SOCIAL WORK, PHD

for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work

The Ph.D. program is typically a 64 graduate hour program for students who enter with an MSW or other master’s degree. The program is interdisciplinary and has a strong research emphasis. The Ph.D. program is organized around five curricular components: (1) seminars in social welfare policy, social work practice theories, and teaching; (2) research methodology and statistics; (3) an interdisciplinary area of study; (4) a qualifying exam; and (5) the dissertation. While the curriculum focuses on issues of relevance to social work and social welfare policy, students select courses not just in the School of Social Work but also from the full range of graduate courses offered, for example: educational psychology, human and community development, sociology, labor and industrial relations, psychology and anthropology. Candidates prepare for teaching, research, policy analysis, and leadership in social services.

Graduate Degree Programs in Social Work

Social Work, MSW (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/socw/social-work-msw/) (on campus, online & blended (online-face-to-face))
- concentration required:
  - Advanced Clinical Practice (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/socw/social-work-msw/advanced-clinical/)
  - Leadership & Social Change (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/socw/social-work-msw/leadership-social-change/)

Social Work, PhD (p. 1)

Admission

MSW program applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university in the United States or from a recognized institution of higher learning abroad;
2. a grade point average of 3.0 (A = 4.0) or greater for the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work;
3. 20 hours of completed coursework in a liberal arts core consisting of social and behavioral sciences, the humanities, and biological sciences;
4. evidence of personal attributes that are suitable for the profession of social work;
5. a score of 103 or above on the TOEFL test;
6. provision of a written supplementary statement.

Advanced Standing MSW applicants who meet all above requirements who have earned a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree from a CSWE-accredited program in the past seven years are considered for admission into the Advanced Standing MSW program. This is a three semester/44 hour program that may be completed in 12 months by most students. Students with a concentration in school social work participate in a one semester internship during their second Fall semester for a 3 semester/44 hour program completed in 16 months.

Ph.D. program applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. a master degree in social work or in related disciplines;
2. a GRE score within the last 5 years;
3. demonstrating a potential for research and other scholarly work;
4. aptitude for leadership in the field of social work

For the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work

For additional details and requirements refer to the department’s Graduate Handbook (http://socialwork.illinois.edu/academics/doctoral-program-ph-d/degree-and-course-requirements/) and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCW 579</td>
<td>Social Work Practice Theories</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCW 585</td>
<td>National Social Welfare Policy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCW 593</td>
<td>Applied Qualitative Research</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCW 595</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Designs</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCW 575</td>
<td>Social Work Teaching Seminar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCW 594</td>
<td>Individual Research (2 semesters of enrollment required)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Focus Area (2-3 courses outside of Social Work)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 courses in statistics and research methodology, 2-3 from outside of Social Work</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SOCW 599  Dissertation Research  

Total Hours  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other requirements may overlap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters Degree Required for Admission to PhD?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualifying Exam Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary Exam Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation Deposit Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum GPA</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For additional details and requirements refer to the department's Graduate Handbook (http://socialwork.illinois.edu/academics/doctoral-program-ph-d/degree-and-course-requirements/) and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/).

For the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work

1. Obtain knowledge of Social Work as a profession and discipline
   a. Graduates will be able to:
      i. Locate their work in the intellectual landscape of social work.
      ii. Understand the relations among social work education, research, and practice.
      iii. Understand how knowledge in social work is relevant to public issues, including promoting social justice and increasing equity.
      iv. Understand the role and importance of social work values and ethics in research and knowledge development.
      v. Develop expertise in at least one specialized area of knowledge.

2. Develop Core Quantitative and Qualitative Research Skills
   a. Graduates will be able to:
      i. Conceptualize significant, meaningful, and relevant social work research questions.
      ii. Understand both the technical aspects and conceptual underpinnings of a broad range of methodological and statistical techniques.
      iii. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge in the selection and application of the most rigorous, feasible, and appropriate methodological and data analyses for the research question(s) posed.
      iv. Design and implement appropriate procedures for sampling and data collection.

3. Engage in academic scholarship
   a. Graduates will be able to:
      i. Critically evaluate and review published work in students’ areas of expertise.
      ii. Identify the strengths and limitations of their own research.
      iii. Conduct research that is guided by theory.
      iv. Proactively and consistently implementing plans for the responsible and ethical conduct of research.
      v. Widely disseminate knowledge that contributes to the advancement of social work research, practice, and policy, including writing publishable, peer-reviewed manuscripts; presenting at local, national and international conferences; and producing policy briefs /white papers.

4. Develop Teaching Skills
   a. Graduates will be able to:
      i. Understand and apply theories of adult learning.
      ii. Design and teach a course in a social work curriculum.
      iii. Create a learning culture and classroom climate that is inclusive of a diverse population of students and diverse learning styles.
      iv. Address ethical dilemmas that might arise in teaching.
      v. Understand the place of social work education within the larger context of higher education.

5. Develop analytical skills to critically assess social policy and social science theories
   a. Graduates will be able to:
      i. Critically analyze paradigms and methods for social work knowledge building.
      ii. Evaluate representative theories for and studies of social work practice.
      iii. Understand the current research on practice effectiveness and methods for integrating research and practice.
      iv. Understand theoretical approaches to analyzing social policy development and implementation.
v. Understand selected theories and models that have been influential in the substantive development of broad-scale social policies and programs.

vi. Develop skills in empirically assessing policy issues and trends.

for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work

school office: 1010 W. Nevada St., Urbana, IL 61801
director of graduate studies: Associate Dean Min Zahn
e-mail: socialwork@illinois.edu
phone: (217) 244-5246
school website: https://socialwork.illinois.edu/
school faculty: School of Social Work Faculty (http://socialwork.illinois.edu/about-ssw/faculty-and-staff-directory/?doing_wp_cron=1546290133.2576510906219482421875)
overview of grad college admissions & requirements: https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply (https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/)