

Program Description

The combined MSW and MS in Criminal Justice degree is a 90-unit program which emphasizes behavioral health interventions to address the prevention, early intervention, treatment and rehabilitation needs of persons at risk for or who have already been incarcerated. Students pursuing this degree learn to work multiple systems including social services, law enforcement, courts, public defenders, probation and parole to support at risk, incarcerated and recently released inmates. Students learn the importance of an integrated approach to behavioral health that supports restorative justice and community reintegration.

Program Length

Options 2 years (7 quarters); 3 years (11 quarters); 4 years (14 quarters)

Possible Careers

Forensic Mental Health Social Worker, Clinical Social Worker, Psychiatric Social Worker, Medical Social Worker, Child and Family Social Worker, Geriatric Social Worker, Community Social Worker, Administrator, Research Social Worker, and Social Work Educator. Many Forensic Social Workers work in settings such as the court system, detention centers, forensic inpatient programs, and forensic outpatient behavioral health systems.

Admissions Requirements

1. A four-year baccalaureate degree (or its equivalent) from an accredited college or university.
2. The MSW/MS in Criminal Justice curriculum is built on a liberal arts perspective. Individual applicants whose undergraduate degree does not reflect this perspective may be asked to enroll in additional courses.
3. Applicants must submit a completed application, including a personal statement; application fee; all college and/or university transcripts; and at least three letters of recommendation—preferably one of which is from an academic source and one from a work supervisor. All students who are working fulltime must also submit a letter from their agency director acknowledging support in completing the practicum and educational requirements of the MSW program.
4. Applicants must meet the minimum academic and professional compatibility criteria established by the program. These criteria include:
 - A cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 or above (on a 4.0 scale). Applicants with lower grade point averages will be considered if the last 45-quarter credits (30 semester units) of non-field practica course work shows significant improvement or if they have additional attributes that demonstrate preparedness and an appropriate fit for graduate social work education. Work and volunteer experiences must be verified by employer/supervisor statements on official agency stationery. Further consideration will also be given to individuals who provide evidence of additional graduate coursework, certifications, and/or training that illustrate preliminary preparation for a career in social work. Students who are admitted to the Social Work Program with a cumulative G.P.A. below 3.0 may be required to participate in individualized academic assessment and a targeted learning assistance program.

Social Work MSW and Criminal Justice MS (Combined)

- Demonstration, through the application and interview processes, of compatibility with the profession of social work, ability to develop and nurture interpersonal relationships, communication skills, self-awareness, professional comportment, critical thinking skills, fit with the mission and values of Loma Linda University and the Department of Social Work and Social Ecology, and the capacity to successfully complete the Master of Social Work curriculum.

Prerequisites

A four-year baccalaureate degree (or its equivalent) from an accredited college or university. Individual applicants whose undergraduate degree does not reflect a liberal arts perspective may be asked to enroll in additional courses.

Discipline Accrediting Agency

The Master of Social Work program is fully accredited by the Council of Social Work Education to provide master's degree-level education, with the next reaffirmation to be completed in 2025. There is no discipline specific accrediting body for the Clinical Justice Program.

State Accrediting Agency

N/A - Falls under our regional WASC accreditation for the University