

Child Welfare Education Program Stipend Questions & Answers

A. CWEP & CRL Eligibility

Employee Applicants:

Is the Child Welfare Education Program offered to anyone within Child Welfare?

Applications have to be a Social Servicer Assistant (SSA) or higher to apply. If you are an SSA you will need to apply for a Social Services Specialist1 (SSS1) position after graduation.

There are no eligibility criteria for recruits. If you do not have a lot of experience you may want to reach out to the ODHS Volunteer Coordinator in your area. Volunteering for ODHS CW can help build relationships and experience.

After you graduate with your MSW, how does it impact your salary within child welfare?

There is no direct relationship between earning your MSW and your salary within child welfare. However, we often see our students who are already employees apply and obtain promotions after graduation, which may lead to an increase in salary.

Does FMLA time count towards your two years of consecutive employment with child welfare?

You will need to check in with [Kim Lorz](#), Training and Workforce Development Manager.

May I apply as a recruit if I have been employed by ODHS Child Welfare for one year, or do I have to wait until I am employed two years?

Our current policy is you have to be employed by ODHS child welfare for two years at time of application and may only apply to be an employee applicant.

For new employees, if SSS1 trainings with the agency are not completed, am I eligible to apply for CWEP?

An applicant must be employed by ODHS Child Welfare for at least two years and have supervisor and branch manager's support to be eligible to apply for CWEP.

What are your suggestions for starting the conversations with my supervisor and manager about participating in CWEP?

It is suggested that you start the conversation with your supervisor early and let him/her/them know that you are interested. Find out what will be expected and what supports you will be allowed. Ask if there will be different supports if you were to get into CWEP compared with the supports available if you do not get into CWEP. Try to be as concrete as you are able in discussing what types of supports you might need so that you are aware what is or not feasible (eg: time off on specific days for classes, a flexible schedule to be able to do a community-based placement, a reduced caseload or reduced unit to supervise, support from the branch to manage crises, etc.)

Recruits and Employees:

Are the reference letters automated for CWEP's application like for the SSW application?

We are not automated yet. Your references will email their letter and cover sheet for CWEP to Laurie Leasure, CWEP Program Assistant at lleasure@pdx.edu.

Should I have my references save their reference if I am using it for the school and my CWEP Application?

That is preferred that your reference send their letter to Laurie (lleasure@pdx.edu) directly for your CWEP application.

B. MSW Questions

Are the SSW MSW and CWEP Applications two separate applications?

Yes, they are two separate applications. You may use the same references for both applications; however, each of your references will complete a cover letter specific to each application (one for CWEP and one for the MSW application) to be attached to their letter. If you are using the same references for both CWEP and SSW MSW programs, please ask your references to speak to your interest, experience and fit for a

career in children welfare in their letter for both applications. The Supervisor of the ODHS CW employees must be one of the references for the CWEP Application.

Can I defer MSW admission if I am accepted into the MSW program and don't get into CWEP?

Yes, you can defer for one year. Although, please be aware that you will have to give your decision to the SSW before CWEP has made its final selection in July. You do still have the option to defer your acceptance to the MSW program after CWEP selections are made.

Advanced Standing

Do you still have five years from graduating from an accredited BSW program to apply for the Advanced Standing Option with the MSW program?

It is still within five years of completion of a BSW degree from a CSWE accredited program. CWEP only accepts ODHS Child Welfare employees into the Advanced Standing Program.

Is there a way to get a waiver for the five year maximum between the BSW degree and MSW Advanced Standing?

Yes, if you had “solid and consistent” post BSW work, you may petition the 5-year eligibility rule within 7 years by emailing the [SSW Director of Student Affairs](#) “a current resume and brief statement (less than one page) outlining your post BSW social work experience and how you have stayed up to date on current social work practice and standards.”

Is the Advanced Standing program only one-year?

It is designed to be four terms over one academic year beginning Summer term. However, you may request to complete your courses over two years completing your electives the first year and your advanced practice course and field internship the second year. This has been helpful for those who are currently working full-time.

C. Financial Questions

Will other types of scholarship or grant funding eliminate me from being eligible for CWEP?

No, this will not eliminate you from being eligible for CWEP. You will have to decide which funding source you will want to have applied to your account first. You will want to look at each of the stipulations associated with each type of funding you receive and communicate with the CWEP team which type of funding should be applied to your account first.

Does tuition support only cover three years of the four-year program?

Yes, you will have exhausted all of your tuition support amount by the end of year three as support is up to \$30,000 (\$10,000) total for employees and CRL students and \$18,000 (\$6,000) per year for MSW recruits. Please be aware that whether you chose the 2, 3, or 4 year option, there will be tuition cost not covered by the stipend fund that students will need to be prepared to cover.

Can you provide the total cost of the MSW program?

The total cost will be dependent on the MSW program that you choose (Portland campus, online or distance option) and will be an estimate based on current tuition rates. You can explore the cost of tuition on the PSU website [here](#).

D. Culturally Responsive Leaders Questions

What does CRL look like for CRL students who are in the online option?

Our CRL seminars are currently virtual via Zoom for all students. Seminars are once a month for nine months during the academic year and are in the evenings (based on the current cohort's schedule). We first check in with one another, we network and then we have a guest presenter and discussion.

Can you participate in CRL seminars if you are not currently a student?

You have to be in the MSW program and selected for both CWEP and CRL through our application process. We are in the midst of a visioning process; please stay in connection as it is possible there could be different pathways in the future.

E. CWEP Selection Process

How many more spots are available for CWEP this coming academic year?

We have a set amount of tuition available to all CWEP students (newly and previously selected) and fund approximately 25 total students per academic year. Because CWEP students fund MSW applicants for every year of their program, the open number of stipends is typically dependent upon the number of graduating students we anticipate in a given year. For the 2022-23 academic year, we anticipate having more open spots for new applicants than we typically do.

Are my chances of being selected to CWEP lower if I'm a distance option program?

No, we want folks from all areas of the state and strongly encourage people who are outside of the Portland metro area to apply.

F. Field Internship Questions

What does the field placement structure look like?

We are using Portland campus as a proxy for this answer. You will fill out a Field Placement Application and the field team will be working with you to determine the best placement point for you. The CWEP Assistant Director is available to support both the placement coordinator and student to help connect education to students Child Welfare career goals and to consult on the placement process. If you are an employee and are interning at ODHS, you will have an ESW meeting with your placement coordinator, field instructor and supervisor to determine how you will engage in new learning and balance your current job duties. For your generalist internship, you will participate in a

511 field education seminar and that instructor will be your liaison who will conduct site visits with you and your field instructor at least twice during the year. In your Advanced Year you will be assigned a faculty member.

What are the concentrations for MSW?

We are doing some updates with the concentrations and we will have a Macro – PLCO (Practice and Leadership with Communities and Organizations) and Clinical concentrations next year. Please see more about the concentrations [here](#). As a CWEB student, you are supported to participate in either concentration and often students select their concentration based on the field internship experience they would like to have for their advanced year.