

Frequently Asked Questions About the Child Welfare Education Program for BSW Students

If I receive tuition support, what are my obligations?

Participants in the program sign an agreement with the Department of Human Services – Children Adults and Families stipulating that in return for tuition assistance, they agree to seek and accept employment with the agency upon graduation. Recipients agree to work one year in the agency for each academic year of tuition support. The Child Welfare Education Program works closely with the agency to prepare graduates for employment and provide assistance in the job application and job search process.

How much money do I actually get?

Students enrolled full time in the senior year of the BSW program will be awarded up to \$6000.00 towards the cost of actual tuition. Students must be enrolled in courses prescribed by the BSW program. Students must be minimally enrolled Fall Term in SW400 and SW430, Winter term in SW400 and SW431, and Spring term in SW400 and SW432. Each term (Fall, Winter and Spring) your account will be credited up to \$2000.00 towards your tuition bill based on the number of credits you are enrolled for. Please note that the tuition assistance is only applied towards tuition for qualifying courses of the BSW program; it does not cover University fees.

Students must also be considered to be in good academic standing by the University.

Information on PSU tuition and fees can be found at:
<http://www.pdx.edu/registration/tuition.html>

Is the money given to me?

No, the tuition assistance is credited to your student account at Portland State University and is applied directly by the University to your tuition bill.

As this award could affect any other financial aid you are receiving, you should check with your financial aid officer at PSU regarding this prior to accepting the award.

Can the tuition award be applied to summer term courses?

No, funding is only for Fall, Winter and Spring term courses you are registered for within the prescribed program of the BSW course of study.

I am currently a DHS CAF employee. Can my field placement be in my agency?

Yes, the School has an Employed Social Worker Option. If your employer agrees, you can do your field placement in the agency while receiving your regular salary. However, the activities you engage in for your field placement must be different than the regular work you do for the agency and meet the educational requirements of the School. Your advisor can help negotiate this with the School, your supervisor and branch/district management.

I haven't worked in public child welfare before. What do child welfare workers do and how much is the salary?

Graduates of the program are normally hired as a Social Service Specialist I with the Department of Human Services – Children, Adults and Families Division. You can find an official job description and current salary schedules at: <http://www.oregon.gov/cqi-bin/ccrt.cgi?pg=num&sec1=6000&sec2=6999>

What if I decide I don't want to work in child welfare while I am in the program or after I graduate?

As part of the agreement signed with the agency, if you leave the BSW program or do not go to work for the agency after graduation, a financial payback agreement is made between you and the agency to reimburse the agency any funds paid towards your tuition.