



Social Work, M.S.W.

At Cal Poly Humboldt, you'll take what you learn in the classroom and put it to work in the real world—applying your new skills in diverse settings, ranging from small non-profit agencies, tribal social services, large public organizations, and international programs. Our students form lasting partnerships with faculty and our professors are committed to student development. The faculty is dedicated to the well being of students based on caring and compassion.

Experience Your Learning

Master of Social Work students have opportunities to work with local communities and agencies through a highly individualized field experience program. Students find this helpful in building skills and knowledge and obtaining jobs following graduation.

The Master of Social Work Community Project is a sustainable, practice-based opportunity for student leadership, creativity, self-direction, professional mentorship and community engagement.

All social work students complete required community placements under the supervision of skilled practitioners, and are given feedback on their practice skills in order to be effectively prepared for work in the field. Placements include school social work, community services, child welfare, health care and tribal social services settings.

Many students state that their field experience and their relationship with their internship supervisor was a critical factor in their professional development.

Did you know?

- Our department supports progressive practice that is based on peace, justice, experimentation, risk-taking, inclusiveness, partnership, non-expert paradigms of relationships, and a belief in the uniqueness of each student's own professional goals and vision of becoming the social worker they want to be.
- It doesn't matter where you live or work in California, you can earn your Master of Social Work degree from Humboldt. Courses are designed to support people who are rooted in their communities.



Academics & Options

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The Master of Social Work program teaches students how to achieve a disciplined, compassionate presence to a caring and ethical practice, with a focus on working in rural and Indigenous communities.

The program's emphasis is on working with Indigenous and rural communities and coursework designed to decolonize mainstream social work practice. Students develop a framework for practice guided by personal and professional values and ethics.

Cultural humility, compassion, partnership, empowerment, non-expert relational paradigms, critical reflection, and social action for justice are the concepts that form the foundation for learning and developing social work practice at Cal Poly Humboldt.

The program prepares students for advanced generalist practice which emphasizes multi-system, multi-level approaches in which practitioners and clients work in collaboration to enhance the functioning and resilience within systems through building on existing strengths.

Get Involved

The Social Work Student Association is a club meant to support social work students in their field.



Careers

Our Master of Social Work graduates find employment opportunities in many settings including, program management, behavioral and mental health, school and medical social work, and many others. Our preparation ensures that graduates are prepared to deal with the complex social issues that individuals, groups, families, and organizations are facing today.

- Addictions
- Child Welfare
- Clinical Settings
- Domestic Violence
- Family Planning
- Foster Care
- Mental Health
- Public Health
- Public Policy
- Rehabilitation



I chose social work after reflecting upon my values. I wanted to provide support to folks in all walks of life, and this pathway is all for that. I enjoyed the compassion and empathy the professors provided. I went through so much, being able to have them hear me and guide me through situations was impactful."

Daniel García Rivera ('22, Social Work), Extended Day Aide, Fuente Nueva Charter School