

Post-MSW PPS Credential FAQ

Pupil Personnel Services - School Social Work (PPS-SSW) with Child Welfare & Attendance (CWA)

QUICK REFERENCE

This FAQ provides current program guidance for Post-MSW applicants pursuing the SDSU PPS-SSW credential with CWA authorization.

Is there a certain timeline to apply? Or can I apply any time during the year?

The Post-MSW PPS program is a Fall-start-only program. Applications are submitted during the Fall semester before the intended start date. For example, to begin the program in Fall 2027, you need to apply in Fall 2026.

One of the three required courses, SW 758 Seminar: School Social Work, is offered only in Fall.

What is the cost of the two-semester Post PPS-SSW program at SDSU?

Graduate basic tuition and fees are approximately:

Enrollment	Approximate Fee
Graduate Part-Time (6.0 or fewer units)	\$3,705.00
Graduate Full-Time (6.1 or more units)	\$5,397.00

Note: Part-Time = 6.0 or fewer units; Full-Time = 6.1 or more units. Thesis extension, zero-unit courses, and half-unit courses are charged as one unit for fee purposes.

Additional fees that may apply to nonresident and professional program students:

- Out-of-State / Foreign Tuition: \$444.00 per unit (Spring 2026)
- Professional Program Fee: \$303.00 per unit (Spring 2026)

These figures are approximate. For current rates, see the [SDSU Basic Tuition and Fees Schedule](#).

Can you tell me the difference between the various PPS credentials?

There are three types of Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) credentials:

- PPS-SP = School Psychologist
- PPS-SC = School Counselor
- PPS-SSW = School Social Work - the only PPS credential offered by the SDSU School of Social Work and valid for grades K-12.

The SDSU School of Social Work also offers the Child Welfare and Attendance (CWA) specialization as part of the PPS credential. It is not a separate credential; it is listed on the credential as an added area of expertise.

How many hours are required for the PPS-SSW credential?

450 PPS-SSW hours. These are completed in two settings (preschool, elementary, middle, or high school). One is the primary setting, where the bulk of hours are completed, and the secondary setting requires a minimum of 100 hours.

150 additional CWA hours. Because the PPS is currently offered only with the CWA specialization, these hours may be completed at either the primary or secondary setting.

Total: 600 hours. This is the combined PPS-SSW and CWA experience requirement (450 + 150).

Can I acquire the PPS-SSW credential without the CWA specialization?

At this time, the PPS is offered only with the CWA specialization.

What is the course of study for the Post-MSW PPS program for the PPS-SSW credential at SDSU?

Fall: SW 758 Seminar: School Social Work (3 units), SW 798 Independent Study (1 unit), and SW 750 Advanced Field Practicum (4 units).

Spring: SW 750 Advanced Field Practicum (4 units).

Can I use my place of employment to count for the required PPS hours in a school setting?

If you are working in a K-12 public school setting and are supervised by a person who holds both the PPS-SSW credential and CWA authorization, you may be able to count some of your employment hours.

This is discussed with the PPS Coordinator and may require verification of the setting, employment hours, experiences, and supervision. A minimum of 100 hours of experience at a secondary developmental education setting (elementary, middle, or high school) is required.

Who is qualified to supervise the school social work credential applicant while they are gathering their PPS required experiences in a school setting?

Hours counted toward the PPS experience requirements must be supervised and signed off by an MSW with a valid PPS credential who also holds the CWA authorization.

I am a Marriage and Family Therapist; can I acquire the PPS-SSW credential offered by the School of Social Work at SDSU?

The Post-MSW PPS-SSW credential at SDSU is offered only to candidates who have received a Master of Social Work (MSW) from an accredited program.

Are any of the required courses offered online or in the evening for working adults?

At this time, SW 758 Seminar: School Social Work is offered only during business hours and currently meets in person on Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.

The required field course, SW 750, has an in-person seminar that meets biweekly at 11:00 a.m. on Mondays in both Fall and Spring. Field hours are completed at elementary, middle, or high schools and are typically within the 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. time frame.

ACRONYMS KEY

PPS	Pupil Personnel Services
SSW	School Social Work
CWA	Child Welfare & Attendance
CSU	California State University
MSW	Master of Social Work
CTC	California Teaching Credential

CTC information: [California Commission on Teacher Credentialing](#)

For further information, please contact the PPS Coordinator Paul Brazzel (pbrazzel@sdsu.edu).