How to Apply to the SDSU MSW Program

Applicant guide for the Fall 2027 admission cycle

Application workshop recording: MSW Application Workshop

Deadlines and application sequence

Step	What you complete	Deadline
1. Cal State Apply	Submit the Cal State Apply application to the University. Complete the Personal Information and Academic History sections. You do not need to enter experiences or upload program materials in Cal State Apply.	December 1, 2026
2. Official Documents	Send any required official transcripts and other required documents to SDSU Graduate Admissions, if applicable.	December 15, 2026
3. MSW Slate Application	Complete and submit the MSW program application in Slate. The application includes Statement of Purpose, Resume/CV, HHS experience hours, unofficial transcripts, and recommendations from your professional references.	December 15, 2026

After submitting Cal State Apply: Monitor your email for your personalized Slate application link and SDSUid/my.SDSU instructions. Continue checking your email, my.SDSU, and Slate until all application requirements are complete.

Important notice for Fall 2027 MSW applicants

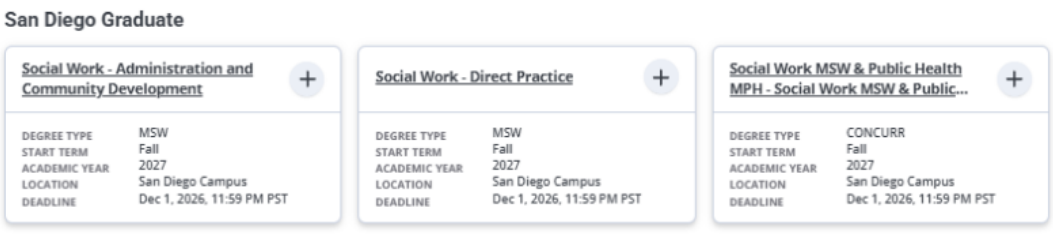
The personalized Slate application link will not be sent until October 12, 2026. Applicants who submit Cal State Apply will begin receiving Slate invitations as early as October 12. After October 12, allow **approximately 2–3 business days** after submitting Cal State Apply to receive your personalized link. Save the email and use that link to open Slate.

Step 1 Complete Cal State Apply

Submit Cal State Apply between October 1 and December 1, 2026. Submit early because Slate cannot be accessed until Cal State Apply is submitted. The graduate application fee is $70; CSU graduate application fee waivers are not available.

Starting your Cal State Apply application:

- Choose Fall 2027 as the entry term, including for Advanced Standing applicants.
- Extended Profile Question 1A: “Are you applying to return to the CSU campus you previously attended?” Answer “No.”
- Search for the program using **Social Work** as the program term and **San Diego** as the campus. Do not search **MSW** or **SDSU**, because the correct programs may not appear, and searching “MSW” may show only the MSW/MPH dual-degree program.
- Select the plus sign next to the appropriate program: Social Work – Administration and Community Development; Social Work – Direct Practice; or Social Work MSW & Public Health MPH.
- **Note:** You will choose your MSW pathway (Advanced Standing, two-year, three-year, or four-year pathway) in your Slate application.

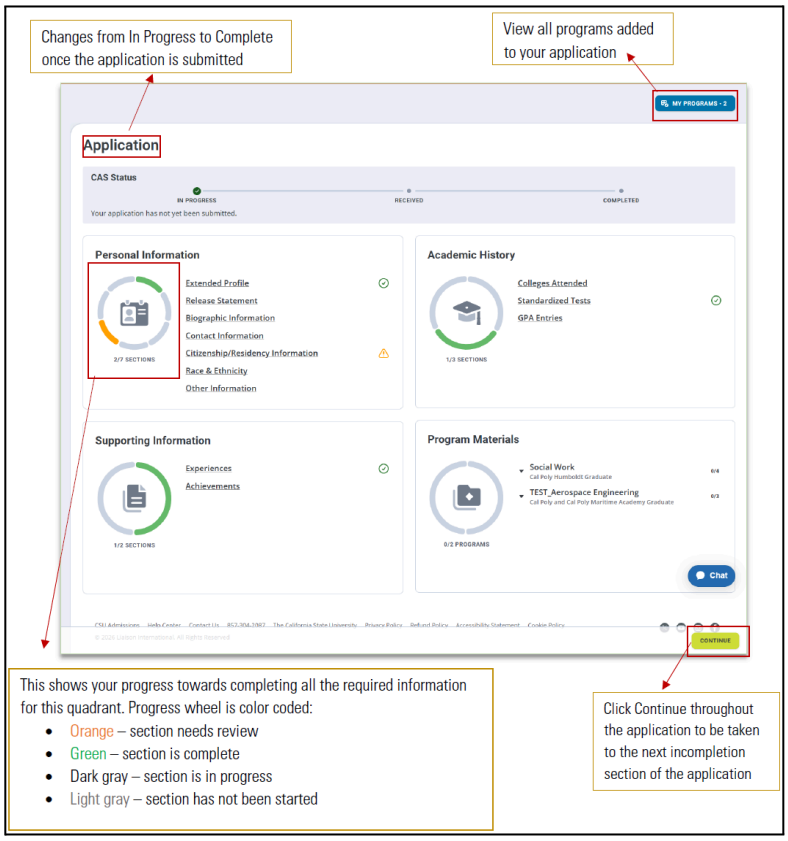


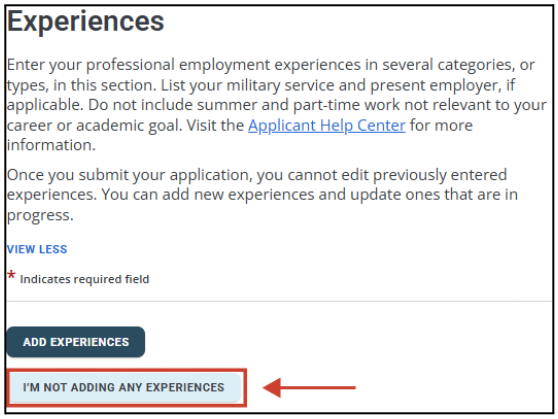
Cal State Apply program search results

Navigating your Cal State Apply dashboard:

Complete the required items in each section until all four progress circles are green.

- **Personal Information:** Complete all required questions.
- **Academic History:** Enter your academic information and complete all required questions.
- **Supporting Information:** This section may display **Experiences**, but MSW applicants do **not** need to enter experiences in Cal State Apply.
- **Program Materials:** Two options may appear in this section. Open **Organization Questions** and answer the required housing question. Do not upload MSW application materials in Cal State Apply. MSW program materials are submitted later through the Slate supplemental application.







Applying to two SDSU programs: Cal State Apply allows only one application per university. If you want to apply to two programs at SDSU, email **MSWadmissions@sdsu.edu** for instructions before submitting your application.

After you submit Cal State Apply

- Save the submission confirmation and watch for two separate emails: one with SDSUid/my.SDSU setup instructions and one with your personalized Slate link.
- Once you get the email with your SDSU ID, set up your my.SDSU account and check Tasks or To-Do List regularly. Continue checking until required items are cleared.
- Open Slate through the applicant-specific link sent by SDSU. Begin the Slate application as soon as you receive it.*

***The personalized Slate application link will begin being sent on October 12, 2026. After October 12, allow 2–3 business days after submitting Cal State Apply to receive your personalized link to Slate.**

Step 2 Submit official documents to Graduate Admissions

Official transcripts and any other required university documents go to SDSU Graduate Admissions—not the School of Social Work. Required documents must be received by December 15, 2026.

Before sending documents

- Submit Cal State Apply first; do not send official transcripts before submitting Cal State Apply.
- Check my.SDSU Tasks or To-Do List to see exactly what Graduate Admissions requires. Allow at least three weeks for processing.
- International applicants: some applicants may need English-proficiency scores or additional academic documents. Contact Graduate Admissions about your requirements.

Where to send official transcripts

Electronic transcripts: transcriptsforsdsu@sdsu.edu

Mail:
Graduate Admissions
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-7416

Step 3 Complete the MSW Slate application

Slate is where you select your MSW program option, answer program questions, and upload the materials reviewed by the Admissions Committee. Complete every tab that applies to you.

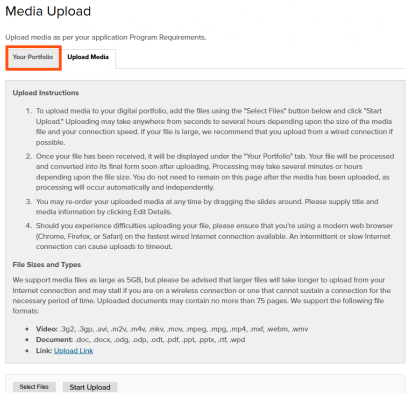
Slate section	What to complete or upload
Program Questions	Select your MSW pathway and answer additional program questions.
Education History	List every college or university attended and enter the requested overall GPA. This information does not transfer from Cal State Apply.
Unofficial Transcripts	Upload one unofficial transcript from every institution attended, including SDSU.
Statement of Purpose	Complete and upload the written portion using the required template. Complete the video portion by recording and upload a 1–2 minute video response to the prompt provided.
Resume/CV	Use the required template; remove instructions and examples; keep the final document to three pages or fewer.
HHS Experience Hours	Enter each qualifying experience separately, calculate the total accurately, and make sure your entries match your Resume/CV.
Liberal Arts Background	UC and CSU graduates meet this requirement; other applicants must answer the coursework questions.
Recommendations from three Professional References	Enter contact information for three professional references and monitor that they submit the recommendation forms.
Additional applications, if applicable: Cal IV-E & PPSC	If you are interested in applying for Cal IV-E* and/or PPSC you must complete these pages before submitting; they cannot be added after submission. If unsure, please use these links to find more information on these optional programs.
Academic Addendum, optional	Include only if it provides useful context about your academic record or readiness.

***Please note:** The California Title IV-E Education Program is **contingent upon the availability of State funding.** Financial support is not guaranteed and is subject to annual funding allocations.

MSW/MPH: You must also submit a supplemental MPH application through SOPHAS.

Statement of Purpose

- Use the required template exactly as provided. **Do not add or delete prompts, headings, or subheadings.**
- Answer all three prompts in no more than 1,000 words, double-spaced, in 12-point font. The work must be independently written; minor proofreading is acceptable.
- Submit a 1–2 minute response about your specialization, goals, and how SDSU supports them. Do not read from a script, paper, or screen.
- The video portion will be uploaded under the Media Upload tab. Files must be 5 GB or less. Public YouTube or Vimeo links are also accepted. Make sure the link is set to public so reviewers can access and play the video. Test links in an incognito window.
- After uploading your video on the Media Upload page, confirm that it appears under **Your Portfolio** and plays successfully. Uploading and processing may take several minutes or hours, depending on the file size. You do not need to remain on the page while processing occurs, but verify that the video is viewable before submitting your application.

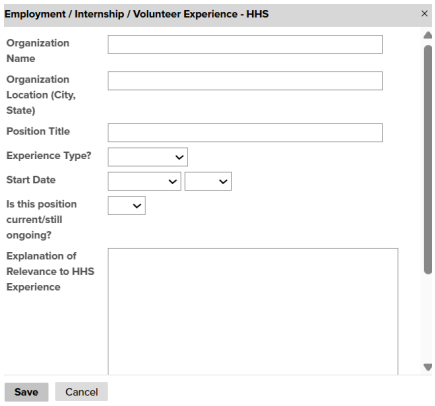


Upload and verify the Statement of Purpose video

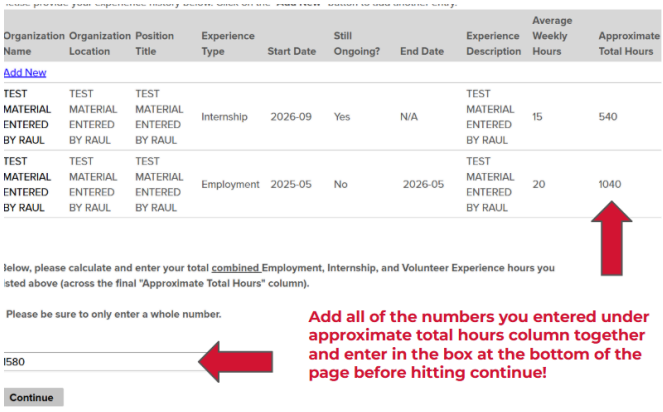
Health and Human Services experience hours

You must document at least 1,000 hours of meaningful involvement in health, social service, or community-based settings through paid employment, volunteer service, internships, or research. The Admissions Committee reviews both the hours and the relevance of the work.

- Enter each qualifying experience separately including the organization, location, your position, type of experience, dates of service, an explanation of the experience's relevance to HHS, an estimate of your relevant hours per week and the total hours served for that experience entry.
- Explain how your hours entered were relevant to health and human services. Hours alone do not establish relevance.
- Count only directly relevant hours. Calculate: average relevant hours per week × number of weeks = approximate total.
- Project hours through May 2027 only for a current position begun before submission that you expect to continue. Do not include experiences not yet started.
- Add all totals before selecting Continue and make sure every entry is also reflected on your Resume/CV.



Enter each HHS experience separately



Add all experience totals before continuing

Resume/CV

- Use the required Resume/CV template; applications that do not use it are considered incomplete.
- Remove examples and instructions. Keep all headings and enter "Not Applicable" instead of deleting sections.
- Limit the final Resume/CV to three pages.
- Ensure your entries under **Health and Human Services - Related Experience** section on your Resume/CV match your experience hours entries in Slate.
- ***Note: If the Languages section cannot be typed or checked, mark it with an annotation, drawing/checkmark tool, or by printing and circling the language.***

Professional references

- Request references as soon as you begin your Slate application and confirm that each person can submit the confidential form by **December 15, 2026**.
- Use professional or academic references, such as professors or supervisors of paid or volunteer work. Friends, colleagues, co-workers, and therapists are not accepted as professional references.
- **Advanced Standing applicants:** two of the three references must be a field instructor and a social work faculty member.
- After you enter each name and email address, Slate sends the confidential form. **You may submit your application while references are pending, but all three forms must be received by December 15.** Monitor status and follow up with your references; you cannot view their responses.

Where to get help

Department	Contact Info & Links	Questions They Answer
School of Social Work MSW Admissions	MSWadmissions@sdsu.edu 619-594-1480 **Virtual Help Desk:** Monday & Thursday, 4:30–6:30 p.m. PST, September–December 2026	MSW requirements, program options, Slate components, HHS hours, Statement of Purpose, Resume/CV, professional references, and application guidance.
Cal State Apply Support	Applicant Help Center Cal State Apply Application Guide GPA Entries Help	Cal State Apply technical problems, GPA entry, completing sections, and submitting the application.
Slate Support	es-slatetechsupport@sdsu.edu	Slate access, technical problems, uploading materials, or problems using the Slate application platform.
SDSU Graduate Admissions	Graduate Admissions Contact	Official transcripts, international documents, English-proficiency scores, document processing, and my.SDSU Tasks or To-Do List requirements.

Submit early, make sure your application submission is complete, monitor your email and my.SDSU account, and save confirmation emails!