

perspective within the content of societal change. A critical indepth analysis of adult development and its challenges and opportunities is required for successful completion of the course.

**SW 547 Clinical Intervention with the Elderly** (3 Hours) The most important goal for social service professionals is to improve the quality of life for older people through effective intervention on their behalf. This course will focus on skill development and knowledge and understanding of older persons' behavior through the public health model of preventive intervention at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. Interventive strategies and case studies will be utilized in the course to develop skills for working with the elderly in institutions and in the community. Models of clinical social work practice with the elderly are critically analyzed.

**SW 548 Public Policy Issues in Aging** (3 Hours) This course provides an analysis of legislative policy and organized social welfare services and resources for the elderly as a social group in society. The political, economic, and social realities of aging that identify the elderly as requiring public policy solutions will be examined. Social policy analytical frameworks are employed to assess the legitimacy of aging as a social issue/problem and its impact on social institutions (family, social, political, economic, cultural).

**SW 549 Independent Study: Special Topics in Aging** (3 Hours) A primary focus of this course is its emphasis on the study special topics in aging in the behavioral, biological, and social sciences. In this regard, with faculty direction, students will explore, build upon and contribute to the knowledge base in aging and individual well-being. Students will engage in research through the independent study process in specific areas of interest in gerontology to increase knowledge and skills for policy and/or practice with the aged.

**SW 550 Introduction to Social Gerontology** (3 Hours) This course is designed to give students a general overview of social gerontology as a branch of knowledge in the field of gerontology. Social gerontology concerns itself with psychosocial and economic aspects of the aged individual and the social problems encountered from living in both formal and informal societal groupings. The interaction of these aspects and groupings and the services established and considered for the aged through public and social policy will be discussed.

**SW 557 Applied Research Methods** (3 Hours) This course is designed for the implementation and analysis of the research project. The project is to be conducted, when feasible, in the student's field setting. Students will have the opportunity to explore approaches to data collection and analysis and apply descriptive and inferential statistical measures to data sets. Students will be responsible for the computer processing of data using appropriate statistical software packages.

**SW 587 Advanced Social Work Practice with Groups** (3 Hours) Prerequisites: All foundation courses. The advanced social work practitioner is required to demonstrate group skills in a wide range of social situations. The foundation practice courses provide the basic skills for this course while the advanced practice with groups course expands, elaborates, and adds to the student's knowledge and skills. The focus of this course is on the development of knowledge and skills in the delivery of preventive, developmental, and remedial group services for at-risk populations of varying ages and social situations.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL STATEMENTS IN THIS CATALOG DESCRIPTION OF THE MSW PROGRAM ARE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CURRENT POLICIES AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE BY PROPER AUTHORITY.

## DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SOCIAL WORK

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Dr. G. Prater, Professor  
Dr. E. Williams, Associate Professor  
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### Mission

The mission of the Ph.D. Program in Social Work is to prepare students for leaders as social work educators and scholars who will advance knowledge about social welfare and social work practice to assist in resolving urban social issues facing families, communities, and the global society. The program focuses on advancing the students' knowledge and skills in theory building, research methodology, and critical analysis of social welfare policies and social work practice. Further, the program is dedicated to executing and optimizing the missions of the University and the School of Social Work.

### Program Goal and Objectives

The goal of the program is to develop scholars who will advance knowledge and skills about social welfare policy, planning, and administration, and social work education, practice and research. The objectives of the program are

consistent with the mission and goal. They focus on ensuring that students acquire:

- an analytical understanding of the history, philosophy, education, and ethical underpinnings of the social work profession and social welfare;
- advanced knowledge and skills to conceptualize, synthesize, analyze, and evaluate social issues and problems;
- knowledge of behavioral and social science theories and skills to analyze and assess their application to social work inquiry;
- a firm grounding in advanced social science and social work research;
- advanced knowledge of social work practice models and perspectives with a focus on families and children and skills to analyze and evaluate their effectiveness and to develop alternative approaches;
- advanced knowledge of social welfare policy, planning, administration with a focus on families and children and skills to develop, analyze, and evaluate related theories, policies, programs, and services; and
- an understanding of how political and social issues (e.g., oppression and discrimination) influence social work practice, social welfare policy, planning, and administration affecting families and children.

### **Admissions Requirements**

Admission to the program is on a selective basis and is determined by the following criteria:

- a master's degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, or a master's degree in a related discipline;
- admission to the Graduate School at Jackson State University;
- academic promise as evidenced by above average achievements in undergraduate and graduate education;
- satisfactory performance on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or Miller Analogies Test (MAT) taken within the past five years;
- for international applicants, satisfactory performance on TOEFL by demonstrating oral and written proficiency;
- professional competence as evidenced by at least two years of post-M.S.W. experience preferred;
- a statement of purpose reflecting applicant's philosophy of social work and educational goals;

- a scholarly or professional paper (or other work) demonstrating the applicant's conceptual, analytical, or research ability; and
  - three letters of references (two academic and one professional).
- an interview with the Program Admissions Committee or its designee may be required.

Transfer students must meet the same admission standards as all other applicants.

**The priority deadline for the Fall admission is March 1. Applications received after that date cannot be guaranteed review for Fall admission.**

### **Transfer of Credits**

A maximum of **9** graduate credit hours, excluding credit applied toward previous degrees, may be transferred from other accredited universities and colleges or graduate degree programs at Jackson State University to fulfill elective requirements.

The transfer of relevant graduate course work will only be considered if a grade of "B" or better, on a four-point scale, has been earned, and the course has been completed within the last five years.

Transfer credit for courses taken prior to entering the program must be approved during the first semester of enrollment by the advisor and program director.

Transfer credit applied toward the doctoral degree after admission to the program must be approved prior to taking the course by the advisor and program director.

### **Academic Performance**

The student must achieve a grade of "B" or better in all courses in the core curriculum and in the specialization courses. The student must maintain a "B" or better cumulative grade point average in all course work applied toward the degree.

### **Repeating Courses**

Students may repeat only one course in the program with the recommendation of the advisor and approval of the program director. Students desirous of this option must submit a written request to the program director during the subsequent semester or term/session in which the student is enrolled. The advisor must indicate support (or nonsupport) for the request in writing to the program director. The student must enroll in the course the next semester or term/session in which the course is offered.

When a student is allowed to repeat a course, both grades will show on the transcript and both will be used in computing the cumulative grade point average.

**Probation**

The probationary period in the Ph.D. Program in Social Work is defined as one subsequent semester of enrollment in the program after the cumulative grade point average falls below 3.0.

If a student’s cumulative grade point average falls below 3.0, the student will be placed on academic probation the subsequent semester of enrollment. The student will have until the end of the probationary period to raise the cumulative average to 3.0. If the student fails to achieve a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 by the end of the probationary period, the student will be dismissed from the Ph. D. Program in Social Work.

A student on probation (cumulative grade point average is below 3.0) who wishes to repeat a course must submit a written request to the program director during the subsequent semester or term/session in which the student is enrolled. The advisor must indicate support (or nonsupport) for the request in writing to the program director. The student must enroll in the course the next semester or term/session in which the course is offered.

**Unsatisfactory Course Work and Dismissal**

A student whose course work is unsatisfactory (below 3.0 cumulative grade point average) at the end of the probationary period, as defined in the Ph.D. Program in Social Work, will be dismissed from the program.

**Residency Requirements**

The minimum period of residency for the degree in Social Work is one year or the equivalent of enrollment for two consecutive semesters.

The student must be full time and therefore must carry at least nine credit hours each of the semesters counted for residency. The student must meet the minimum residency requirement prior to taking the comprehensive examination.

**Time Limit**

Students must complete all degree requirements within seven years from the time of admission into the program. The average length of time for completion of doctoral programs in social work is 4.5 years. The actual amount of time required for completion will vary according to such factors as clarity of objectives upon entering and while moving through the process, prior preparation for research and knowledge building endeavors, and time for self-directed learning.

**Leave of Absence/Re-admission**

Any student who is in good standing may request a leave of absence for a period of up to one year. The request must be submitted in writing to the program director for the time period in which the student plans to be absent from the program. The request must outline the reason(s) for the leave and the time period involved.

Students must apply for re-admission to the program if it has been more than 12 consecutive months since enrollment. An application for re-admission requires the submission of all material required by the program at the time the applicant requests re-admission. Applications for re-admission will be considered with the other new applicants.

**Degree Requirements**

**Core Courses**

Course	Title	Semester Hours
SW 700	Social Welfare History and Philosophy	3
SW 714	Social Work Education Seminar: Issues and Processes	3
SW 720	Research Methods I	3
SW 721	Research Methods II	3
SW 722	Statistical Methods I	3
SW 723	Statistical Methods II	3
SW 724	Policy and Practice Issues in Family and Children's Services	3
SW 730	Advanced Seminar in Social Work Literature and Knowledge Building	3
SW 731	Seminar: Dissertation Proposal Development	3
<i>Total Hours</i>		27

**Specialization Courses**

SW 710	Macro Social Science Theory, or	
SW 711	Micro Behavioral and Social Science Theory	3
SW 712	Knowledge Building: Clinical Practice, or	
SW 713	Knowledge Building: Policy, Planning, and Administration	3
SW 732	Independent Study, or	
SW 760	Research Practicum in Family and Children Studies	3
<i>Total Hours</i>		9

**Elective Hours**

Up to 9 hours in elective courses may be selected by the student, in consultation with the advisor, from course offerings in a related discipline in the Division of Graduate Studies at Jackson State University or other colleges or universities.

**Dissertation Hours**

3-15

Following admission to candidacy, students must continuously register for 1-3 credit hours per semester until the completion of the dissertation.

**Curriculum**

The curriculum is built upon the knowledge base of the social work profession and its values and principles. It also draws upon theoretical and empirical knowledge from related disciplines that is helpful in the formulation, analysis, and solution of social problems. Particular instructional efforts focus on critical examination of social issues facing families and children and analysis of related practice, program, and policy interventions. The development of empirically-based alternative social work practice perspectives and models with families and children is also emphasized.

The curriculum consists of a minimum of 45 credit hours, excluding the dissertation hours. It is organized around four major components: core curriculum, specialization, electives, and dissertation.

**Core Curriculum**

The core curriculum consists of courses on the history and philosophy of social welfare, social work knowledge building, research methodology, statistics, social work education, and proposal development for the dissertation. The courses support the specialization and dissertation work.

**Specializations**

The program provides students the opportunity to select one of the two specializations: clinical practice or policy, planning and administration.

The clinical practice specialization is theory- and research-oriented with emphasis on critical analysis and assessment of micro behavioral and social science theories, micro models of social work practice intervention, and related research. It focuses on knowledge and theory-building competency that facilitates the development of new and alternative models of practice interventions to improve the lives of families and children. A critical analysis of social policies affecting the above populations is also an important component of the specialization.

The policy, planning, and administration specialization is also theory- and research-oriented with emphasis on critical analysis and assessment of macro social science theories, macro models of social work practice interventions, and related research. It focuses on knowledge and theory-building competency that facilitates the development of new and alternative models of intervention in the lives of families and children. A

critical analysis of social policies, planning, and administration affecting the above populations is also an important component of the specialization.

**Electives**

The elective courses provide students with an array of subject-specific content to support their specialization and dissertation work.

**Comprehensive Examination**

Students take the comprehensive examination after successful completion of the core curriculum and specialization courses. The examination places emphasis on a comprehensive synthesis of materials covered in these courses with special attention to the student's ability to conceptualize, integrate and communicate knowledge.

The written examination has two parts. One part covers content in the core curriculum and the other addresses content in the specialization area. In case of failure, the student may be permitted only one additional opportunity to take the examination.

**Admission to Candidacy**

The student may enter candidacy for the degree after successfully completing the comprehensive examination which is administered after successful completion of the core curriculum and specialization courses.

**Certification of Dissertation Proposal**

Candidates must submit a dissertation proposal to their dissertation committee for approval prior to implementing the research.

The proposal must also be approved by the University's Institutional Review Board (IRB) whenever human subjects are proposed for use in the dissertation research. In cases where animal subjects will be used in the study, the research protocol must be approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

**Dissertation**

Candidates for the degree are required to complete a dissertation that demonstrates their ability to conduct rigorous scientific inquiry. The dissertation topic should grow out of the candidate's interest in a problem or issue relevant to social work. The research is expected to make a substantial contribution to social work knowledge.

**Oral Examination**

Upon completion of the dissertation, an oral examination is required. The purpose of the examination is to assess the candidate's ability to present and defend a conceptually and methodologically rigorous dissertation that makes a contribution to social work knowledge.

The student is considered to have completed the final oral examination successfully when there is no more than one vote of unsatisfactory by the examination committee members.

### DESCRIPTION OF COURSES

**SW 700 Social Welfare History and Philosophy** (3 Hours). This course examines the evolution of social welfare in American society and focuses on current issues and trends in the development and delivery of various social welfare programs and services. Further, the course critically analyzes the history, philosophy, and evolution of professional social work and social welfare values, practices, policies, and organizations in the United States.

The effects of social, cultural, political, and economic factors on the development and implementation of social welfare policies, programs, and services are examined with particular emphasis on African Americans and other historically oppressed populations in the United States. The development and impact of professional social work are also examined in the above context.

**SW 710 Macro Social Science Theory** (3 Hours). This course critically examines and assesses macro social science theories and explores how they are applied to social problems in social welfare and social work in the context of large systems. Selected theories are examined; conceptual and philosophical assumptions and values are assessed, and empirical evidence is analyzed. Issues of inequality and oppression in relation to race, gender, and class are considered. Implications for social work education and research are also considered.

**SW 711 Micro Behavioral and Social Science Theory** (3 Hours). This course examines human behavior theories and theoretical approaches to child and family studies in social work. The course traces the development of major theoretical approaches in the social and behavioral sciences and examines emerging schools of thought. Conceptual and philosophical issues related to theory building in clinical practice are explored. Through an analysis of the theoretical knowledge base of social work practice with individuals, families, and other small groups, this course prepares students for subsequent use of theory in practice-focused research.

**SW 712 Knowledge Building: Clinical Practice** (3 Hours). This course is designed to assist students develop an advanced comprehension of models/paradigms that guide social work practice with families and children. Students evaluate current models of practice with families and children, identify gaps, and propose new models of intervention. Emphasis is placed on knowledge building regarding practice with culturally diverse populations. (Prerequisite: SW 711).

**SW 713 Knowledge Building: Policy, Planning and Administration** (3 Hours). Prerequisite: SW 710. This course explores current macro

approaches to knowledge building in social work. The course focuses on three arenas related to practice: policy analysis, social planning and development, and administration of human service organizations. In particular, empirical studies of macro practice in social work are critically evaluated.

**SW 714 Social Work Education Seminar: Issues and Processes** (3 Hours). Prerequisite: SW 700. This course examines content, context, and processes in social work education. It critically analyzes current issues and future trends in social work education. Among the areas covered are accreditation, values and ethics, educational and professional organizations, curriculum development, methods of instruction and ancillary educational roles.

**SW 720 Research Methods I** (3 Hours). This research course provides students with a foundation for understanding and conducting scientific inquiry in social work. It covers the research process, critically examining problem formulation, use of the literature, theoretical and conceptual framework development, researchable questions, hypothesis development, research design, sampling procedures, measurement, and data collection. Students also consider the ethical, philosophical, and other dimensions of research that are essential to understanding the role of research in social work.

**SW 721 Research Methods II** (3 Hours). Prerequisites: SW 720 and SW 722. This advanced research methods course is a continuation of the first research course. It encompasses an in-depth study of qualitative and quantitative research, including grounded theory, biographical life history, phenomenology, ethnography, content analysis, survey research, and experimental, quasi-experimental, and non-experimental designs. Emphasis is placed on measurement, sampling, data analysis, and other relevant issues. The strengths and weaknesses of both qualitative and quantitative research are examined. The integration of both approaches to build a common body of knowledge is also covered.

**SW 722 Statistical Methods I** (3 Hours). This course explores data analysis issues at the bivariate level and how data are affected by various statistical problems. It emphasizes the application of both qualitative and quantitative statistical reasoning, description, inference, and theoretical underpinning as well as the interpretation of the procedures used in the context of social work research. The statistical knowledge base is augmented by the use of the computer for statistical analysis procedures.

**SW 723 Statistical Methods II** (3 Hours). Prerequisites: SW 720 and SW 722. This course builds on the first statistical methods course. It concentrates on the multivariate statistical procedures to provide an integrated and in-depth applied approach to multivariate data analysis and linear statistical models in social work research. Particular emphasis is placed on the procedures involved with multiple independent and dependent variables used simultaneously in a comprehensive design. The course

utilizes computer programs for statistical analysis procedures.

**SW 724 Policy and Practice Issues in Family and Children's Services** (3 Hours). This seminar is designed to provide students with an opportunity to explore policies, programs, services, and related practice issues affecting families and children. It focuses on the nature of selected policies, the policy-making process, factors that influence policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation and approaches to policy analysis. Particular emphasis is placed on critical examination of selected policy and practice issues related to families and children. Students are expected to analyze a major policy affecting families and children and prepare a related policy or practice issue paper. Examples of current issues covered are the impact of welfare reform, Medicaid coverage, managed care, homelessness, permanency planning for children at risk, and research on the prevention of family and/or youth violence.

**SW 730 Advanced Seminar in Social Work Literature & Knowledge Building** (3 Hours). In this course students review and analyze the literature on a range of topics in support of their area of specialization. Inductive and deductive approaches to knowledge building are explored. Examples of both classic and current approaches to knowledge building in social work and the social and behavioral sciences are examined. Students are expected to produce either a literature review for publication or a draft of sufficient depth to be included in their dissertation proposal.

**SW 731 Seminar: Dissertation Proposal Development** (3 Hours). Prerequisites: SW 721, SW 723, and SW 730. The focus of this course is on the development of a research proposal for the dissertation. The research idea, literature review, problem formulation, research design on topics suggested by participants, and contribution of the proposed research to the knowledge base of the social work profession are discussed.

**SW 732 Independent Study** (3 Hours). Prior to enrollment, students must develop an independent study plan and obtain the support of a faculty member willing to serve as the instructor. The plan should be in support of the student's area of specialization and clearly specify outcomes to be achieved upon completion of the project.

**SW 741 Research in Child Behavior** (3 Hours). This course examines the relationship between the family and the socialization of the child. The theoretical assumptions that guide research in this area are outlined. The literature concerning both the effects of recent shifts in parental work patterns and changes in the timing of parenthood on parent child relationships is reviewed. Research regarding the cultural context of child socialization is highlighted.

**SW 742 Qualitative Research Methods** (3 Hours). Prerequisites: SW 720 and 721. This course examines major qualitative approaches that are most frequently applied to

the study of process in human services settings. Students learn how to conduct systematic investigations of in-depth, non-quantitative studies of individuals, groups, organizations, or communities.

**SW 743 Small Group Theory and Practice** (3 Hours). This course is designed to provide a critical and integrative approach to the study of small groups and to develop an advanced comprehension of the theoretical and empirical bases upon which to meet human needs in a variety of group settings. Selected social work small group theories are identified and examined, conceptual and philosophical assumptions are assessed, values are considered, and empirical evidence analyzed.

**SW 744 Clinical Practice with Urban Poor and Underserved Populations** (3 Hours). This course examines a range of modalities used in treating urban poor populations, including empowerment strategies with women of color, group work models with parenting teens, and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) diagnosis and treatment with victims of urban violence. Various theoretical models and social work strategies that have been applied in urban settings are critically analyzed.

**SW 750 Social Welfare Administration** (3 Hours) The course reviews, analyzes and synthesizes alternative models of organizational structure and process with emphasis on the open systems perspective. Organizational problems and issues in administration are examined in relation to the value system of social work. Particular emphasis is placed on human service organizations regarding organizational performance, staffing patterns and interactions, funding sources, and the impact of multiple external constituents on organizational functioning.

**SW 751 Seminar: Communities and Organizations** (3 Hours). The purpose of this seminar is to examine communities and organizations as an important level of intervention for solving social problems. Emphasis is placed on analysis of existing theory, research, and models of intervention with regard to their validity and utilization capability. Where gaps and deficiencies in knowledge are identified, in-depth study is undertaken to develop appropriate models of intervention.

**SW 752 Social Welfare and Social Economics** (3 Hours). This course examines social welfare issues related to major economic decisions in the United States. Particular attention focuses on exploring the implications of achieving equity and equality in the distribution of income and power, the elimination of unemployment, and the control of inflation. Public welfare programs and the base of funding for social services are examined in terms of the nation's economic and political objectives.

**SW 753 Implementing Social Policy: Process and Environment** (3 Hours). The focus of this course is on social and political factors that shape and constrain the ability of policy and program officials to implement legislated programs. The course draws upon case examples at the federal, state, and local levels of government.

**SW 754 Health Policy Issues in the United States** (3 Hours). This course examines national health policy trends and their implications for access to health care at the state and local levels. It explores issues of accessibility, affordability, and availability, and their implications for social work.

**SW 760 Research Practicum in Family and Children Studies** (3 Hours). Prerequisites: SW 720 and 722. This individualized learning experience is designed to provide students with "hands on" research experience prior to the dissertation project. Students work with their advisors in selecting an ongoing research project and principal investigator for supervision of their work. Students develop and submit a work plan to the practicum supervisor, advisor, practicum director, and doctoral program chair for approval.

**SW 761 Seminar in Child and Family Welfare: An International Perspective** (3 Hours). Prerequisites: SW 724. This seminar explores child and family welfare issues in the international arena. It provides a forum for students to engage in an in-depth study and analysis of child-focused or family-focused social welfare policy or practice issues in a selected country (e.g., Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, England, Mexico, Jamaica, and Sweden). Implications for social work practice, policy initiatives, and research are examined.

**SW 762 International Health Policy and Practice Issues in Social Welfare** (3 Hours). This course examines international health policy issues and trends and their implications for access to health care at the international level. It explores issues of accessibility, affordability, attitudes and belief systems, and indigenous governmental and non-governmental organizations. The course provides a seminar setting for conceptualization and organization of theoretical concepts and constructs related to health care policy and service delivery paradigms with implications for practical utilization.

**SW 770 Dissertation** (3 - 15 Hours). Students will complete a major conceptually and methodologically rigorous research project of interest that contributes to social work knowledge. The topic of the dissertation is approved by the dissertation committee.

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