The School of Social Work honors human diversity and acknowledges its vital role in advancing mutuality and interdependence. The aim is to educate social work practitioners who will be versatile, creative, and effective in serving the peoples of San Francisco Bay Area in context of global economic and human relations; and to address the needs of the oppressed, disenfranchised, and otherwise marginalized peoples and communities.

The curriculum incorporates a comprehensive range of knowledge, values, skills, and experiences for social work practice at all levels of intervention. The outcome is to provide learning experiences that will instill critical consciousness and inspire students to become advocates for economic and social justice.

The Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and the Master of Social Work at San Francisco State University are fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

In both the B.A. and M.S.W. programs, the curriculum emphasizes the integration of knowledge, values, and skills. Commitment to professional values and ethics, to participate in constructive change, to support the right to self-determination, and to respect people’s capacity to learn and grow are integrated throughout the program. Students are expected to develop a spirit of inquiry and to achieve a critical posture toward the social situation, the functioning of the profession and of social agencies, and their own performance.

Practice is founded on a liberal arts perspective, particularly on the interaction of two dimensions: knowledge of human and social behavior, which is utilized analytically in professional relationships; and salient and comparable knowledge of the array of functions, roles, and practice skills available to the profession of social work. Particular attention is paid to the impact of class, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, and culture.

Graduate students may select one of three areas of emphases for the Master of Social Work degree:

- Administration and Planning
- Individuals Families and Groups
- Social Action and Change

**SFSU SSW Special Programs**

**Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Project**

In January 1993, the California Department of Social Services contracted with the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) to provide public child welfare education to social work students. Since then, federal Title IV-E stipends have been given to MSW students. For every stipend year, students must agree to work a comparable year in public child welfare upon their graduation. Coordinator: Felicia Murray.

**Mental Health Stipend Program**

Similar to the Title IV-E stipend program, this MSW student stipend program is administered by CalSWEC. Students receive stipends for their studies focused on public mental health. Upon graduation, they must work in public mental health for a year for each year they received a stipend. Coordinator: Sheila Hembury.

**Pupil Personnel Services Credential (PPSC)**

For persons interested in social work in the schools, the SFSU School of Social Work offers credential programs at the master and post master degree levels. Coordinator: Christina Feliciano.

**Bay Area Academy**

Founded in 1987, this Academy educates and trains county child welfare workers. The Academy’s mission is: “to enhance professional development through responsive training, education and organizational capacity building that support public human service in the greater San Francisco Bay Area communities and beyond.” Executive Director: Rodger Lum.

**Institute for Multicultural Research and Social Work Practice**

The IMRSWP’s mission states that it “promotes respect for and knowledge of diverse cultures. It seeks to develop effective methods for appropriately working in a complex and multiculturally diverse environment. It disseminates cross-cultural information through research, publication, education, and training. The central focus is on empowerment of individuals, families, and communities. The commitment is to progressive societal changes.” Director: Liz Dunbar Knox.

**SFSU School of Social Work (SSW) Curricular Emphases**

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