

Culturally Responsive Child Welfare Education Program (CRCWEP) Stipend Questions & Answers

CRCWEP Eligibility

Employee Applicants:

Can employees stay in their current position after graduation?

For SSS1's who enter CRCWEP in this classification, yes your current position will be eligible to complete payback after graduation. Some of our employees move into supervisory positions just before or after graduation, which is also an eligible position to complete payback. SSAs will have to move into a SSS1 position or higher position after graduation.

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

Applications have to be a Social Services 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?

ODHS Child Welfare employee may discuss this with their local office leadership (direct child welfare supervisor and program manager), the child welfare supervisor and program manager will ultimately make a decision whether to support the employee to apply early and will document any approval on the [ODHS Child Welfare Management Approval Form](#).

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?

ODHS Child Welfare employees must be in good standing employed with ODHS Child Welfare for two consecutive years of employment from the most recent date of hire at time of Culturally Responsive Child Welfare Education Program Application. Limited duration positions do count, as long as the employee has been employed with ODHS Child Welfare for two consecutive years. ODHS Child Welfare employees may receive a waiver with management approval.

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

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 CRCWEP.

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

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 CRCWEP compared with the supports available if you do not get into CRCWEP. 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.)

Does an employee get a full-time salary and benefits even if working part-time hours and doing an internship?

No, part-time employees cannot go over their hours for part-time employment, and therefore would not meet the practicum hours requirement.

Recruits and Employees:

What is the best way for one of us to reach you if we have more questions?

Please email Radhika Niles at rniles@pd.edu and Laurie Leasure at lleaseure@pdx.edu.

When are next year's application due for MSW and CRCWEP?

Please check the websites for when applications are due. Generally, MSW applications are online in the fall and CRCWEP Applications are online by mid-October. MSW SSW Applications are generally due the first week of January and CRCWEP applications are generally due mid-February. If you have provided your email for our inquiry list, you will be emailed when the CRCWEP application is posted and provided the due date.

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

Our application is not automated like the SSW application. We have transitioned to a low barrier application, eliminating the need for reference letters in our CRCWEP application.

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

It is unnecessary for your references to retain their references for your CRCWEP Application, as we no longer require reference letters with our application.

MSW Questions

Is dual program MSW/Public Health degree compatible with CRCWEP?

We have not yet had an applicant from the dual MSW/MPH program. I do not believe this would make you ineligible to apply; however, I would address your goal of how you will apply your dual degree education to a career in child welfare in your application.

Does the work with CRCWEP as a student fulfill the supervised experience requirements for State of Oregon licensure?

Internship time as a student does not count towards state licensure. You may apply with the state to begin the process of completing hours towards your LCSW licensure once you become a state or tribal child welfare employee. You have to have clinical supervision for the time to count and your time will not count until the licensure paperwork has been approved by the board. (This could take three to four months if there is a backlog of applications.)

There is not a current program sponsored through ODHS Child Welfare nor Portland State University that provides supervision toward LCSW. Check for information on the [Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers](#) for additional information about LMSW or LCSW licensing requirements and resources.

Are the SSW MSW and CRCWEP Applications two separate applications?

Yes, they are two separate applications.

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

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

Can you receive tuition support without pursuing a child welfare career?

No, students who are accepted into the program receive tuition support through Title IV-E funding, "which is a federal program that provides funding to states for foster care, adoption assistance and other related services." Culturally Responsive Child Welfare Education Program graduates work payback has to be in Oregon state child welfare in a Social Services Specialist 1, Social Services Specialist 2 or in a Child Welfare Supervisor 2 classifications or in an eligible tribal child welfare qualifying position one year of employment for each year of support that they received.

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. CRCWEP 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 Executive 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.

Financial Questions

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

No, this will not eliminate you from being eligible for CRCWEP. 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 CRCWEP team which type of funding should be applied to your account first. It should be noted that students are required to receive some tuition support to participate in the program and the employment repayment time consists of the duration a student was in the program.

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 per academic year) total for MSW. 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 option 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](#).

Culturally Responsive Leaders Seminar Questions

What does CRCWEP Culturally Responsive Leaders (CRL) Seminar look like for students who are in the online option?

Our CRL Seminars are currently virtual via Zoom for all students. Seminars are once a month generally on the third Thursday of the month from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm during the academic year .

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

Participation is contingent upon acceptance into the [BSW program](#) or [MSW program](#) and [CRCWEP](#).

CRCWEP Selection Process

Have you had applicants from Lane County area before?

Yes, CRCWEP is a statewide program and we encourage people from all over the state to apply. Usually, we see students from this area participate in the Distance Option, Eugene, Central Oregon Option (in Bend) or the Online Option.

May I apply for CRCWEP before I hear about acceptance into the MSW Program?

Yes. SSW MSW Program admissions decisions are not expected until March or April. You will know if you are accepted into the MSW SSW Program before CRCWEP selects candidates for interviews, unless you are wait-listed with the SSW.

How do you know if you are accepted into the SSW before applying for CRCWEP?

CRCWEP applications are due before you will know if you are admitted into the SSW. As stated in the question above most (sometimes, applicants are on a wait-list) will know if they are accepted into the MSW SSW Program before CRCWEP selects candidates for interviews.

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

We have a set amount of tuition available to all CRCWEP students (newly and previously selected) and fund approximately 25 total students per academic year. Because CRCWEP 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.

Are my chances of being selected to CRCWEP 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.

Practicum Questions

If I am accepted into CRCWEP, can I do a Macro or Clinical Practicum?

We have two concentrations: Macro and Clinical. Students in our program can do either concentration. Many times, students decide the concentration that best aligns with the activities and skills they want to learn in their advanced practicum.

Advanced placement practicums when in the clinical track must have a direct service component. This means students within the clinical track will be doing their practicum in a CPS, Permanency or Certification programs. Central office practicums are very unlikely to provide the needed direct service component needed for the clinical track; however, they are a great fit for a macro track student.

If you are in the MSW three-year program as a recruit, do you need to start the CRCWEP practicum during your first year of generalist practicum or can you do the child welfare practicum in your advanced practicum year?

You would do your generalist practicum in year 2 and advanced practicum in year 3. As a recruit, most students would likely find that having their generalist year in child welfare, strengthening your knowledge and skills in a casework position, to fit their needs best particularly as they prepare to apply for a child welfare position in the future. However, it is possible there are some child welfare placements that would be a fit for your advanced year, particularly for the clinical concentration. The macro-focused concentration may be more challenging to align both the field competencies and learning the day-to-day work of casework that is necessary to prepare new recruits for the interviewing and hiring process after graduation.

Is there an online option for practicums or does this have to be in person?

Most practicums are in person; however, it may be possible that students may be able to engage in some practicum learning remotely.

Will my experience as a teacher at a preschool transfer to experience that CRCWEP is looking for in the selection process?

We look for experience with children and families, particularly if people have experience with children and families involved in the child welfare system, and those who have worked with diverse communities. We have selected people who have a background in teaching.

What does the practicum structure look like?

We are using Portland campus as a proxy for this answer. You will fill out a Practicum Application and the practicum team will be working with you to determine the best placement for you. The CRCWEP 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 ESWI 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 practicum, you will participate in a 511 Practicum 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 offer two concentrations: Macro and Clinical concentrations. [Please see more about the concentrations here](#). As a CRCWEP 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

Miscellaneous Questions

Is there some type of testing for bi-lingual speakers?

There is a language test after you are hired as an SSS1 at ODHS Child Welfare. The feedback we have received is it is that the written component of the testing can present challenges if you are a native speaker of a language other than English who has learned the language primarily through verbal means. If this applies to you, you may want to think about how to strengthen your formal writing skills in your native language before taking the test.

You mentioned you update the questions that people ask in these sessions, are you referring to the Frequently Asked Questions?

We have two documents with questions and answers; the FAQs; and the ones we were referring to from these meetings are the "Culturally Responsive Child Welfare Education Program Stipend Questions and Answers." You may find the FAQs on our [CRCWEP website](#) on the [CRCWEP Application webpage](#) under "For more information, view: CRCWEP FAQs" or click on the previous link.