SOCIAL WORK – DOCTORATE (SWKD)

SWKD 701. Introduction to Advanced Quantitative Methods. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Corequisite: SWKD 702.
Enrollment is restricted to students with master’s-level course work in
research methods and introduction to statistics, graduate standing in
social work or permission of the instructor. Focused on concentrated
study of principles of the quantitative, scientific method for knowledge
building, and practice- and policy-related research. Special emphasis on
the different stages of research methods, including problem formulation,
sampling, measurement, design and data collection within the context of
professional values, ethics and commitment to social justice.

SWKD 702. Introduction to Quantitative Data Analysis. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 1 laboratory hours. 4 credits. Corequisite:
SWKD 701. Enrollment is restricted to students with master’s-level
course work in research methods and introduction to statistics, graduate
standing in social work or permission of the instructor. A required
foundation course in a sequence focused on concentrated study of
principles of quantitative scientific method for knowledge-building
and research. Lab sessions will complement content covered in class
and, primarily, involve “hands-on” application of statistical software for
data analysis. Special emphasis on the application of descriptive and
inferential statistical techniques within the context of applied social work
research.

SWKD 704. Introduction to Qualitative Methods. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment is restricted
to students admitted to the doctoral program or with permission of
the instructor. This course introduces students to theories, methods
and practice in qualitative research. The goal is to draw on classic and
contemporary theories and methods from interactionist and interpretivist
traditions to better understand and effect change in the social world.
Topics include philosophical foundations; question formulation; major
approaches, i.e., narratives, ethnography, grounded theory; case studies
and focus groups; and strategies for gathering, making sense of and
applying evidence.

SWKD 705. Multivariate Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SWKD 701
and SWKD 702 or equivalents. Enrollment is restricted to students who
have master’s-level course work in research methods and introduction
to statistics and graduate standing in social work or by permission of
instructor. This course focuses on the concentrated study of principles
of the quantitative, scientific method for knowledge building and practice-
and policy-related research. Special emphasis on the application and
interpretation of multivariate statistical techniques within the context of
applied social work research.

SWKD 706. Proseminar I. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. This course will introduce
first-year Ph.D. students to the interrelated components of the social
work doctorate and stimulate and foster their development as research
scholars in the profession. Additionally the seminar will provide academic
advising for first-year students. Graded as Pass/Fail.

SWKD 707. Proseminar II. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: SWKD 706. The
purpose of this course is to further introduce first-year Ph.D. students
to the interrelated components of the social work doctorate and to
stimulate and foster their development as research scholars in the
profession. Building on the objectives covered in the prerequisite,
this course further defines first-year student research questions and
methodological approaches as they begin planning their independent
research. And students will continue to receive academic advising as
first-year students. Graded as Pass/Fail.

SWKD 709. History and Philosophy of Social Work. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment is restricted
to students admitted to the doctoral program or with permission of the
instructor. This seminar focuses on the intellectual and sociopolitical
foundations of the social work profession and its evolution, primarily
in the U.S. Students will examine the role of key individuals, ideas,
institutions, events and movements leading up to and ensuing since the
profession’s inception in the late 19th century. The co-evolution of social
science philosophy will provide a corollary framework for interpreting
historical and contemporary social trends and for understanding social
work's changing practice, policy and research agendas for ongoing and
emerging social problems.

SWKD 711. Social and Behavioral Science Theory for Social Work
Research and Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The first-year required
seminar will introduce students to foundations of social and behavioral
science theory and the use of theory in social work research and practice.
Students will identify and critique key theories in their area of substantive
interest. They will select, justify and apply appropriate theories in
modeling a solution to a social problem or human challenge. The process
of theorizing in novel and emergent areas of social work inquiry will also
be examined.

SWKD 713. Social Policy Theory and Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment is restricted
to students admitted to the doctoral program or with permission of
the instructor. Grounded in social work values and drawing on
interdisciplinary approaches to policy sciences, this course introduces
students to the ideological foundations of social policy and guides them
in the application of theories that drive analyses of policy issues in their
substantive area. The course covers approaches to the policy-making
process, including critical analyses of proposals, implementation and
evaluation of current policy. Students analyze policy at the local, national
or international level, with an emphasis on their specialized substantive
area.

SWKD 714. Social Policy Theory and Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment is restricted
to students admitted to the doctoral program or with permission of
the instructor. Grounded in social work values and drawing on
interdisciplinary approaches to policy sciences, this course introduces
students to the ideological foundations of social policy and guides them
in the application of theories that drive analyses of policy issues in their
substantive area. The course covers approaches to the policy-making
process, including critical analyses of proposals, implementation and
evaluation of current policy. Students analyze policy at the local, national
or international level, with an emphasis on their specialized substantive
area.
SWKD 716. Measurement in Social and Behavioral Sciences. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisite:  
SWKD 705 or permission of instructor. This course introduces students to the  
importance of measurement in scientific inquiry, and will emphasize  
the core concepts and technical skills needed to evaluate the quality of  
social and behavioral measures. Students will review basic principles  
and procedures of measurement theory and learn practical, usable  
research skills through hands-on experience in developing and evaluating  
a measure. Students will review and discuss content on classical test and  
item response theories and their application to instrument development  
and validation. They will learn to operationalize latent variables in  
conceptual models and use theoretical and practical knowledge to  
generate items, develop and format questions, and begin to construct  
a scale that can be tested for reliability and validity. Students will also  
learn how to minimize and address threats to the utility and validity of  
their measure (e.g., respondent bias, measurement error). This course  
will examine advanced methods for testing psychometric properties of  
measures, including reliability statistics, confirmatory and exploratory  
factor analysis and IRT analysis.

SWKD 726. Seminar on Social Work Education and Teaching. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment requires Ph.D.  
program standing or permission of program director. This doctoral  
seminar prepares students to become effective and ethical social work  
educators. The course focuses on teaching and learning approaches in  
higher education, assessment of educational outcomes, curriculum  
design and course development, roles and responsibilities of faculty  
members, and historical and contemporary trends in social work  
education.

SWKD 728. Academic Writing: Effective Writing, Manuscript Preparation  
and Publication. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment is restricted to  
students admitted to the Ph.D. program in social work or with permission  
of the instructor. This course provides the opportunity for doctoral  
students to enhance and refine the academic writing skills necessary for  
productive social work scholarship. The course focuses on understanding  
and mastering the structure, process and elements of high-quality  
academic writing as well as respectful and helpful reviewing. Students  
will especially examine scholarly writing in and for journal articles, books,  
book reviews and doctoral dissertations. Students will be exposed to  
the literature on the “how tos” of scholarly writing itself and develop  
their own skills in being a juror/professional reviewer. Special emphasis  
is placed on the development of an intellectual community in which  
excellence in written expression is valued. The explicit goal is established  
that each student should use the course to prepare one or more scholarly  
products during the course related to her/his/their substantive area.

SWKD 730. Applied Quantitative Research Seminar. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SWKD 705 (or  
equivalent) or permission of instructor. This course requires students to  
conduct an independent research project using existing data relevant  
to their substantive interests. To achieve the objective of producing a  
publishable paper, students will develop an empirical question that can be  
examined with existing quantitative data; manage, analyze and interpret  
the data; synthesize data analysis with research methods; and integrate  
these components into a scholarly paper. This course is not a traditional  
research methods or statistics course.

SWKD 791. Topical Seminar. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated once for  
credit. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Study of the current state  
of knowledge and research within a specialized area of concern to social  
policy and social work.

SWKD 792. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.  
Semester course; 1-3 independent study hours. 1-3 credits. May be  
repeated for a maximum of six credits. Enrollment requires permission  
of the program director. Independent reading and study in selected areas  
under the supervision of a member of the faculty.

SWKD 797. Directed Research. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 credits. Prerequisite: completion of first-year Ph.D.  
courses in social work or permission of program director. The course  
provides doctoral students the opportunity to do hands-on research  
project prior to the dissertation project that is relevant to their substantive  
area or individual learning needs. The topic and specific project will be  
initiated by the student and implemented in collaboration with a School  
of Social Work faculty member. A proposal for a directed research course  
must be submitted that specifies how the student will gain experience,  
knowledge and skills in one or more aspects of conducting a research  
project, including conceptualization of the question; development of a  
graphic or visual schema; measurement design and/or instrument  
development; qualitative, quantitative or mixed-methods research design  
and implementation; data collection or data management; data analysis;  
and dissemination of findings. Students may create their own project or  
dovetail with existing student or faculty projects.

SWKD 890. Qualifying Examination. 3-6 Hours.  
Semester course; 3-6 independent study hours. 3-6 credits. May be  
repeated for a total of six credits. Enrollment is restricted to students  
who have completed required course work and hold graduate standing in  
social work. Covers proposal development under the direction of a faculty  
adviser, writing of the independent qualifying paper and oral examination.  
Graded as Pass/Fail.

SWKD 896. Social Work Teaching Practicum. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 practicum hours. 3 credits. Enrollment is restricted  
to students who have completed all required course work. The purpose  
of this required teaching practicum is to prepare future social work  
educators through a mentored classroom teaching experience. Students  
will work directly with a full-time faculty member who is teaching a  
baccalaureate- or master’s-level course, either face-to-face or online.  
While there will be some standardized requirements, the practicum is  
individually tailored to enhance students’ preparation for teaching based  
on an assessment of their prior teaching experience and skills, as well  
as current interests. Students will devote approximately 10 hours per  
week to the practicum and will also participate in a bi-monthly seminar to  
facilitate and support their development and learning. Graded as Pass/  
Fail.

Semester course; 1-9 dissertation hours. 1-9 credits. Enrollment  
is restricted to students who have successfully completed their qualifying  
paper and who hold graduate standing in social work. A minimum of  
nine dissertation hours is required for the Ph.D. Covers dissertation  
research under the direction of a faculty adviser. Graded as satisfactory/  
unsatisfactory.