

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Public Service
School of Social Work

Ph.D. Program Bulletin



School of Social Work

Inspiring Change...

Building Communities ...

Making a Difference!

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Dr. Gwendolyn Prater

Dear Prospective Student:

In November 2002, the Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning authorized the College of Public Service. This newly formed College encompasses three related schools: the School of Social Work, the School of Public Health, and the School of Policy and Planning. The College provides opportunities to solve the growing complexity of urban and rural problems within and across disciplines. The School of Social Work maintains a central role in this effort.

Within the School of Social Work you will find dedicated and accessible faculty, a supportive and challenging learning environment, and opportunities to study and learn among a diverse body of scholars and professionals. On behalf of the faculty and staff of the entire College of Public Service, I welcome your interest in the School of Social Work and invite you to consider joining us in “Empowering People through Public Service.”

Gwendolyn S. Prater, Dean
College of Public Service



Dr. Ruth Williams

Dear Prospective Student:

Jackson State University has offered high quality social work education for over thirty-five years. We have grown from a series of courses being offered through the Department of Sociology in the late 1960s to a School with B.S.W. and M.S.W. programs that are fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). We also take considerable pride in offering the only doctoral program in social work in the state of Mississippi.

We are excited about the opportunities that await you. As you plan your future in social work, we encourage you to make Jackson State University a part of those plans. Take the first steps in joining our family by reading more about our programs and submitting an application for admission.

Ruth M. Williams, Associate Dean
School of Social Work

The University

Jackson State University is one of the nation's premiere Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), noted for its accomplishments in providing educational preparation to enable and empower graduates to succeed in an increasingly complex and competitive world. The seventh largest among the 117 HBCUs, and the fourth largest public institution in the state, Jackson State University provides programs at the baccalaureate, master's, specialist, and doctoral levels. In 1979, Jackson State University was officially designated as the Urban University of the state of Mississippi. Located in Jackson, the state's largest urban area and its capital, the University is surrounded by a population of approximately 400,000 in the metropolitan area.

As the Urban University in the state, Jackson State University is ideally positioned to provide academic and public service programs to address issues and concerns in both urban and rural environments. The University emphasizes the development of persons who can and will assume prominent roles in the dynamics of societal growth



and change. Thus, the establishment of degree and non-degree offerings, training programs, and the provision of technical assistance are evidence of the University's role in providing human, cultural, and physical resources in communities throughout the state, nation, and world.

Jackson State University is in the forefront among Mississippi institutions of higher learning in increasing its graduate degree offerings in a variety of disciplines, a number of which resulted from the historic Ayers desegregation case.

Mission of the University

A Historically Black Carnegie Doctoral/Research Intensive public institution of higher learning located in the metropolitan area of Jackson, Mississippi, Jackson State University educates a diverse student population from Mississippi, most other states and many foreign countries by providing a broad range of baccalaureate programs and a variety of master's and doctoral programs in its six Colleges: Business, Education and Human Development; Liberal Arts; Lifelong Learning; Public Service; and Science, Engineering and Technology. The learning process at Jackson State is enhanced through experiential learning in urban and rural areas throughout the city, state, nation, and global communities. Jackson State is a learning community for highly capable, as well as capable but underprepared students who require a nurturing academic environment.

The School of Social Work

History

The Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning authorized the establishment of the School of Social Work on July 21, 1994. There are three degree programs in the School of Social Work—the baccalaureate, the master's, and the doctorate. The baccalaureate program began social work course offerings in the Department of Sociology in the late 1960s and became a separate department on September 1, 1975. The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) conferred full accreditation status on the baccalaureate program (B.S.W.) in 1975. The Council on Social Work Education granted candidacy to the M.S.W. program in February 1995, and the inaugural class matriculated August 21, 1995. At its February meeting in 1998, the Commission on Accreditation, Council on Social Work Education, granted full accreditation status to the M.S.W. Program retroactive to the first graduating class. The charter class of the Ph.D. Program in Social Work began on August 22, 1997.



Philosophy

The School's philosophy is based on the belief in the dignity and worth of the individual, the right to self-determination, and the provision of opportunities to allow each person to develop his or her full potential. In addition, the philosophy of the School encompasses a belief that all people should have a quality of life free of political, economic, and social injustice. We believe that empowerment is a vehicle to self-sufficiency and is a necessary step toward achieving a quality life. Fundamental to the School are acknowledgement and appreciation of diversity among individuals, families, organizations, and communities. Focusing on these factors facilitates students' appreciation of social and cultural diversity and provides them with greater awareness of their ethnic identity and place in the global community. This philosophy equally incorporates the value of self-help and mutual aid in an interdependent world. It recognizes the value of economic development and self-sufficiency as critical components of community sustainability and family stability. It embodies the belief that economic parity must accompany social and political change at all levels to enhance the functioning of society.



Mission

The mission of the School of Social Work is to provide opportunities for a multicultural student population to earn social work degrees at the baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral levels. Students are provided a supportive academic environment in which to acquire the knowledge, skills, and values and ethics of the social work profession.

The Ph.D. Program



Mission

The mission of the Ph.D. Program in Social Work 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 and social welfare policy. In addition, students are provided an opportunity to develop a sound knowledge base regarding a substantive area of interest.

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 that is helpful in the formulation, analysis, and solution of social problems. Particular instruction focuses on theory building and assessment, research methods, statistics, 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 on children and their families, social work perspectives, social science theories, research methods, statistics, social work education, and professional development.

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 a related discipline in graduate programs at Jackson State University or at other colleges or 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 or social welfare. The dissertation is expected to represent a substantial contribution to social work knowledge.

Additional Educational Opportunities

The Ph.D. Program provides students the following additional educational opportunities:

- ◆ conduct research and teach with faculty in diverse areas of interest;
- ◆ publish with faculty and other students;
- ◆ contribute to curriculum and policy discussions;
- ◆ network with professionals; and
- ◆ pursue doctoral studies in a culturally and racially diverse academic environment.

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 carry at least nine credit hours each semester counted toward residency. The student must meet the minimum residency requirement prior to taking the comprehensive examination.



Completion Time Limit Requirement

Students must complete all degree requirements within seven years from the time of admission into the program. The actual amount of time required for completion varies according to the student's progress in the program.

Financial Information

Students are required to make arrangements for expenses they incur during their graduate studies. These expenses include tuition and other fees required by the university. Financial assistance is also available to the students.

Tuition

Tuition fees are determined by the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning and the Mississippi State Legislature. Accurate information for the respective academic year maybe obtained from the current University's Graduate Catalog.

Residency

In order to meet the legal residency requirement in Mississippi, an individual must reside in the state for a continuous period of at least 12 months. This requirement must be met prior to admission in order to qualify for in-state tuition.

Financial Assistance

Students are offered a number of options for financing their studies. They may apply for assistantships, scholarships, and fellowships through the Division of Graduate Studies and the School of Social Work. The fellowships and graduate assistantships offered by the School of Social Work are competitive (see pages 17 and 19 for criteria). Students may apply for loans and other financial assistance at the University (Office of Financial Aid) as well as external to the institution. Applicants must request and submit required information for each respective type of financial assistance.



Jackson State University
School of Social Work
Ph.D. Program

Application Information

Admissions Requirements

Applicants must apply to the Division of Graduate Studies and the Ph.D. Program in Social Work. Admission to the Ph.D. 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;
- ❑ 3.5 or above graduate GPA, 3.0 or above undergraduate GPA;
- ❑ 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;
- ❑ statement of purpose reflecting applicant's philosophy of social work and educational and professional goals;
- ❑ scholarly or professional paper (or other work) demonstrating the applicant's conceptual, analytical, or research ability;
- ❑ three recommendations (two academic and one professional); and
- ❑ interview with the Program Admissions Committee (contingent upon initial assessment of application).

Deadline

The priority deadline for the Fall admission is March 1. Applications received after that date cannot be guaranteed review for Fall admission. The Admissions Committee reviews the applicant's file after all materials have been received.

Forthcoming Program Options

Beginning Fall 2008, the School of Social Work will offer the Ph.D. Program full time and part time. The School will also offer a combined Ph.D./M.S.W. option.

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

Application for Admission

Name (Ms., Mrs., Mr.) _____ Social Security _____

Present Address _____ Telephone _____

_____ Zip _____ Cellular Phone _____

Permanent Address _____ Telephone _____

_____ Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____ Date of Birth _____

Business Address _____ Telephone _____

_____ Zip _____ Fax _____

Name of Institution	Location	Dates Attended	Year Graduated	Degree Received	Major

List names and addresses of your employers, dates of employment, and titles of positions.

I certify that the above information is correct. I understand that admission to the Division of Graduate Studies does not imply acceptance in the Ph.D. Program of the School of Social Work.

Signature

Date

NOTE: Please supplement the above information with a **curriculum vitae**. Also, carefully review the enclosed checklist to ensure that you submit all required materials.

**JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
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SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
PHD PROGRAM**

Statement of Purpose

Provide a three to five page double-spaced typed statement addressing the following:

- ◆ philosophy of social work/social welfare;
- ◆ educational goals focused on research and teaching areas of interest;
- ◆ professional goals focused on employment and related activities; and
- ◆ discussion regarding how you believe the doctoral program will facilitate the accomplishment of your goals.

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

Recommendation Form

Section I (To be completed by applicant)

Please complete the upper portion of this form and forward it to an individual who can evaluate your academic record and/or professional work.

Name of Applicant: _____
Last First Middle

Social Security Number: _____

Name of Recommender: _____

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and its amendments guarantee students access to their educational records. Students, however, are entitled to waive their right of access concerning recommendations. Please check and sign the following statement **only** if you wish to waive your right of access to this recommendation.

I waive my right of access to this recommendation.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Section II (To be completed by recommender)

The person named above is applying for admission to our Ph.D. Program in Social Work. We would appreciate your candid evaluation of the applicant's ability to undertake rigorous doctoral study and the range of his/her abilities and accomplishments. The information given in this recommendation will be confidential **only** if the applicant has signed the above waiver.

How long and in what capacity(ies) have you known the applicant?

Please carefully assess the applicant in the areas listed below. In making your assessment, compare the applicant to other individuals you have known who have similar education and levels of professional experience. **You may provide additional observations by letter.** If you decide to do so, please attach it to this form. We greatly appreciate your response.

	Outstanding	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Unable to Assess
Analytical Ability						
Oral Communication Skills						
Written Communication Skills						
Leadership						
Ability to be Self-critical						
Interpersonal Skills						
Initiative						
Reliability						
Ability to Work Independently						

In summary, what is your overall rating of the applicant regarding his/her ability to complete a doctoral program.

- Highly Recommend
- Recommend
- Recommend with Reservation
- Do Not Recommend

Please state why you recommend with reservation or do not recommend.

Recommender's Signature
Date
Title

Name (type or print) _____ Institution _____

Address _____

Please send the recommendation to the Ph.D. Program, School of Social Work, Jackson State University, Universities Center, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211.

Jackson State University is committed to the principles of equal educational opportunity, equal employment, and affirmative action. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, disability, age, religion, national origin, veteran status, or on any other illegal basis.

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
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Social Security Number: _____

Name of Recommender: _____

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- I waive my right of access to this recommendation.

Applicant's Signature Date

Section II (To be completed by recommender)

The person named above is applying for admission to our Ph.D. Program in Social Work. We would appreciate your candid evaluation of the applicant's ability to undertake rigorous doctoral study and the range of his/her abilities and accomplishments. The information given in this recommendation will be confidential **only** if the applicant has signed the above waiver.

How long and in what capacity(ies) have you known the applicant?

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

**Criteria for Graduate Assistantship
(Tuition & Stipend)**

1. Required Cumulative Grade Point Average

Student must maintain cumulative grade point average required (3.0 or “B”) in all course work toward the degree.

2. Enrollment

Student must be enrolled full time during the academic year that the assistantship is awarded.

3. Specification and Limitations of Assistantship

Assistantship will provide a monthly stipend for 20 hours per week of service to the School.

4. Award Period

Assistantship will be awarded for study during the academic year (fall and spring semesters).

5. Duration of Assistantship

Students may receive the assistantship for a minimum of one academic year of study toward the degree.

6. Employment Restriction

Student must not engage in full-time employment during the period of the assistantship.

7. Conference Attendance Requirement

Student must attend a national social work conference during each academic year the assistantship is awarded.

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

**Application for Graduate Assistantship
(Tuition & Stipend)**

Name (Ms., Mrs., Mr.) _____ Social Security # _____

Present Address _____ Telephone _____

_____ Zip _____ Cellular Phone _____

Permanent Address _____ Telephone _____

_____ Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____ Date of Birth _____

Business Address _____ Telephone _____

_____ Zip _____ Fax _____

Graduate Cumulative Grade Point Average _____

Honors/Awards/Leadership Activities:

I certify that I have read the criteria for the graduate assistantship and honestly completed the application.

Print Name

Signature

Date

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

Criteria for Graduate Tuition Fellowship

1. Required Cumulative Grade Point Average

Student must maintain cumulative grade point average required (3.0 or “B”) in all course work toward the degree.

2. Enrollment

Student must be enrolled full time during the academic year that the tuition fellowship is awarded.

3. Award Period

Fellowship will be awarded for study during the academic year (fall and spring semesters).

4. Duration of Fellowship

Student may receive the fellowship for a minimum of one academic year of study toward the degree.

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

Application for Graduate Tuition Fellowship

Name (Ms., Mrs., Mr.) _____ Social Security # _____

Present Address _____ Telephone _____

_____ Zip _____ Cellular _____

Permanent Address _____ Telephone _____

_____ Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____ Date of Birth _____

Business Address _____ Telephone _____

_____ Zip _____ Fax _____

Graduate Cumulative Grade Point Average _____

Honors/Awards/Leadership Activities:

I certify that I have read the criteria for the graduate assistantship and honestly completed the application.

Print Name

Signature

Date

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

Statement of Authenticity

I certify that I have answered all of the questions completely and truthfully. I understand that misrepresentations and false information given as part of my personal statements and/or supporting credentials and documents may be cause for cancellation of further consideration for admission to or continuation in the Ph. D. Program in Social Work at Jackson State University. I also understand that all credentials and documents that I submit become the property of Jackson State University.

Name (Print)

Signature

Date

Please return this completed form with your application packet.

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

Checklist for Application

Please check this list to make sure you have submitted the materials, and/or arranged for the proper source to send the materials directly to **the Division of Graduate Studies, Jackson State University, P.O. Box 17095, Jackson MS 39217** and to the **Ph.D. Program, School of Social Work, Jackson State University, Attn: Admissions Committee, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211**. To be assured consideration, all application materials must be received by **March 1**. Please return the checklist with notation indicating the materials enclosed.

Division of Graduate Studies

- Admissions Application
- Two Official Transcripts
- Official TOEFL Score (international applicant)
- Graduate School Financial Aid Application
- Out-of-State Application Fee of \$20.00
- Immunization Record

Ph.D. Program, School of Social Work

- Application for Admission
- Curriculum Vitae
- Statement of Purpose
- Scholarly or Professional Paper
- Three Recommendations (two academic, one professional)
- Official Undergraduate Transcript
- Official Graduate Transcript
- Copy of GRE or MAT Score
- Copy of TOEFL Score (international applicant)
- Application for Graduate Assistantship (optional)
- Application for Graduate Tuition Fellowship (optional)
- Copy of Division of Graduate Studies Admission Application
- Copy of the Division of Graduate Studies Financial Aid Application (optional)
- Statement of Authenticity
- Other Relevant Material

Signature

Date

Matriculation into the Ph.D. Program, School of Social Work, requires dual admission to the Division of Graduate Studies and the Ph.D. Program. You should contact the Division of Graduate Studies at the above address or at (601) 979-2455 to check on the status of your application for admission to the Division of Graduate Studies. Inquiries regarding the Ph.D. Program in Social Work should be directed to the program at the above address or at (601) 432-6811.

If additional information is needed, please contact us.

**Ph.D. Program
Jackson State University
College of Public Service
School of Social Work
3825 Ridgewood Road, Suite 9-16
Jackson, MS 39211-9972**

Phone number:	(601) 432-6811
Fax number:	(601) 432-6827
E-mail:	phdssw@jsums.edu

College of Public Service Website: www.jsums.edu/~cps/

School of Social Work

Inspiring Change...Building Communities...Making a Difference!

A permanent home is found for an abandoned baby and in the process a childless couple now have the family they always wanted. A prevention program delivered in the local high school reduces the rate of alcohol use by teenagers in the community. A single mother receives job training and child care services that enable her to support her family. Research on homeless veterans leads to increased federal funding to expand services. A husband and wife learn to resolve their differences and build a better life for themselves and their children. After losing their home in a fire, a family is assisted in getting a fresh start in life. A distraught father receives counseling that relieves his depression. Research findings generate programs to teach elderly African Americans how to best manage their high blood pressure.

The common thread in all these situations is the impact Jackson State University's trained social workers can make in inspiring change. Social workers provide counseling to individuals, families, and groups. They connect people to community resources to help them achieve their goals and work to promote positive social change, solve problems, and enhance the quality of life for their clients.

Social workers also work to promote and enhance the quality of community life. They understand that there is a unique interplay between individuals and families and the communities in which they live. Thus, communities can have tremendous influence, either positive or negative on personal well-being. Through their work to ensure vigorous and healthy living environments that support community members, social workers engage in community building. Social workers use their professional skills to address community strengths and deficiencies, working to enhance the strengths and decrease the deficiencies. The School of Social Work prepares its graduates to engage in activities that stimulate community growth and development with the ultimate aim of providing more and better opportunities to community members.

The Jackson State University School of Social Work makes a difference in the lives of individuals, families, organizations, communities, and the global society through its graduates who assume leadership roles as practitioners, educators, and scholars. Social Workers apply their knowledge and skills toward enhancing the quality of life in urban and rural environments through empowerment of vulnerable individuals, families, organizations, and communities. Graduates of the School are expected to demonstrate high concern for economic, political, and social justice by appropriately addressing issues of social responsibility through practice, continuing education, and research.

School of Social Work

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