

SOCIAL WORK, PH.D.

The PhD Program in the College of Social Work develops scholars who generate and disseminate new knowledge to drive social change and create a more equitable, just, and inclusive society.

The PhD program in social work is designed so that course requirements can be completed in 2-3 years, followed by dissertation work.

Learning Outcomes

1. PhD students become emerging experts in a self-determined specialized substantive area, making unique contributions to knowledge advancement in the pursuit of social change.
2. PhD Students become skilled in diverse theoretical and methodological approaches, with deep expertise for pursuing the scientific exploration of their specialized substantive area.
3. PhD Students become equipped with the knowledge, skills, and experience to teach the next generation of social work practitioners and scholars
4. PhD students become productive scholars, with records of scholarly publications, national presentations, and applications for independent research funding.

Admission

Admissions requirements are consistent with those of The Graduate School and include:

- a completed application;
- transcripts from all post-secondary schools previously attended, including non-degree courses taken;
- a master's degree in social work from a CSWE accredited graduate program (a master's degree in a related field may be considered on a case-by-case basis);
- a grade point average of 3.5 or above for graduate-level work;
- evidence of scholarly potential as indicated by three letters of reference;
- a detailed personal statement;
- a sample of the applicant's scholarly writing;
- satisfactory score on TOEFL or IELTS for international applicants for whom English is not their primary language. (<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/graduate/policies-regulations/graduate-admissions/degree-seeking-admissions/#text>)

Degree Requirements (52 Post-Masters Hours)

Intellectual Foundations of Social Welfare and Social Work Core (15 Hours)

Course	Title	Credits
SOWK 803	History of the Profession of Social Work	3
SOWK 804	Understanding and Using Social Science Theory	3
SOWK 805	Knowledge for Social Change: Ontology, Epistemology, and Methodology in Social Science Research	3
SOWK 806	Conducting a Systematic Literature Review for Publication	3

SOWK 802	Intellectual Foundations of Social Welfare and Social Work III: Conceptual Model-Building	3
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Total Credit Hours 15

Research Methods Core (12 Hours)

Course	Title	Credits
SOWK 892	Design and Critical Analysis of Social Work Research	3
SOWK 890	Analysis of Social Work Data	3
SOWK 891	Advanced Analysis of Social Work Data	3
SOWK 811	Qualitative Methods of Inquiry for Social Work Research	3

Total Credit Hours 12

Professional Seminar (2 Hours)

Course	Title	Credits
SOWK 850	Social Work Doctoral Professional Seminar (repeated once)	2

Total Credit Hours 2

Planning and Design of Dissertation Research (2 Hours)

Course	Title	Credits
SOWK 894	Planning and Design of Dissertation Research (repeated once)	2

Total Credit Hours 2

Other Course Requirements (21 Hours)

Course	Title	Credits
	Substantive electives outside of the college	3
	Advanced research methods electives	3
	Other elective	3
SOWK 872	Social Work Education Practicum	0
SOWK 889	Doctoral Social Work Practicum	0
SOWK 899	Dissertation Preparation	12

Total Credit Hours 21

Total (52 Hours)