

Frequently Asked Questions About the MSW Child Welfare Education Program

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?

Full time students in the two-year MSW program will be awarded \$6000.00 per year (a total of \$12,000.00 over the two years). Each term (Fall, Winter and Spring) your account will be credited \$2000.00 towards your tuition bill. Please note that the tuition assistance is only applied towards tuition; it does not cover University fees.

Part-time students will receive up to \$2000.00 per term while in the program (for a maximum of \$18,000.00 over the course of the three-year program). The actual amount each term will be determined by the number of credits being taken. At no time can more than \$2000.00 be awarded each term. Again, the tuition assistance is only applied towards tuition; it does not cover University fees.

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

Information on total tuition and fees for graduate study (campus and distance program) 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.

Are the classes I take different from other MSW students?

No, students participating in our program take the same foundation and advanced courses as other students, including a wide array of electives pertinent to child welfare practice. The one exception is that all students funded by our program must take an Advanced Child Welfare Practice elective before they graduate. Your advisor will help you plan for this in your overall schedule.

I am currently a DHS CAF employee. Can one of my field placements be in my agency?

Yes, the School has an Employed Social Worker Option. If your employer agrees, you can do one year of 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 our 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/cgi-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 MSW 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.

If I want to apply, how do I do that?

First, you must be a current student or have been accepted to begin your studies in the School of Social Work (campus or distance program) to receive tuition support. To find out about the details of the MSW program, full-time and part-

time study options, and the application procedures for entry into the MSW program, go to: <http://www.ssw.pdx.edu/>

Second, you must complete a separate application for the Child Welfare Education Program tuition support which is located at <http://www.ccf.pdx.edu/>