



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION
MINORITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

2020–2021 Master’s Application FAQs

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Instructions

1. Where are application instructions posted?

Application information and instructions are posted to CSWE MFP's [How to Apply Web page](#). The 2020–2021 application period is open from April 23, 2020, until June 2, 2020, at 5:00 pm ET.

2. Do you have other tips besides the instructions?

Be aware of the deadlines and submit your application early. This way, if there are any issues, they can be resolved early rather than at the last moment. Give your recommenders plenty of time and have back-up recommenders in case your initial recommenders are unable to follow through.

Eligibility Criteria

3. May applicants who do not belong to racial/ethnic minority groups apply?

Yes, applicants from any racial/ethnic background are eligible to apply.

4. I am a part-time MSW student. Am I eligible to apply?

No, you must be enrolled full-time in your social work master's program.

5. I graduate in December 2020. Am I eligible to apply?

No, you must be enrolled full-time in your program for the fall and spring semesters during the 2020–2021 academic year, graduating in 2021. You must also be in an appropriate field placement during the 2020–2021 academic year that meets the requirements of the fellowship.

6. My program is not currently CSWE-accredited but will be next semester. Am I eligible?

No, your master's program must be CSWE-accredited at the time of your application and maintain accreditation during the fellowship year.

7. Am I required to serve a specific population?

Fellows must be in an appropriate field placement setting that will result in their gaining experience providing mental health and/or substance abuse direct services to underserved racial/ethnic minority populations. They must also be committed to seeking employment immediately after graduation providing mental health and/or substance abuse direct services to this target population.

8. What if my field placement hasn't been determined yet for 2020–2021?

Fellows are required to be in a field placement setting during the 2020–2021 academic year where they will gain experience providing mental health and/or substance abuse direct services to the target population. MFP recognizes that many applicants' field placements are yet to be determined due to COVID-19 disruptions. However, if you are selected as a fellow, you must provide documentation from your program's field director or equivalent by September 2020 that you will be in an appropriate setting. Without this documentation, you will not be able to complete the appointment process.

9. What constitutes the requirement for two advanced master's courses?

You are required to complete, or have already completed, two advanced master's courses in one or both of following categories: (a) mental health and/or co-occurring substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery; or (b) culturally competent evidence-based practices. Most courses to be taken during your advanced standing or final/concentration year are considered advanced. Nonintroductory courses in direct clinical practice and human behavior in the social environment typically meet these requirements. If you are still unsure, contact mfpy@cswe.org.

Transcripts

10. Do I need official undergraduate and graduate transcripts?

Considering COVID-19 disruptions, you can upload either an official or an unofficial transcript. Please ensure it is a transcript and not a grade report or other format. If you are unsure, contact mfp@cswe.org.

11. The application system won't accept my secured official transcript. What should I do?

If you have a secured PDF transcript, you can open the document and select "Print" as a PDF; the resulting new version will be unsecured and can be uploaded to SurveyMonkey Apply. Alternatively, you can print a copy, scan it as an unsecured PDF, and upload to SurveyMonkey Apply. Do not send your transcript to the MFP office.

12. What if my transcript doesn't show final spring semester grades by the application deadline?

Upload the most up-to-date official or unofficial transcript before the application deadline. At minimum, you should have a transcript reflecting coursework and grades from Fall/Winter 2019.

13. What if my school offers only a narrative transcript instead of a traditional transcript?

If your school does not offer a traditional transcript, but offers another type such as a narrative transcript, please contact mfp@cswe.org well in advance of the deadline. This must be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Recommendations

14. What if I'm having trouble finding two recommenders in the prescribed categories?

You are strongly encouraged by the review committee to get one academic recommendation (i.e., from a professor) and one practice recommendation (i.e., someone who has supervised you in a clinical setting). If you are unable to do so, select the best alternative recommender who can describe your academic and practice abilities.

15. Why is the recommender's deadline before the application deadline?

The recommender deadline of June 1 provides you time to finalize and submit your application package when recommendations are complete. You will not be able to submit your complete application until your recommenders have submitted their recommendations and you have marked the task as complete.

Fellowship Benefits

16. What is the stipend amount fellows receive?

The 2020–2021 MFP master's fellows receive a \$10,000 stipend in separate installments during the fellowship year. The stipend amount is determined each year based on the funding award from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Tuition remission is not provided.

17. What type of support is offered to fellows other than financial assistance?

Fellows attend a 2.5-day in-person training in Alexandria, VA. MFP covers most expenses directly (flight and hotel) and reimburses other travel-associated expenses including meals. Fellows also receive virtual trainings, mentorship, and professional development opportunities during the year. Fellows receive a monthly e-newsletter with resources, job opportunities, and a 1-year National Association of Social Workers membership and specialty practice membership of their choice. Other supports are determined based on grant funding.

18. Is there a mentorship benefit?

Yes, fellows are virtually connected with a volunteer mentor during their fellowship year.

19. Is there job search assistance?

Current and alumni fellows receive the monthly MFP e-newsletter, which regularly provides job postings. Current fellows can also access National Association of Social Workers job postings and resources during their 1-year paid membership. MFP will also offer virtual job fairs in spring 2021; these events are hosted in conjunction with major employers with mental health/substance abuse position openings.

Selection process

20. How many new fellows are selected?

Typically, 40 fellows are selected, depending on grant funding for the year. The 2019–2020 cohort consists of 44 fellows.