

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SOCIAL WORK

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Faculty

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Dr. G. Prater, Professor
Dr. R. Williams, Associate Professor
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Mission

The mission of the program is to prepare students for leadership roles as scholars in social work education and research who will advance knowledge about social work and social welfare to assist in resolving urban and rural issues facing families, communities, and the global society. The program focuses on theory building and assessment, research methods, social work education, and critical analysis and assessment of social problems, social welfare policy and social work practice models/perspectives. In addition, students are guided in developing a sound knowledge base regarding a substantive area of interest.

Objectives

The objectives of the program are consistent with the mission. 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 necessary 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 and skills to analyze and evaluate their effectiveness and develop alternative approaches;
- advanced knowledge of social welfare policy and skills to analyze and evaluate their effectiveness and propose alternative initiatives.

- an understanding of how political and social issues (e.g., oppression and discrimination) influence social work practice and social welfare policy and their impact on families, communities, and the global society;
- a sound knowledge base regarding a substantive area of interest.

Admissions Requirements

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

- 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 Division of Graduate Studies 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;
- for applicants with the M. S. W. Degree, professional competence as evidenced by at least two years of post-M.S.W. experience preferred;
- statement of purpose reflecting applicant's philosophy of social work and educational goals;
- scholarly or professional paper demonstrating the applicant's conceptual, analytical, or research ability;
- three letters of references (two academic and one professional);
- curriculum vitae; and
- interview with the Program Admissions Committee (contingent upon initial assessment).
- Transfer students must meet the same admission standards as all other applicants.

**The 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 nine graduate credit hours, excluding credit applied toward previous degrees, may be transferred from graduate degree programs at Jackson State University or other accredited universities to fulfill the 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. 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. They must enroll in the course the next semester or term/session in which the course is offered. When a student repeats 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 program.

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 program, will be dismissed from the program.

Residency Requirement

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 take at least nine credit hours each semester counted toward 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 factors such as

clarity of objectives upon entering the program 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 more than 12 consecutive months have elapsed 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 applications.

Degree Requirements

Core Courses

Course Title	Hours
SW 700 Doctoral Proseminar	3
SW 705 Social Welfare History and Philosophy	3
SW 710 Macro Theory	3
SW 711 Micro Theory	3
SW 714 Social Work Education Seminar: Issues & Processes	3
SW 720 Research Methods I	3
SW 722 Statistical Methods I	3
SW 721 Research Methods II	3
SW 723 Statistical Methods II	3
SW 724 Policy and Practice Issues in Family and Children's Services	3
SW 725 Statistical Methods III: Advanced Quantitative Methods	3
SW 742 Qualitative Research Method	3
SW 760 Research Practicum in Family and Children Studies	3
<i>Total Hours</i>	<u>39</u>

Electives

Students may select, in consultation with the advisor, a total of 12 credit hours of courses offerings in social work and a related discipline in the Graduate School at Jackson State University or at other colleges or universities.

Dissertation Hours

Following admission to candidacy, students must continuously register for a minimum of three dissertation hours per semester (six credits hours per year) until 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 instruction focuses on theory building and assessment, research methods, social work education, critical analysis and assessment of social problems, social welfare policy and social work practice models/perspectives, and knowledge development in a substantive area of interest.

The curriculum consists of a minimum of 51 credit hours, excluding the dissertation hours. It is organized around three major components: core curriculum, electives, and dissertation.

Core Curriculum

The core curriculum consists of 39 credit hours. The courses focus on the history and philosophy of social welfare, social welfare policy, with emphasis children and their families, social work behavioral and social science theory, research methods, statistics, and social work education.

Electives

The elective courses offer students an array of subject-specific content to develop a substantive area of interest that complements the core curriculum and supports the dissertation work. Students may select, in consultation with the advisor, a total of 12 credit hours of courses offerings in social work and a related discipline in the Graduate School at Jackson State University or at other universities.

Comprehensive Examination

Students take the comprehensive examination upon successful completion of the core curriculum. The examination places emphasis on a comprehensive synthesis of material covered in the core courses, with special attention to the student's ability to conceptualize, integrate, and communicate knowledge. In case of failure, the student may be permitted only one additional opportunity to take the examination.

Admission to Candidacy

The student enters candidacy for the degree after successfully completing the comprehensive examination which is administered after successful completion of the core 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 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 emanate from the candidate's interest in a problem or issue relevant to social work or social welfare. The dissertation is expected to represent a substantial contribution to social work knowledge.

Oral Defense

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 contributes to social work knowledge. No student is permitted to defend the dissertation unless all requirements of the Ph.D. Program in Social Work, the School of Social Work, the College of Public Service, and the Division of Graduate Studies have been satisfied.

The student passes the oral defense when **all** dissertation committee members indicate agreement by signing the appropriate form.

Description of Courses

SW 700 Doctoral Proseminar (3 Hours). This seminar is designed to enhance the students's matriculation in the doctoral program and their preparation for leadership roles as social work scholars and educators. As a backdrop, it provides an overview for discussion of higher education in general and doctoral education as a major focus of study in social work education. Students engage in dialogue and related activities considered essential to their success in the program and preparedness for their prospective roles as faculty in the academy.

SW 705 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. Selected theories are identified and examined, conceptual and philosophical assumptions assessed, values considered, and empirical evidence analyzed. Particular attention is given to issues of inequality and oppression in relation to race, gender, and class. This

course prepares students for use of macro theories to guide their research.

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 714 Social Work Education Seminar: Issues and Processes (3 Hours). 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. (Prerequisite: SW 700)

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). 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. (Prerequisites: SW 720 and SW 722)

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). 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. (Prerequisites: SW 720 and SW 722)

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, permanency planning for children at risk, and research on the prevention of family and/or youth violence.

SW 725 Statistical Methods III: Advanced Quantitative Methods (3 Hours). This course builds on the previous methods courses. It concentrates on advanced quantitative statistical procedures to provide an integrated and in-depth applied approach to data analysis and linear statistical models in social work research. Particular emphasis will be placed on higher level statistical methods involved with multiple independent and dependent variables used simultaneously in a comprehensive design. Familiarity with the use of SPSS for data analysis is required. (Prerequisites: SW 720, SW 721, SW 722 and SW 723).

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 742 Qualitative Research Methods (3 Hours). 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. (Prerequisites: SW 720 and 721)

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). 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. (Prerequisites: SW 720 and 722)

SW 761 Seminar in Child and Family Welfare: An International Perspective (3 Hours). 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 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. (Prerequisites: SW 724)

SW 762 International Health Policy Issues (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.

NOTE: All statements in this catalog description of the Ph.D. Program in Social Work are announcements of current policies and are subject to change.