

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.

Admission

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

1. a master degree in social work or in related disciplines;
2. demonstrating a potential for research and other scholarly work;
3. aptitude for leadership in the field of social work

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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/>).

Code	Title	Hours
SOCW 579	Social Work Practice Theories	4
SOCW 585	National Social Welfare Policy	4
SOCW 593	Applied Qualitative Research	4
SOCW 595	Quantitative Research Designs	4
SOCW 575	Social Work Teaching Seminar	4
SOCW 594	Individual Research (2 semesters of enrollment required)	8
Focus Area (2-3 courses outside of Social Work)		12
3 courses in statistics and research methodology, 2-3 from outside of Social Work		12
SOCW 599	Dissertation Research	12
Total Hours		64

Other Requirements

Requirement	Description
Other requirements may overlap	
Masters Degree Required for Admission to PhD?	Yes

Qualifying Exam Required:	Yes
Preliminary Exam Required:	Yes
Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required:	Yes
Dissertation Deposit Required:	Yes
Minimum GPA:	3.0

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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.

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)

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School of Social Work

Director of Graduate Studies: Associate Dean Min Zahn
School of Social Work website (<https://socialwork.illinois.edu/>)
School of Social Work Faculty (<https://socialwork.illinois.edu/directory/>)
1010 W. Nevada St., Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 244-5246
Social Work email (undergradsocialwork@illinois.edu)

Admissions

Overview of Grad College Admissions & Requirements (<https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/>)