

Curriculum

The curriculum of the program 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 helpful in the formulation, analysis, and solution of social problems. Particular instruction focuses on assessment and application of social work perspectives and behavioral and social science theories, research methods, social work education, critical analysis and assessment of social problems, social welfare policy, and knowledge development in a substantive research 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 Courses

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

Elective Courses

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 a related discipline in graduate programs 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.

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. The dissertation is expected to represent a substantial contribution to social work knowledge.

**JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC SERVICE
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
PHD PROGRAM**

Typical Program of Study

First Year

Fall Semester

SW 700 Doctoral ProSeminar	3 hours
SW 720 Research Methods I	3 hours
SW 722 Statistical Methods I	3 hours

Spring Semester

SW 705 Social Welfare History and Philosophy	3 hours
SW 721 Research Methods II	3 hours
SW 723 Statistical Methods II	3 hours

Summer

Elective	3 hours
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Second Year

Fall Semester

SW 711 Micro Theory	3 hours
SW 714 Social Work Education Seminar: Issues and Processes	3 hours
SW 725 Statistical Methods: Advanced Quantitative Methods	3 hours

Spring Semester

SW 710 Macro Theory	3 hours
SW 724 Policy and Practice Issues in Family and Children's Services	3 hours
SW 742 Qualitative Research Methods	3 hours

Summer

Electives (Including SW 732 Independent Study)	3-6 hours
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Third Year

Fall Semester

Research Practicum	3 hours
Electives	3-6 hours

Spring Semester

Comprehensive Examination	----
Electives	3-6 hours

Fourth Year and Beyond

SW 770 Dissertation	3-15 hours
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