SWORK 483 and SWORK 489) if they are not at senior status (less than 90 units) or do not attend the Mandatory Planning Meeting.
- ☐ SWORK 483 A/SWORK 489A (fall semester only, must have a “C” or better in 483 A to continue to SWORK 483B)
- ☐ SWORK 483 B/SWORK 489B (spring semester only) (spring semester only, must have a “C” or better to pass and graduate)

3. Upper Division Electives – 9 units

- ☐ Complete 3 upper division electives. Students must select at least two courses from the electives offered by the School of Social Work: SWORK400 Child Welfare, SWORK410 Family Issues, SWORK 430 Alcohol Drug Prevention & Intervention, SWORK 590 Loss and Grief, SWORK 596 and/or other selected topics or GERO 520 Programs for the Aging; and one elective may be selected from the out of department elective list – see Undergraduate Social Work Handbook for information on out of department courses: <https://socialwork.sdsu.edu/student-resources/references/basw-handbook/>
- ☐ Language Requirement
- ☐ Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR)
- ☐ International Requirement (student admitted fall 2024 and after, do not have an international requirement)

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS CASE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIZATION

For the Community Corrections Case Management Specialty: A minimum of 9 units in the criminal justice major in lieu of social work electives. Required courses are CJ 300 Crime, Law, and Justice, and two of the following: CJ 330 Corrections; CJ 543 Community Resources; CJ 531 Probation and Parole; CJ 321 Juvenile Justice; and SWORK498A/SWORK498B Field Education/Placement in a Correctional Setting. Special application including a one page essay regarding interest in the corrections field and a recent transcript are to be submitted to Dr. Jennifer Cosio on the same date as the Field Application is due, usually in February of spring semester.

REQUIREMENTS: 3.0 overall GPA and ability to pass a background check.



Tip 1:

Visit the following items on my.SDSU at my.SDSU.edu or the www.sdsu.edu website for more helpful information:

- Academic Calendar (provides important information on semester dates)
- General Catalog (provides on-line access to catalog)
- Class Schedule (provides listing of classes arranged by departments)

Tip 2:

Once admitted to SDSU, understand that there are two types of advising:

General Advising

Section in SDSU General Catalog that covers graduation requirements for the Bachelor's degree.

Most first-year students will be assigned to a General Advisor who can assist with course planning for the General Education Requirements. You can access your degree evaluation aka Degree Audit Report via my.SDSU to check your progress.

NOTE: You can download this report from my.SDSU once you are admitted to SDSU.

Social Work Advising

Provides guidance on course sequence for social work premajor and major courses.

The social work advisors are **Dr. Jennifer Cosio** jcosio@sdsu.edu and **Christie Jimenez**, sw-undergrad@sdsu.edu, and they can be reached via email or you can schedule an appointment by logging into EAB Navigate.

It is also very important to access the School of Social Work's website socialwork.sdsu.edu. Go to "Undergraduate Programs" then, BA in Social Work," and then click on "BASW Curriculum." Please pay close attention to when courses are offered (they follow sequence and vary by semester).

Tip 3:

The following links will provide information regarding next steps, SDSU's online application status check, housing, financial aid, and more.

First-Year Student

If entering as a First-Year student <http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/admissions/freshmen/index.html>

Transfer Student

If entering as a Transfer Student <http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/admissions/transfers/index.html>

NOTE: if entering as transfer, it helps to take SWORK 110 & SWORK 120 at City College (HUMS 110 and 120), Cuyamaca College (SW 110 and 120), Palomar College (SWHS 100 and 120), or cross enroll prior to transferring to SDSU.

Tip 4:

Social Work is an impacted major. It requires successful completion of "pre-major" coursework and then declaration of the major. Pre-major students should earn C grade or higher in all the preparation for the major courses and a minimum of 60 units to declare social work major. Additionally, the impact GPA is a minimum of 2.7. See course sequence handout for more information on the courses.

Important: Check your transcript on my.SDSU at my.SDSU.edu to see if your status is "social work pre-major." If not, you will need to schedule an appointment with your major advisor.

Tip 5:

Stay focused on your plan for graduation. Both, the General Advisors and Social Work Major Advisors can help you create an educational plan.

School of Social Work Student Associations 2026-2027

Asian Pacific Islander Social Work Association (APISWSA) - Dormant

Awareness of the API culture within the social work profession; to recognize API social work professionals; to network and provide outreach and community service. **Contact Advisor: Dr. Jong Min, jwmin@sdsu.edu**

Black Social Work Association (BSWA)

Awareness of black culture within the social work profession; to recognize black social work professionals; to network and provide outreach and community service. **Contact Advisor: Dr. Norman Jackson, ndjackson@sdsu.edu**

Graduate Social Work Association (GSWA)

The GSWA interfaces between the student body and the administration and faculty of the School of Social work. GSWA officers make effort to identify the needs and concerns of students and bring those issues to the attention of the faculty. Additionally, the GSWA organizes both academic and social activities for graduate students. **Contact Advisor: Prof. Shelly Paule, slpaule@sdsu.edu**

Indigenous Social Work Alliance (ISWA)

The purposes of this organization are to educate the community about Native American/Indigenous identifying cultures, promote social and educational development of Native students, exchange ideas and traditions with members of the Native community, advocate for social justice issues in relation to Social Work and Child Welfare, and foster leadership among Native students and non-Native students in the field of Social Work. **Contact Advisor: Prof. Tamara Stohauer, tstohauer@sdsu.edu**

Intergenerational Gerontology Alliance

To empower students in becoming leaders and advocates who are prepared to meet the needs of our dynamic aging population. We are an academic resource for gerontology students as well as an opportunity to interact, learn from, and network with alumni and other aging professionals in our community. All majors are encouraged to participate. **Contact Advisor: Dr. Norman Jackson, njackson@sdsu.edu**

Latine Student Social Work Association (LSSWA)

The purpose of this organization are to provide a supportive and inclusive environment and welcome students from all backgrounds, celebrate the diversity of our multicultural community, educate, mobilize and inspire students from the various helping disciplines, and provide service and benefit to the Latine community in the San Diego/Tijuana region. **Contact Advisor: Dr. Dahlia Fuentes, dahlia.fuentes@sdsu.edu**

OUTreach - Dormant

LGBTQIA+ peers and allies who are San Diego State University students come together to provide support and community outreach. **Contact Advisor: Dr. Norman Jackson, ndjackson@sdsu.edu**

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Student Organizations

Social Action Committee (SAC)

To educate and mobilize social workers in San Diego county to improve the social condition in the community and promote social justice. **Contact Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Cosio, jcosio@sdsu.edu**

Student Association of School Social Workers (SASSW)

The purpose of the organization is to integrate, educate, while advocating and empowering social work students who are interested in the school social work profession. **Contact Advisor: Prof. Paul Brazzel, pbrazzel@sdsu.edu**

Social Workers of Color Student Coalition (SWC)

The SWC is open to BSW and MSW students. It is for anyone who self-identifies as BIPOC within our department to have a space that fosters community and gives a voice to the experiences within the field of social work, the BSW and MSW programs, and SDSU and the community at large. **Contact Advisor: Dr. Kayla Whaley, mmwhaley@sdsu.edu**

Undergraduate Social Work Association (USWA)

To foster student interaction in Social Work administration activities on campus and in the community. **Contact Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Cosio, jcosio@sdsu.edu**

*** College Health and Human Services Student Council (CHHSSC)**

To unite all the college's student organizations on a board. It meets on a biweekly basis. The function is to support and advocate for students and organizations within the CHHS. The CHHSSC also has an AS Representative for SDSU.

**NOTE: This club is college-wide, not necessarily specific to the school.*





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