

# THE CalSWEC TITLE IV-E PATHWAY PROGRAM

## What is the CalSWEC Title IV-E Pathway Program?

The Pathway Program was created to support California public (Tribal, county, or state) social services or probation employees in their pursuit of bachelor's and master's degrees in social work with a focus on child welfare. With an emphasis on rural and educationally underserved communities, it offers support to California public universities in developing child welfare courses and degrees for BASW/MSW distance education students.

## Who is eligible for the Pathway Program?

California public (Tribal, county, or state) social services or probation employees in targeted rural counties can participate in the Pathway Program. Pathway students must receive a letter of support from their employer.

## What are the benefits of participating in the Pathway Program?

Students accepted into the Pathway Program are eligible to participate in the Title IV-E Program, which offers financial support through reimbursement of a capped amount of tuition, fees, books and supplies, and other educational expenses. Because Pathway students take courses that use distance education technologies, students are able to balance their degree programs with other work/life obligations.

## What are the post-graduation obligations of students who complete the Pathway Program?

Graduates must return to full-time employment at their host agency and complete employment obligation commensurate with the period of time monetary support was received.

## Which schools offer the Pathway Program?

The following schools offer the Pathway Program:

[Cal Poly Humboldt \(BASW, MSW\)](#)

[CSU, Chico \(BASW, MSW\)](#)

[CSU, San Bernardino \(BASW, MSW\)](#)

## How is the Pathway Program structured?

The instructors from each university determine the structure of individual courses. Generally, courses include both synchronous (real-time) and asynchronous (self-paced) content. Students in courses with synchronous content, such as lectures and discussions, may need to be online at scheduled times each week. Students in the Pathway Program will follow the traditional academic year, participating in semesters and/or terms.



**CalSWEC**

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Leadership. Partnership. Workforce Development.

California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC)  
School of Social Welfare  
University of California, Berkeley

120 Havilland Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-7400 | Phone: 510 642 9272 | [CalSWEC.berkeley.edu](https://CalSWEC.berkeley.edu)

### Can students complete the Pathway Program entirely online?

Although Pathway Program students complete most of their coursework online, each campus sets its own structure and policy for face-to-face meetings. Generally, students are expected to travel to campus at least a few days per calendar year; this provides them opportunities to meet their peers, connect with faculty, and practice their skills in face-to-face settings.

### Can Pathway students reside anywhere in California?

Although the universities offering the Pathway Program use distance education technologies, the primary purpose of the program is for the campuses to offer distance education opportunities to students living within their own region. These regions are generally defined by county:

SCHOOL	COUNTIES			
<b>Cal Poly Humboldt</b>	Del Norte Humboldt	Mendocino Siskiyou	Tehama Trinity	
<b>CSU, Chico</b>	Butte Colusa Glenn Lake	Lassen Modoc Plumas	Shasta Siskiyou Sutter	Tehama Trinity Yuba
<b>CSU, San Bernardino</b>	Inyo	Mono	Riverside	San Bernardino

If potential students live outside of these counties or are unsure which campus might be the most geographically appropriate for them, they can contact the Pathway Program representatives at the campus they are interested in attending for more information. This list of counties is intended as a general guideline only; all admissions decisions are at the discretion of each individual campus.

### Who teaches social work courses offered to Pathway Program students?

The same Faculty at each campus teach both traditional face-to-face courses and online classes, depending on the needs of each campus.

### What social work degrees do Pathway Program students receive? Are the degrees accredited?

Students completing the Pathway Program receive social work degrees identical to those students who complete traditional programs at their home campuses. These degrees are fully accredited by the same organizations (the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and the Council on Social Work Education) that oversee traditional face-to-face education.

### What are the Pathway field education requirements?

All BASW and MSW programs, including online degrees, require a minimum number of supervised hours of field placement (400 hours for BASW students and 900 for MSW students). Students participating in the Pathway Program must complete these field placement hours in a traditional, face-to-face setting. After admission to a Pathway degree program, the students' host campus will provide them with assistance in

securing a field placement opportunity in the campus's local area. The Pathway Title IV-E Program requires that this internship be focused on public child welfare. If you are an Advanced Standing student, please inquire at your campus about field education requirements.

### What are the minimum technology requirements for Pathway Program students?

Generally, students need a computer and internet connection to complete courses. Students should be able to play back video and audio content online. Each campus may have additional technology requirements.

### What is the application process for the Pathway Program?

Child welfare workers in the designated counties or in Tribal regions that serve these counties must first apply for admission and be accepted to the campus that serves their area. At some campuses, students must specifically indicate at the time of their application that they wish to enter the distance education program; at others, students will apply through the regular admissions process. Students should check with their local campus representative for specific information about their particular program or region. After admission to a campus offering the Pathway Program, students can then apply to the CalSWEC Title IV-E Program as a Pathway Program student.

### Can students enroll in distance education programs without being Pathway students?

Yes, the distance education programs are available to any student interested in pursuing a social work degree. Each campus sets its own admissions policies for these programs.

### What is CalSWEC, and what is its role in the Pathway Program?

The California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) (<https://calswec.berkeley.edu>) administers the Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Program for California State University and University of California campuses. This program promotes the professionalization of social work practice by offering financial stipends and support to BASW and MSW students who make a commitment to a career in public or Tribal child welfare. CalSWEC provides financial and programmatic support to campuses offering the Pathway Program, but each campus is responsible for the development and administration of its own programs.

#### **For more information about the Pathway Program:**

California public (Tribal, county, or state) social services or probation employees from rural and remote regions interested in the Pathway Program should contact the Pathway Program representative at the site where they are interested in enrolling:

**Cal Poly Humboldt:** Michelle Rainer, [michelle.rainer@humboldt.edu](mailto:michelle.rainer@humboldt.edu)

**CSU, Chico:** Meka Klungtvét-Morano, [mklungtvét-morano@csuchico.edu](mailto:mklungtvét-morano@csuchico.edu)

**CSU, San Bernardino:** Stephanie Schneider, [Stephanie.Schneider@csusb.edu](mailto:Stephanie.Schneider@csusb.edu)