

2026 DOCTORAL PROGRAM 2027 HANDBOOK



FSU
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

We are excited to welcome you to the doctoral program at Florida State University's College of Social Work! You are about to embark on an exciting journey—one we hope continually challenges you and stimulates growth. Our goal is to prepare you to continue contributing to the field of social work through academics, research, and scholarly preparation. We are confident you will be successful in continuing to develop in your substantive area and serving the field of social work through a combination of rigorous coursework, interesting research assistantships, and engaging teaching opportunities. We are here to support you throughout your journey to Ph.D. and as a future colleague!

This handbook is not a contract; it is a convenience, consolidating information concerning common practices in the doctoral program. Newly developed policies, procedures, and guidelines may supersede those found in this handbook. The doctoral program director will inform all doctoral students, candidates, and faculty of policy changes, and state whether policy changes apply to current students and candidates. Requests for exceptions to program policies must be submitted to the doctoral program director in advance. Exception requests are the responsibility of the student or candidate and should be submitted in consultation with the educational advisor or major professor.

Additionally, we encourage doctoral students to also familiarize themselves with policies, procedures, and information noted in the FSU General Graduate Bulletin, available for electronic access through the University Registrar. Please note some program requirements or

policies may impose stricter guidelines than those listed in the Graduate Bulletin.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Tripodi".

Stephen Tripodi, Ph.D.
Doctoral Program Director
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Please Note: Much of the verbiage included within the College of Social Work Doctoral Program Handbook is directly extracted from the FSU Graduate Bulletin.



DOCTORAL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The College of Social Work doctoral program at FSU offers a Ph.D. and emphasizes training in research methods and teaching. Our program has awarded 130+ doctoral degrees, and our graduates have highly successful careers in academic settings and both the public and private sectors. We develop social work scholars and leaders in both research and education by offering hands-on experiences in research and teaching, along with challenging coursework and close mentoring by a well-trained faculty.

The faculty members at the FSU College of Social Work have a strong commitment to doctoral education. The curriculum is intensively research-oriented and designed to nurture students' success. The doctoral program typically admits three to six applicants each fall who are among the best and brightest students in social work. Students study in a variety of different areas: child welfare, criminal justice, health and health disparities, behavioral health, gerontology, and international social work. Small class sizes and the availability of peer and faculty mentors provide outstanding opportunities for collaboration and long-term professional relationships.

During the first year of the program, students learn the foundations for excellence in research, begin to become experts in their substantive area, and learn how to

integrate the two. In their second year, students strengthen their research skills while continuing to become experts in their substantive area. Subsequent educational opportunities include a research practicum, a teaching practicum, and the opportunity to teach independently before they graduate. In year three and beyond students develop their independence as a scholar after passing their preliminary exams.

Throughout the program, students have opportunities to become active members of the academic community. By the time they earn their PhD, students have typically conducted research with faculty members, collaborated on articles for publication in journals, presented their work at national conferences, and taught courses in the College of Social Work. They also have participated in college and university activities and organizations and become involved in community activities as well.

Our students develop into well-rounded scholars and researchers who contribute to the research literature, educate future social work practitioners, and take leadership roles in their professional organizations and communities. They become well prepared for the job market, whether it is in academic or non-academic jobs in the public and private sector.

MISSION STATEMENTS

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE FSU COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

It is the mission of the Florida State University College of Social Work to provide quality educational services at the baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral levels that prepare professional social workers to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic needs of varied populations with particular attention to the empowerment of people who are vulnerable or living in poverty. The College of Social Work also has as its purpose to contribute to the knowledge base that supports social work practice and social policy development and to provide leadership through community service at the local, state, national, and international levels.

DOCTORAL PROGRAM MISSION AND GOALS

It is the specific mission of the FSU doctoral program to develop social work scholars and leaders in research and education who use systematic methods of inquiry and

reasoned argument to advance knowledge.

It is the primary goal of the FSU doctoral program to offer courses and opportunities for experiential learning in systematic methods of inquiry that are sequentially integrated and foster independent capabilities in research and scholarship.

Additionally, it is the goal of the FSU doctoral program to offer courses and opportunities for experiential learning in adult pedagogy that are sequentially integrated and foster independent capabilities in course conceptualization and instruction.

To achieve these goals, the doctoral program holds students to the academic and professional standards and expectations stipulated by the Florida State University, the National Association of Social Workers (e.g., NASW Code of Ethics), and the Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work (GADE).

ADMISSION TO THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM

ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM

1. An official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) taken within the previous 5 years. Note: The GRE could be waived for students who meet at least one criterion from each of the two categories below. To be considered for a waiver from the FSU College of Social Work Doctoral Program application for fall 2027 admissions consideration, please submit your current resume/CV and any relevant additional supplementary materials.

Success and Aptitude for Research:

- Undergraduate or graduate research-based thesis in a relevant field.
- Post-undergraduate research experience in a relevant field.
- Post-graduate research experience in a relevant field.
- Participation in the FSU Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) or equivalent experience.
- Extensive (at least 2 year) relevant research or clinical experience related to the applicant's research interests.
- Co-authored research paper published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.
- Extensive (at least 2 years) relevant employment related to the applicant's graduate training goal

Academic Preparation:

- Upper-division undergraduate GPA of 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) or higher from any nationally or internationally accredited college or university.
 - Graduate GPA of 3.75 (on a 4.0 scale) or higher from any Council of Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited college or university.
2. A master's degree from a graduate school of social work (MSW) with a Grade Point Average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale); The school must be accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).
 - Foreign applicants must have a CSWE accredited MSW or equivalent degree.
 3. "Good standing" status at the last school attended.
 4. For international applicants, evidence of English language proficiency is required as demonstrated by acceptable scores on one of the following: the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Internet Based Test or Paper Based Test, the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), the Pearson Test of English (PTE academic), Cambridge C1 Advanced Level, or the Michigan Language Assessment. The minimum scores required are as follows:

- **TOEFL:**

Internet-Based TOEFL (IBTOEFL): 80 (if taken before January 21, 2026) or 4.0 (if taken on or after January 21, 2026).

Paper Based TOEFL: 550

- **International English Language Testing System (Academic IELTS):** 6.5

- **Pearson Test of English (PTE):** 55

- **Cambridge C1 Advanced Level:** 180 (Fall 2022 and forward)

- **Michigan Language Assessment:** 55

**For international applicants with an earned degree from a U.S. university, please inquire about exemption from Test of English as Foreign Language tests.*

**Students have successfully completed Level 8 (Advanced Level) at Florida State University's Center for Intensive English Studies (CIES).*

5. International applicants or degrees earned from international institutions must submit their official transcripts through the SpanTran pathway portal, or from another NACES approved evaluator. SpanTran has created a custom application for Florida State University that will make sure you select the right kind of evaluation at a discounted rate. Florida State University recommends SpanTran as our preferred credential evaluation because it offers an easy way to streamline the application process. More information on FSU's transcript and credential evaluation requirements, [visit The FSU Graduate Admissions website](#).

Note: Applicants whose scores are slightly below these minimums may be considered for admission on a case-by-case basis as determined by the doctoral program director. Applicants are responsible for contacting the doctoral program director in writing to request an exception. Once the application file is completed, the doctoral program director will review the application materials and decide whether an exception will be granted.

Those applicants who have complete application files will be considered for admission. Please keep in mind that meeting these requirements does not guarantee admission. The admissions process is limited and competitive.





APPLICATIONS REQUIREMENTS:

1. Transcripts from all previous undergraduate and graduate academic work.

Note: As of November 2023, the FSU Graduate School requires all internationally earned degrees must be evaluated by SpanTran or another NACES approved credentialing service. More information on FSU's transcript and credential evaluation requirement can be found [here](#).

2. Resume/Curriculum Vitae that documents your:
 - Education.
 - Substantive areas of expertise or interest.
 - Professional positions, publications, and presentations.
 - Research experience, grant awards, etc.
 - Teaching or training experience.
 - Professional affiliations, honors, awards.
 - Service.
3. A Statement of Purpose describing:
 - Your research interests and goals.
 - a. Please explain how your previous professional experiences have contributed to your research interests and goals.
 - b. Previous research/academic experience that provides evidence of your potential for engaging in doctoral-level scholarship.
 - c. Discuss your strengths and challenges in the following: academic writing, research methods, statistics.
 - Please discuss your understanding of the purpose of social work doctoral education, and the factors related to your decision to apply to the FSU College of Social Work doctoral program.
 - Please discuss the FSU faculty members, Institutes, and/or Research Centers that you would want to work with and why?
 - Please discuss your long-term goals/expectations for employment after you have earned the doctoral degree.
4. A Writing Sample such as a research proposal, a grant application, a professional report, or a publication that demonstrates intellectual potential (e.g., critical thinking skills, analytical ability). Applicants may include a maximum of two writing samples.
5. Three Letters of Reference (minimum): Letters from three academic references or two academic references and one professional reference that, at a minimum, provide an evaluation of your overall academic and/or professional performance, your professional characteristics that support your potential for success in doctoral-level study, and your intellectual/academic capacity for doctoral-level work. You will be asked to enter contact information for recommenders into "Recommenders" section of the online application. The recommenders will receive an email with directions to upload their letter. A maximum of four letters may be requested.
6. Interview: Every applicant being considered for admission after an initial application review will be asked to engage in an interview to further elaborate on their supplemental materials and application for Florida State University College of Social Work doctoral program.



ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM

1. The application for admission to the doctoral program in social work is **completed through the Office of Admissions Portal**.
2. Note: Students with an earned graduate degree from Florida State University within the last seven years, should follow slightly different procedures to apply for “readmission” to the university. Students should open the online application for admission, and when prompted, indicate that they have received a degree from FSU. Applicants applying through the readmission application process must meet program requirements and provide all supplemental materials.

Transcripts, GRE scores, and TOEFL scores (if required) must be submitted to Office of Graduate Admissions at the following mailing address or electronically by email. For GRE scores, if you selected FSU (Institution code: 5219), as an institution to receive your score report, that will suffice.

**Florida State University
Office of Graduate Admissions
314 Westcott Bldg.
Tallahassee, FL. 32306-1410
USA**
OR
graduateadmissions@fsu.edu

APPLICATION DEADLINE, REVIEW, AND ADMISSION DECISION

The College of Social Work’s Doctoral Program Committee (DPC) and doctoral faculty review only completed application files. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. The Florida State University College of Social Work doctoral program will conduct rolling admission for the fall 2026 admission consideration.

The application will open on August 1, 2026, and it is

beneficial for prospective students to prepare and submit all required application materials as soon they are ready.

The Doctoral Program Committee will review applications within 8 weeks from submission of a fully completed application and will notify the applicant whether they have been selected for an interview. The Doctoral Program Committee interviews all applicants it is considering admitting to the program. Admission outcomes after the interview include: Admit, Deny, or Waitlist. Applicants who receive notification of waitlist will be provided a final admission outcome of Admit or Deny at latest May 1st, 2027.

Applications will continue to be accepted on a rolling basis until the application portal closes (March 1, 2027). It is of benefit for an applicant to apply early and suggested to complete the application by the end of December 2026.

Students with internationally earned degrees must submit their application by December 1st, 2026 in order to meet the admissions and hiring deadlines set by the State of Florida.

TRANSFER CREDITS

Transfer credit decisions will depend on when the course work was completed and on its relevance to the student’s doctoral program in social work. Transfer credit will not be given for courses completed in receipt of another degree. A maximum of twelve graduate credit hours may be transferred from an accredited institution or program. Only those credit hours that resulted in a grade of “B” or better will be considered. The doctoral program director and the FSU Office of Records and Registration will be responsible for determining whether the credit hours can be transferred.

APPLICATION PROCESS QUESTIONS

For further information about the application process, contact the doctoral program manager or doctoral program director.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

The program offers a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree. This is a research degree designed to train students to become advanced researchers by ultimately conducting novel research that will contribute to the knowledge base of their substantive field. The degree is granted only to students who:

1. Have mastered definite fields of knowledge so that they are familiar not only with what has been done in their specific fields but also with the potential and opportunity for further advances.
2. Have demonstrated capacity to engage in original and independent scholarly investigation or creative work in their selected fields.
3. Can integrate their selected fields of specialization with the larger domains of knowledge and understanding.

CREDIT HOURS

Because the Doctor of Philosophy degree represents the attainment of independent and comprehensive scholarship in a selected field rather than the earning of a specific amount of credit, there is no university-wide minimum course requirement.

The College of Social Work requires students to complete all courses in the College of Social Work as indicated in the program of study as well as one additional statistics course and three cognate courses (i.e., one of which must be in your substantive area) offered by other academic units. These courses constitute the program of studies, which is described in the section entitled, "Program of Studies" of this handbook.

MINIMUM CREDIT HOURS AND UNDERLOAD

Students are required to maintain full-time status if they are being funded by the College of Social Work through assistantships, waivers, etc. To maintain full time status, students are required to enroll in the following minimum credits per semester:

- Fall: 9
- Spring: 9
- Summer (By Session):
 - » 12 Weeks (session A): 9
 - » 8 Weeks (sessions D or F): 7
 - » 6 Weeks (sessions B or C): 5

Note: If a student enrolls in courses during different sessions, they must take at least 9 credits.

Students may be permitted to enroll in a reduced "underload" status of two credit hours. Underload enrollment status requires advance permission of the doctoral program director. Students should email the doctoral program director and doctoral program manager confirming the following requirements:

- You must have already satisfied the twenty-four-hour dissertation rule. This means you have previously completed twenty-four credit hours of dissertation work.
- You must be in good standing such that you were "retained" without probation during your most recent annual review.

Doctoral students are still required to complete a minimum of twenty-four dissertation hours and many students complete far more than this minimum.



SCHOLARLY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

The purpose of the scholarly engagement requirement is to ensure that doctoral students are active participants in the scholarly community. To meet the scholarly engagement requirement, doctoral students should interact with faculty and peers in ways that may include enrolling in courses; attending seminars, symposia, and conferences; engaging in collaborative study and research beyond the university campus; and utilizing the library, laboratories, and other facilities provided by the university. The goal is to prepare students to be scholars who can independently acquire, evaluate, and extend knowledge, as well as develop themselves as effective communicators and disseminators of knowledge.

Purpose: The goal of the Scholarly Engagement requirement is to prepare doctoral graduates who can independently acquire, evaluate, communicate, and extend knowledge through active participation in the scholarly community. This requirement encourages students to cultivate scholarly habits that contribute to their development as researchers, educators, and engaged professionals.

Definition: Scholarly engagement refers to the intentional and sustained involvement in activities that deepen academic knowledge, foster professional development, and build scholarly identity. These activities are expected to go beyond coursework and should meaningfully contribute to a student's intellectual growth and scholarly trajectory.

Annual Confirmation of Scholarly Engagement: Each year, as part of the annual review process, doctoral students must demonstrate to their educational advisor/major professor and the Doctoral Program Committee satisfactory engagement in at least one of the scholarly engagement categories listed below. Documentation or a short reflective summary may be required to support the student's report.

Scholarly Engagement Categories

Students may fulfill this expectation through participation in one or more of the following categories. This list is not exhaustive, and students are encouraged to consult with their educational advisor/major professor about additional activities that may qualify.

Research Activities

- Co-authoring or submitting a manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal
- Participating in a faculty-led or student-led research project (beyond coursework and your assistantship)
- Presenting a paper, poster, or roundtable at a regional, national, or international conference

Professional Development

- Attending academic conferences, seminars, workshops, or research symposia
- Completing training or certifications related to research methods, teaching, or practice
- Participating in writing retreats, research bootcamps, or similar initiatives

Academic Service and Leadership

- Serving on a committee, task force, or working group related to academic or professional service
- Reviewing conference proposals or manuscripts for scholarly journals
- Organizing or facilitating a professional development event or research colloquium

Collaborative Engagement

- Engaging in interdisciplinary or inter-university scholarly collaborations
- Participating in community-based or translational research with external partners outside of your assistantship
- Working with faculty on grant proposals or externally funded research outside of your research assistantship

Teaching and Dissemination

- Developing or co-teaching a course, guest lecturing, or leading a workshop
- Sharing research with broader audiences via blogs, webinars, podcasts, or media interviews
- Delivering invited talks or community presentations related to research expertise
-

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Under special circumstances, graduate students may apply for a leave of absence from the university for a specific period of up to three consecutive semesters (including the summer term). The circumstances justifying a leave include but are not limited to: personal or family medical conditions, call to active military duty, parental leave, death in immediate family, or completion of an off-campus internship. The student must provide appropriate documentation and a rationale for the leave request.

CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT

Continuous enrollment at Florida State University is defined as enrollment without an interruption of two or more consecutive semesters (including the summer term). Credits earned at other institutions during any semester while not registered at Florida State University will not constitute continuous enrollment at the university. Students who are not enrolled at the university for two or more consecutive semesters (including the summer term), and who are not on approved leave of absence, must apply for readmission before resuming their studies.

STUDENT LOAN REQUIREMENTS

Students who take out loans are responsible for ensuring that they meet the minimum credit hour requirements of their lender. In many instances, students are required to maintain full-time status. They are responsible for signing up for the correct number of credit hours.

GRADES

At FSU, a graduate student is not eligible for conferral of a degree unless the cumulative grade point average is at least 3.0 in formal graduate courses. No course hours with a grade below "B-" will be credited on the College of Social Work graduate degree; all grades in graduate courses except those for which grades of "S" or "U" are given or those conferred under the provision for repeating a course will be included in computation of the average.

"Incompletes" must be completed successfully by the end of the following semester in which the student is registered.

Please note: Students must be enrolled in the 0 credit defense courses (SOW 8964 Preliminary Examination or SOW 8985 Dissertation Defense) during the respective semester of the associated defense. If a student enrolls in a defense course and is unable to defend, the course must be dropped from the student's transcript. Students should only be enrolled in the defense courses the semester they actually defend; they cannot have a defense course with an "Incomplete" grade on their transcript.

CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY

University-wide policy requires all students to attend the first day of class meeting of all classes for which they are registered. Students who do not attend the first-class meeting of a course for which they are registered will be dropped from the course by the academic department that offers the course. This policy applies to all levels of courses and to all campuses and study centers. It

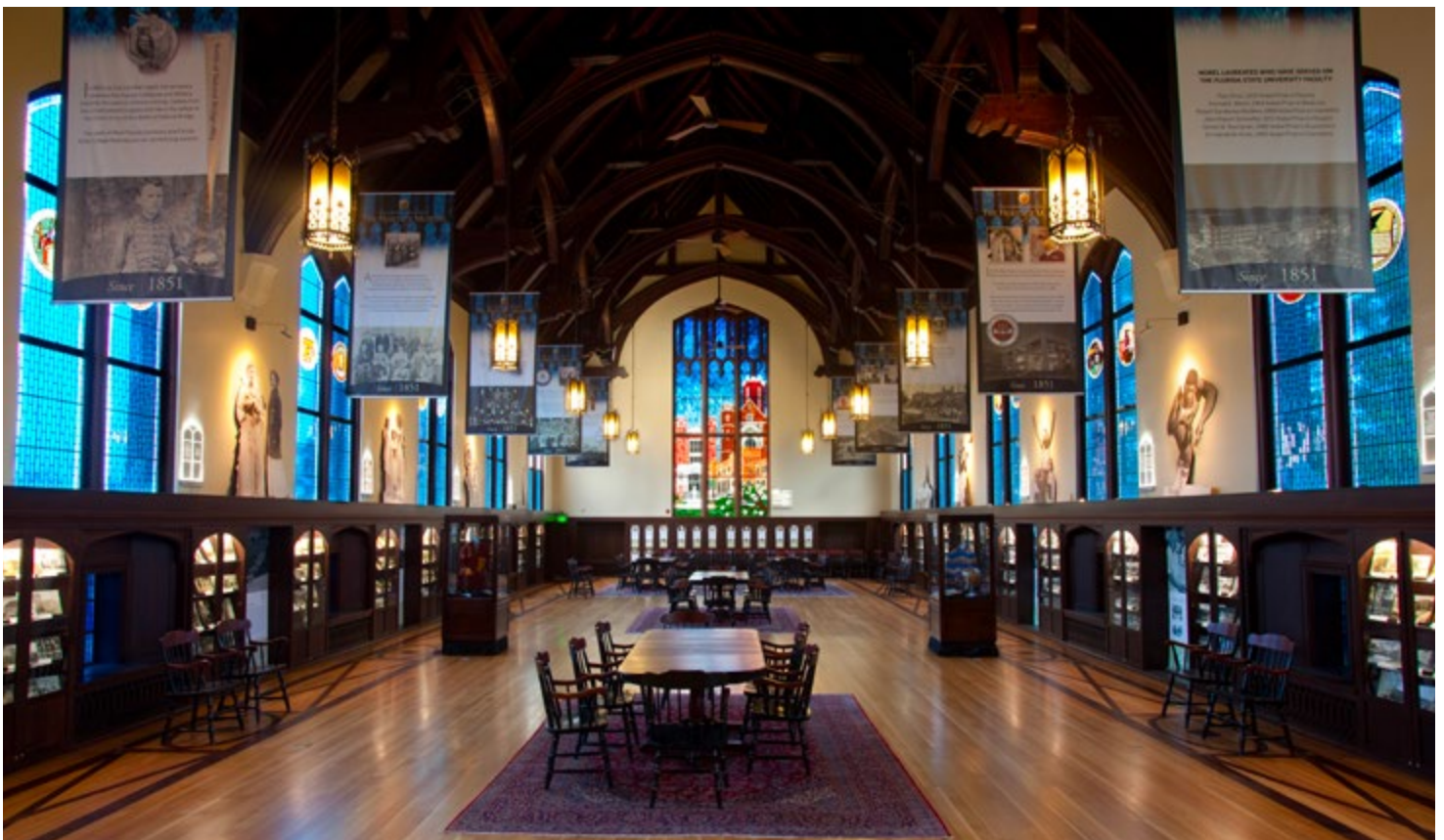
remains the student's responsibility to verify course drops and check that fees are adjusted.

PART-TIME STUDIES

The College of Social Work doctoral program is intended for students committed to completing the program of study while remaining continuously enrolled on a full-time basis until graduation. Rarely, students retain some level of outside professional employment. In these situations, a student may enroll for less than a full-time schedule per academic semester with the prior approval of the doctoral program director. Part-time students are not eligible to be assigned as a research or teaching assistant, nor can they receive a stipend or tuition waiver.

ADVISING AND FACULTY SUPERVISION

Upon admission, each student will be assigned an educational advisor who will serve as a resource as the student develops a program of studies. The educational advisor will work with the student until the student identifies a major professor (MP), which must occur no later than the end of the fall semester of the second year of full-time study. The major professor must indicate their agreement to fulfill this role by signing the doctoral supervisory committee form. The student is responsible for obtaining the MP's signature. The student should then submit the form to the doctoral program director to obtain their approval. Additional information about the role of the major professor is provided in the subsequent section.



MAJOR PROFESSOR

Determining a major professor is an important decision in one's doctoral education, as the major professor has primary responsibility for guiding the student through all phases of doctoral work until the requirements of the Ph.D. have been completed. During their first year in the program, doctoral students should consult with members of the doctoral faculty with graduate faculty status whose areas of substantive and/or methodological expertise are congruent with the student's dissertation interests. These informal conversations are an opportunity for students to determine who might be a good choice for their major professor.

The major professor:

- Approves and regularly reviews the program of studies.
- Prepares the student's annual review.
- Serves as the chairperson of the student's supervisory (i.e., dissertation) committee.
- Directs the student's preparation for the preliminary examinations.
- Advises the student in developing a prospectus.
- Guides the student's work in the design and development of a dissertation.

Points to consider when selecting your major professor include:

- Does the faculty member have expertise in your substantive, methodological, or statistical areas of interest?

- Does the person have graduate faculty status and enough experience to guide your work?
- Does the person have the ability to ensure harmonious committee functioning?
- Will the person have enough time to mentor your work? What are the person's obligations to other students, grant work, journal editorship, book contracts, etc.?
- Will the person be available during summers? Is the person planning a sabbatical, appointment to an administrative post, or retirement?
- Does the person have a compatible conversational and working style?
- What are the person's beliefs about the dissertation process, i.e., hands-on or simply advisory? Are multiple drafts of each chapter expected and approved before the defense? Is the defense a discussion among colleagues or a test of knowledge?
- Does this person have a record of success with doctoral students? Timely graduations? Collaborative work on publications and presentations?

The major professor may or may not be the faculty member initially assigned as the educational advisor. After a faculty member has agreed to serve as your major professor, you must complete that portion of the doctoral supervisory committee form (available from the doctoral program manager) by the end of the fall semester of the second year of full-time study and submit it to the doctoral program manager who will route it to the doctoral program director and dean of the College of Social Work for their approval.

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK MAJOR PROFESSOR REQUIREMENTS

The major professor serves as the chair of the student's supervisory committee. At the time of committee appointment, the faculty member chairing the supervisory committee must have:

- Graduate faculty status.
- Served on one completed dissertation committee.
- Successfully completed the third-year review by the College of Social Work Promotion and Tenure Committee.

Exceptions to this policy may be approved on a case-by-case basis by the dean of the College of Social Work with the advice of the doctoral program director.



SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

The student supervisory committee will oversee the work of the student until the completion of all requirements for the degree. The supervisory committee will consist of a minimum of four members of the faculty who have graduate faculty status, one of whom serves as the university representative. All additional members of the committee must hold graduate faculty status. Under special circumstances persons external to the university may be appointed as courtesy faculty on a student's supervisory committee.

Each year the supervisory committee, the major professor, or the student's advisor (prior to selection of a major professor) will assess the progress of the student in writing and will make available copies of the annual review to the student, the departmental chair, and the academic dean. The dean of the Graduate School, as well as the CSW dean and doctoral program director may attend committee meetings as nonvoting members. Notification of the supervisory committee membership will be reported to the dean of the Graduate School in a timely manner after its formation. Only members of the supervisory committee may vote and sign the dissertation.

UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVE

The university representative is drawn from outside the student's department, as well as outside the student's degree program for interdisciplinary programs. The university representative must be a tenured member of the faculty with graduate faculty status and should be free of conflicts of interest with other members of the supervisory committee. The university representative is responsible for ensuring that the student is treated fairly and equitably in accordance with university, college, and departmental guidelines and policies, and that decisions made by the supervisory committee reflect the collective judgment of the committee. This responsibility begins with appointment to the supervisory committee and ends with the defense of the dissertation. The university representative should verify that the defense is conducted appropriately. Content knowledge in the subject of the dissertation is valuable for the university representative, but not required. In addition, the university representative represents the university's interest and is responsible for ensuring that our doctoral graduates are of high quality. If questions or irregularities arise that cannot be resolved within the college, the university representative should contact the dean of the Graduate School for resolution.

In the College of Social Work, students should seek supervisory committee members who cover the breadth and depth of their needs to complete a successful dissertation. At a minimum, this means that members must cover the student's needs for substantive, methodological, and analytical expertise. Therefore, it may sometimes be helpful to select five or more committee members. In

addition, it is useful to choose members who are compatible, available to meet and to contribute, and who agree on the level of expertise that is required for a doctoral student to be successful in completing the program. Students should interview potential committee members in the same way they interview potential major professors.

Fully retired faculty (includes emerita/emeritus status) may continue to serve as major professors for those students who have already begun their thesis/dissertation at the time of the professor's retirement. Fully retired faculty, however, may not accept additional students in this capacity. Fully retired faculty may serve as an additional member beyond the minimum number required on doctoral committee of new students if they choose. Appointment to courtesy is not necessary, but department chairs must send a memo to the Graduate School indicating the names of the student committees on which the professor serves and the approval of this continued service.

For faculty who depart the university for any reason other than retirement, the department or program that wishes to continue the faculty member in some or all these roles may provide a courtesy appointment and nominate the faculty member for doctoral co-directive status, as needed, so the faculty member may continue as co-chair or an additional member for those students who have already begun their thesis/dissertation at the time of the faculty member's departure. If the faculty member is serving as committee chair, the department will then designate a current or new member of the committee with appropriate directive status as co-chair of the committee. Faculty members who depart the university may not accept additional students in this capacity, nor may they serve as the university representative on committees.

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

In the College of Social Work, the doctoral supervisory committee serves as the written/oral preliminary examination and dissertation supervisory committee. Doctoral supervisory committees shall have:

- Four members of the graduate faculty with graduate faculty status; including
- At least two voting committee members from the College of Social Work faculty with graduate faculty status; and
- At least one voting member from outside of the College of Social Work to serve as the university representative, who is tenured and has graduate faculty status.

The composition of all supervisory committees is subject to approval by the doctoral program director and the dean of the College of Social Work.

After faculty have agreed to serve as members of your supervisory committee, you should complete that portion of the Doctoral Supervisory Committee form by the end of the spring semester of your second year of full-time study and submit it to the doctoral program manager who will route it to the doctoral program director and dean for their approval. You can obtain a form from the doctoral program manager. You will not be allowed to register for future courses until this deadline is met.

Once committee members are approved, changes in the major professor or supervisory committee members are expected to be rare and must be enacted according to established policy (see below). Students may not change committee members during the written/oral preliminary examination process.

Students should discuss any concerns that arise about the functioning of the supervisory committee after it is appointed with the doctoral program director.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

The following policy concerning conflicts of interest applies to graduate students who are being supervised or evaluated by faculty as well as graduate students who are serving as teaching assistants and thus supervising or evaluating undergraduates. Sexual relationships between faculty members/graduate assistants and students where a direct supervisory or evaluative relationship exists are fraught with the potential for exploitation. The respect and trust accorded a faculty member/graduate assistant by a student, as well as the power exercised by the faculty member/graduate assistant in a direct supervisory or evaluative role, make voluntary consent by the student suspect. In their relationships with students, faculty members/graduate assistants are expected to be aware of their professional responsibilities and to avoid conflict of interest or favoritism.

- When any direct supervisory or evaluative role exists, a consensual sexual relationship between a student and a faculty member/graduate assistant is a conflict of interest.
- Any situation of direct supervision or evaluation will be ended immediately when a consensual sexual relationship between a student and a faculty member/graduate assistant exists.
- Any such relationship must be disclosed to the faculty member/graduate assistant's supervisor immediately.
- Direct supervision includes any type of evaluative role. Examples of direct supervision of the student include teaching the student's class, serving as a thesis or dissertation director, instructor of record, member of the student's thesis or dissertation committee, member of the student's comprehensive or doctoral exam committee, member of other committees where the focus is evaluation or supervision of the student's academic competence or the student's assistantship.

REMOVAL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

With careful consideration and under specifically delineated circumstances, you may request supervisory committee members (including the major professor) be removed from your committee. Generally, you should carefully study why you are considering the removal of faculty members you sought out to be on your committee. The question you must answer is, what events have changed to make you reconsider your original choice of committee members? Good reasons for reconsideration are professors' increased work demands leading to unavailability, relocation, personal emergency, or capricious actions that are not in keeping with the letter and the spirit of the provisions of this document. Unacceptable reasons include lack of progress on dissertation, committee members' high expectations, or committee members' unwillingness to approve dissertations that are problematic, inconvenient time frames, and conflicts with major professors.

The procedure for pursuing a change in supervisory committee membership follows the sequence below, progressing successively only until a decision can be achieved:

STEP 1: The student meets with the major professor to discuss the concerns leading to the request for change in supervisory committee membership. The student and MP make a joint determination about moving forward with the change in MP and what the next steps will be.

If the requested change involves replacing the major professor, the student meets with the doctoral program director to discuss the concerns leading to the request. The student and doctoral program director make a joint determination about moving forward with the change in MP and what the next steps will be.

STEP 2: The student notifies the doctoral program director in writing that a request for change in supervisory committee membership is being proposed.

STEP 3: The doctoral program director pursues consensus among the various parties involved and acts as mediator if conflicts ensue. The director has the prerogative of either expediting a decision or submitting a student's request to review of the Doctoral Program Committee (DPC) for a vote. The student may be asked to appear before the DPC.

STEP 4: The director notifies the student and supervisory committee in writing of the final decision, taking into account the contributing discussion and vote of the DPC.

STEP 5: The director forwards the recommended change to the dean for approval.

STEP 6: The student and director notify the dean of graduate studies of any approved changes, including proper paperwork, documentation, and signatures.

Note: If the student and major professor do not agree on changes to the supervisory committee membership, the student can bring concerns directly to the doctoral program director.

PROGRAM OF STUDIES

Courses that make up the CSW doctoral program of studies are grouped into four types—core methods and theory courses, social work research methods courses, statistics courses, and cognates.

- Core methods and theory courses are required courses provided within the college. These courses are offered once per year. Please ensure you are coordinating with the doctoral program manager to determine course rotation.
- Students are required to take a minimum of three statistics courses. Two are required (SOW 6416 Introduction to Statistics in Applied Social Research and SOW 6418 Introduction to Linear Modeling for Applied Social Research) and the third can be SOW 6415 Advanced Applications of Quantitative Analysis in Social Sciences or selected from another college or department with the approval of the doctoral program director, or your educational advisor or major professor. See the “Statistics Courses” in the “Course Description” section for more information. Statistics courses must be graduate level (5000 or above).
- A cognate is a graduate course taken outside of the College of Social Work that is related to the student’s research interests (e.g., mental health, research methodology). Students must complete three cognates. See the “Cognate” subsection in “Course Description” for more information. Cognates must be graduate level (5000 or above).
- Students are also required to take a two-semester applied research practicum and a one semester teaching seminar and practicum.

The following provides a guide to the typical program of studies at the college:

YEAR 1 – FALL SEMESTER

SOW 6490 Introduction to Scholarly Writing (3 credit hours)
SOW 6492 Foundation Research Methods (3 credit hours)
SOW 6416 Introduction to Statistics in Applied Social Research (3 credit hours)
Pro-Seminar (0 credit hours)

YEAR 1 – SPRING SEMESTER

SOW 6418 Introduction to Linear Modeling for Applied Social Research (3 credit hours)
SOW 6755 Theories and Models for Social Work Research (3 credit hours)
SOW 6466 Secondary Data Analysis/Data Management (3 credit hours)
SOW 6496 Qualitative Research Methods (3 credit hours)

YEAR 1 – SUMMER SEMESTER

SOW 6945 Practicum in Applied Research (3 credit hours)
Cognate (3 credit hours)
Cognate (3 credit hours)

YEAR 2 – FALL SEMESTER

SOW 6358 Measurement in Social Work Research (3 credit hours)



Cognate (3 credit hours)

SOW 6945 Practicum in Applied Research (3 credit hours)

SOW 6494 Advanced Research Methods (3 credit hours)

YEAR 2 – SPRING SEMESTER

SOW 6775 Professional Issues in Social Work (3 credit hours)

SOW 6499 Intervention Research in Social Work (3 credit hours)

Cognate (3 credit hours)

SOW 6945 Practicum in Applied Research (3 credit hours), if necessary

YEAR 2 – SUMMER SEMESTER

SOW 6415 Advanced Applications of Quantitative Analysis/3rd Stats (3 credit hours)

SOW 6960r Preliminary Examination Preparation (variable credit hours; maximum 27 credit hours)

YEAR 3 – FALL SEMESTER

SOW 6930 Teaching Seminar & Practicum (3 credit hours)

SOW 6960r Preliminary Examination Preparation (variable credit hours)

SOW 8964r Preliminary Examination Defense – Written (0 credit hour), if applicable

SOW 8964r Preliminary Examination Defense – Oral (0 credit hour), if applicable

YEAR 3 – SPRING & SUMMER SEMESTER

SOW 6960r Preliminary Examination Preparation (variable credit hours), if necessary

SOW 8964r Preliminary Examination Defense – Written (0 credit hour), if applicable

SOW 8964r Preliminary Examination Defense – Oral (0 credit hour), if applicable

SOW 6980r Dissertation Preparation (includes Prospectus development & defense; must total 24 credit hours)

YEAR 4 – FALL, SPRING, & SUMMER SEMESTER

SOW 6980r Dissertation Preparation (must total 24 credit hours)

SOW 8985 Dissertation Defense (must occur at least six months after achieving candidacy)

PROGRAM OF STUDIES APPROVAL

Each doctoral student follows a program of studies that includes the required courses and is developed to meet the student's particular needs and interests. The program of studies is developed with the advice and approval of the educational advisor or major professor and the doctoral program director. The program of studies provides the basis for each student's annual review and charts the projected

path for the student through completion of all degree requirements. The program of studies becomes a provisional agreement between the student and the College of Social Work regarding minimum requirements that the student must complete in order to take the preliminary examination. The program of studies, along with all other pertinent materials, is included in the student's academic annual review.

COURSES

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

For full course descriptions, visit the [FSU Graduation Bulletin website](#).

STATISTIC COURSES

At least three statistics courses are required, including SOW 6416 and SOW 6418. The other class may be selected from courses in other departments or the advanced statistics course within the College of Social Work (SOW 6415) with the approval of the doctoral program director, or your educational advisor/ major professor. Please utilize the course search function in myFSU to explore statistics courses throughout the university and seek approval from doctoral program director.

Please note that EDF5401 cannot be utilized as a required statistics course due to the likeness of SOW6418.

COGNATES

A cognate is a graduate course taken outside of the College of Social Work, related substantively or methodologically to the student's practice/research interests (e.g., mental health, social policy, substance abuse, research methodology, advanced statistics, etc.). Students must complete three cognate courses. At least one of these courses must relate substantively to the student's research interests. Students' choice of cognates should reflect some central focus or theme in which they are attempting to develop expertise. It is advantageous to choose cognates that are taught by professors with graduate faculty status, because you may find them to be a good choice for your outside supervisory committee member(s).

Students should choose potential cognates carefully. They are encouraged to get advice from their educational advisor (for first-year students), or their major professor (for second-year students). Once the student has identified a course they wish to take as a cognate, they must receive formal approval from the doctoral program director. This formal approval is necessary to ensure that cognates are related to their substantive or methodological interests. Students are responsible for filling out the cognate justification form

and turning it in to the doctoral program director before the regular registration window closes for the semester in which they intend to take the course (students who wait until the Add/Drop period risk not obtaining approval in time to register). Cognate justification forms, once approved, must be turned in to doctoral program manager. Separate justification forms must be filled out for each cognate (even if the student is taking multiple cognates in the same semester).

Cognates should be at least three credits and must be at the graduate level (5000 or above), though doctoral level courses are preferable (6000 or above). Students may take cognates offered in an on-line environment.

Note: Some online courses at FSU do not qualify for a tuition waiver. If a student plans to take an online cognate, the student should confirm with doctoral program manager that the course qualifies for a tuition waiver. If it is not covered by waiver, you will be required to cover the tuition with your own funds.

Additionally, Directed Independent Study (DIS) courses only fill a required cognate if a faculty member outside the College of Social Work is the instructor of record. If this is the case, students would be responsible for filling out the appropriate DIS form (please coordinate with the doctoral program manager for the DIS forms) as well as the cognate justification form. The doctoral program director must approve both the DIS application form and the cognate justification form before the regular registration window closes for the semester in which the student intends to take the course. All DIS policies must be followed.

DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY AND SPECIAL TOPICS COURSES

Four DIS/Special Topics courses are offered as electives for students who wish to work independently in their particular substantive area. These courses are SOW 6904r (Readings in Social Work/Social Welfare), SOW 6909r (Directed Individual Study), SOW 6916r (Supervised Research) and SOW 6938r (Selected Topics in Social Work). More information about each course is available through outreach to the doctoral program office.

RESEARCH/TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

As a condition for receiving a stipend and tuition waiver from the College of Social Work, all full-time students will work with a faculty member for 15 hours per week in their first and second years in the program as research assistants (RA). Before the first semester begins, students will be asked to provide a brief statement of their research experience and interests; faculty will be asked to provide a brief statement describing their current research and need for assistance. In consultation with faculty, the doctoral program director will match each student with a faculty member. Most students remain with their assigned faculty for the duration of their assistantships. Requests for change are honored when possible.

During the fall semester of the third year of study, and as required for SOW 6930 (Teaching Seminar and Practicum), students will be assigned as a teaching assistant with an experienced faculty member. Upon successful completion of this course and assistantship, students will be eligible to teach independently as a teaching assistant (TA). Students may choose to substitute a research assistantship in place of their independent teaching for the spring and/or summer of their fourth year of study, with the approval of the doctoral program committee. After students' college-supported funding ends at the end of the fourth year of study, many students choose to teach independently and/or be hired by an institute or center as a research until they complete the program.

Note: The university requires international students who are not native speakers of English to pass the SPEAK test with a minimum score of 50, prior to independent classroom instruction. The college requires that all international students pass the SPEAK exam or become certified in Spoken English through the Advanced Spoken English for ITA's (EAP 4831) course, regardless of TOEFL scores. More information about the SPEAK exam or EAP 4831 can be found at the [Center for Intensive English Studies website](#).

The associate dean for academic administration, in consultation with the doctoral program director and the MSW and BSW program directors, makes students' teaching assignments based on areas of expertise and experience. Course assignments are dependent on

sufficient course enrollment and may be canceled as late as the first week of class, so TAs must be flexible. Faculty members have priority over choice of teaching assignments, but TAs will be asked to submit their requests for assignments after the faculty have been assigned. Students in good standing in the program will be matched with a teaching assignment, and priority will be based on teaching experience (new TAs given priority) and previous student evaluations.

In addition, we require all TAs to attend FSU's Essential Policies and Practices Training for TAs sponsored by the Center for the Advancement of Teaching (CAT), which is provided immediately prior to the beginning of the fall semester. Teaching Assistants are also strongly encouraged to attend university-wide training opportunities offered throughout the year.

Assistantships are assigned on an annual basis. Thus, students are expected to work 15 hours per week in their assistantships throughout the calendar year. There are two exceptions. Students are not expected to work during the university-wide winter break and during spring break.

In years one and two, students hold a research assistantship for the full 0.375 FTE (15 hours/week). In years three and four, students hold a teaching assistantship for 0.25 FTE (10 hours/week) in addition to a 0.15 FTE (5 hour/week) research assistantship.

Research assistantship assignments begin on the first day of fall semester classes for incoming students and run continuously from years one through four of students' programs. Teaching assistantship assignments for rising third year students begin on the first day of the fall contract, which is two weeks before classes start.

Teaching assistantship assignments end on the last day of the summer semester.

Note: This schedule mirrors faculty appointment schedules. Also, this allows students to receive paychecks throughout the calendar year.



WAIVER AND HEALTH INSURANCE SUBSIDY INFORMATION

For their work as an RA or TA during the first two years of the program, students receive tuition waivers of up to twelve credits during the fall and spring and up to nine credits during the summer semester. For their work as an RA or TA during their third and fourth year of study, students will receive tuition waivers of up to 9 credit hours during the fall, spring, and summer semesters. They must meet the minimum requirements (as noted in the "Minimum Credit Hours and Underload" section above) of being a full-time student in order to be eligible for the waiver.

Students working as a TA or RA in their fifth year (or beyond) are also eligible for tuition waivers. They will, however, only receive waivers for 9 credits in the fall and spring semesters and up to 9 credits during the summer semester (they may take fewer credits, in accordance with the minimum full-time requirements in the different summer sessions).

Please Note: Fifth year (and beyond) funding is not guaranteed.

1. At the beginning of each semester students receiving tuition waivers must fill out a graduate waiver receipt form. This form states the contingencies described above as a contract between the student and the College of Social Work. The doctoral program

manager will send an email notifying the students of this requirement and will include an attachment with instructions to [download it from the MY.FSU.EDU portal](#). Students are responsible for signing and returning the form to the doctoral program manager by the deadline indicated in the email. Neglecting to sign this form puts students at risk of not receiving future funding.

Additionally, students who work as a research assistant or teaching assistant are eligible to receive health insurance subsidies as long as they meet the following eligibility requirements:

2. Students must sign up for the eligible insurance plan from University Health Services.
3. Students must be enrolled in at least 9 hours during the semester.
4. Students must have an appointment from the first day of classes to the last day of exams.
5. Students must have a minimum .25 FTE appointment.
6. Students must have a qualifying graduate assistant appointment code. [Learn about current health insurance subsidy program on The Graduate School website.](#)



ASSISTANTSHIP ANNUAL REVIEW

The FSU graduate student collective bargaining agreement requires that all graduate students who are assigned as research and/or teaching assistant receive an annual evaluation of their performance. The doctoral program supports the importance of providing structured opportunities for students to receive feedback regarding their efforts as teaching and/or research assistants. The assistantship annual review provides an opportunity for faculty research and teaching mentors to provide this feedback. The following describes CSW procedures for conducting these evaluations of the primary appointment. Separate evaluation procedures for research assistants (RAs) and teaching assistants (TAs) are provided.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP ANNUAL REVIEW PROCEDURES

1. At the beginning of the academic year (i.e., the point of initial RA assignment or renewal), the doctoral program office sends a copy of the research assistantship planning and evaluation form to RA faculty mentors and their RAs. The form is available at the FSU CSW doctoral program Canvas site.
2. The RA faculty mentor and RA develop work plan for the research assistantship for the coming year (August to August). They complete the first section of the research assistantship planning & evaluation form, including signatures and dates.
3. The RA distributes copies of the completed Research assistantship planning & evaluation form by the end of September to the RA faculty mentor and the doctoral program office for approval and to be included in the student's file. The RA retains a copy for their files.
4. During the summer, the doctoral program office sends a notice to RA faculty mentors and RAs indicating that the annual evaluation is coming due.
5. By the end of July, the RA faculty mentor and RA meet to discuss the RA's performance and accomplishments. They complete the second section of the research assistantship planning & evaluation form, including signatures and dates. If the appointment is renewed for the upcoming academic year, the RA and RA faculty member would complete the first portion of a new research assistantship planning & evaluation form for the upcoming year.
6. The RA distributes copies of the completed research assistantship planning & evaluation form for the current year (and the upcoming year, if applicable) to the RA faculty mentor and the doctoral program office for approval and to be included in the student's file. The RA retains a copy for their files.

Note: RAs may provide written comments to the evaluation, to be attached to the research assistantship planning & evaluation form and placed in their file. As stated in the collective bargaining agreement: "written student comments or evaluations need not be signed to be used for evaluation purposes."

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP ANNUAL REVIEW PROCEDURES

1. Around the seventh week of the first semester of independent teaching (typically the spring semester during the third year of study), the doctoral program director will arrange for TAs to administer the teaching assessment by students (TABS) to their classes. The results will be given to the TAs.
2. By the end of the first semester of independent teaching, the doctoral program director will attend one of the TA's classes to observe and evaluate the TA performance using the CSW teaching checklist.
3. The doctoral program director and TA meet within two weeks of the classroom observation to discuss the teaching assistantship performance. This review will include a discussion of the TABS and the observation of teaching based on the CSW teaching checklist.
4. At the end of the semester the TA will administer the student perception of courses and instructors (SPCI) evaluation to students, as required by the university.

Note: if any significant concerns are expressed in the SPCI, a meeting within the first two weeks of the subsequent semester will be held between TA and doctoral program director to discuss.

5. The TA distributes copies of the completed TABS, SPCI results, and CSW Teaching Checklist to the doctoral program director, the doctoral program office and to be included in the student's file. The TA retains a copy for their files.

Note: TAs may provide written comments to the CSW teaching checklist and placed in the TA's file. As stated in the collective bargaining agreement, "written student comments or evaluations need not be signed to be used for evaluation purposes."

Note: The evaluation may include classroom observations (either announced or unannounced). However, following an observation, the TA must be provided "an opportunity to meet and discuss the observation with the observer, within two (2) weeks" of the observation (collective bargaining agreement). Further, "a concise written comment by the observer regarding the observation must be made, unless by mutual agreement the employee [TA] and observer agree that no written comment will be made. If a written comment by the observer regarding the observation is prepared, it shall be placed in the file. A copy of such comment shall be given to the employee [TA] no later than two (2) weeks following the observation, if practicable. Such comment shall not be grievable; however, the employee shall have the right to respond in writing and shall have such response attached" (collective bargaining agreement).

ACADEMIC ANNUAL REVIEW



The doctoral program recognizes the importance of providing structured opportunities for students to receive feedback regarding their academic progress through the program. The academic annual review is a collaborative process in which students and their educational advisors or major professors discuss the student's academic status in the program and potential for successful completion of the Ph.D.

ACADEMIC ANNUAL REVIEW PROCEDURES

1. The students will receive an annual review evaluation form that is specified to their program of studies. All students must complete their portion of the written annual evaluation form, including a statement that summarizes their progress toward fulfilling their program requirements as well as major accomplishments. After that, students should schedule an appointment to meet with their major professor/educational advisor to complete the evaluation by the due date.
2. The major professor/educational advisor and student discuss the student's academic progress, and together develop goals for the upcoming academic year. The major professor/educational advisor then adds the annual evaluation forms to the student file, and forwards a recommendation to the doctoral program manager, who coordinates a review with the Doctoral Program Committee (DPC).
3. The DPC reviews each student's overall academic performance during the preceding year. If the committee is in unanimous agreement during discussion, the student will be retained, placed on probation, or recommended for dismissal accordingly. If the DPC does not reach unanimous agreement, each DPC member will recommend retention, probation, or dismissal on a written, private ballot, including a brief description of reasons for the vote. If the vote does not result in a majority opinion, the student will be placed on one-year probation, and the major professor/educational advisor and DPC will re-evaluate the student's progress after that year. During the probation period, the major professor/educational advisor will meet regularly with the student and implement remedial interventions, as necessary. The doctoral program director will send annual review letters to all students and inform the dean of all DPC actions.

Note: The DPC review meeting typically occurs after the last month of the academic year once final grades for the spring semester are posted.

4. The doctoral program manager will notify the Graduate School (through GST) of the annual review outcomes.

Note: Samples of annual review forms are available on the doctoral program Canvas site.

PROCEDURE FOR PROBATION OR DISMISSAL

SUSPENSION, DISMISSAL, AND REINSTATEMENT

The university reserves the right to exclude at any time a student whose conduct is deemed improper or prejudicial to the interest of the university community or whose academic performance is substandard.

A graduate student whose cumulative grade point average for courses taken at Florida State University falls below 3.0 at the end of a term (not counting courses for which "S" or "U" grades may be given) will be considered not in good standing by the university and will be placed on academic probation. If a 3.0 cumulative grade point average is not attained by the end of the next full semester of enrollment, the student will not be permitted to register for graduate study, including registering as a special student.

However, at the time of dismissal the major professor may petition the academic dean and the dean of the Graduate School for consideration of special circumstances which the professor thinks constitute justification for an exception to this regulation, but under no circumstances will a student be allowed more than one additional semester of probation. Owing to the differential uses of the designation, "academic probation" shall not appear on permanent records of regular graduate students. After one probationary period, however, a student whose average falls within the probationary range will receive automatic dismissal.

The university reserves the right to dismiss graduate students and terminate their enrollment in an academic program based on a number of different criteria, beyond that of GPA alone. Oversight is provided by The Graduate School, Office of Faculty Development and Advancement, and Office of the Registrar. Additional details on the steps involved in the process are available for faculty and administrators from the Office of Faculty Development and Advancement and for graduate students at the Graduate School.

Dismissed students will not be permitted to register for further graduate study, including registering as non-degree students, in the degree program or college from which they had enrollment terminated.

Graduate students who have been dismissed from one degree program may seek admission to another degree program but will not be readmitted or allowed to add the dismissed degree program back as a second major or degree. This includes seeking admission into a different degree program that shared a joint pathway with the dismissed degree program.

Program terminations (dismissal for a reason other than GPA) are generally identified by the faculty with support

from the department chair (or unit head) in the department/unit or single-unit college level and may occur for a number of different reasons.

As specified by university policy, graduate policy, or within the unit's graduate Student handbook, reasons may include but are not limited to:

- Inability to conduct independent research in a fashion appropriate with the accepted norms of a discipline.
- Inability to function within a team environment to the extent that it negatively affects the learning, practice and/or research of fellow graduate students.
- Behavior that does not meet the professional standards of a discipline (typically clinical, social work or school settings, but also including Motion Picture Arts, internship work, etc.).
- Failure to meet artistic or creative performance standards.
- Failure to be approved for an Extension of Time (EOT).
- Failure to complete important degree milestone requirements within a reasonable period of time.
- Inability to pass the doctoral diagnostic exam, preliminary exam for admission to candidacy in, etc.
- Failure to complete the doctoral degree or make timely progress towards the research or writing of their treatise or dissertation.

Failure to complete the master's degree or make timely progress towards the research or writing of their thesis, or the production of their thesis-equivalent creative project.

In addition, please note that suspension or expulsion from the university may result if a student is found responsible in a formal Academic Honor Policy (AHP) hearing for an egregious AHP violation, or as an outcome from a Student Conduct Code charge for which a student is found responsible.

Graduate program handbooks must provide information about failure to meet specific milestone or behavioral requirements. Students who are dismissed for reasons other than grades may follow the General Academic Appeals process if they have evidence that academic regulations and procedures have been improperly applied.

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK PROBATION AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

During the annual review process, or on an as-needed basis, doctoral faculty will have the opportunity to advise the DPC and/or the director of the doctoral program of any student who would warrant probation or dismissal because of inadequate progress or unsatisfactory performance in meeting program requirements. The basis for a recommendation of probation or dismissal may include one or more of the following:

- Failure to maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 beyond one semester during the student's program of study.
- A pattern of incomplete ("I"), unsatisfactory ("U") or below "B-" grades (i.e., 2 or more "I", = "U", or "C+" or lower during the student's program of study).
- Failure to pass a respective course in two attempts (i.e., received a grade of B- or lower twice in the same course).
- A pattern of unsatisfactory performance in research and/or teaching assistantships.
- Falling one year or more behind the expectations and timeline for completion agreed upon in the student's most recent annual review or action plan.
- An inability to substantially improve quality of work after a year on probation.
- Violation of the Florida State University Academic Honor Policy or the National Association of Social Workers' Code of Ethics.
- Exhibiting behaviors that are judged to hinder the student's performance as a professional social worker. Such behaviors might include violation of college and university policies, aggressive statements or acts, disruptive behavior, fraud, dishonesty, or any

forms of harassment of other students, faculty, or staff.

Note: Dismissal procedures related to failure to meet preliminary examination expectations are addressed in the section of this manual entitled, "The Written and Oral Components of the Preliminary Examination."

A recommendation of dismissal requires a unanimous vote of the DPC. If the DPC does not unanimously vote to dismiss the student, the student shall be retained in the program on a probationary status. The doctoral program director will immediately inform the student, the student's major professor/advisor, and the dean of the DPC's recommendation.

Students who have been dismissed have the right to appeal through the Faculty Senate Committee on Student Academic Relations as outlined below.

FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT ACADEMIC RELATIONS

The Faculty Senate committee on student academic relations hears appeals from students concerning decisions about their academic work in which they believe to have been arrived at improperly or unprofessionally in departments, schools, or colleges. The committee comprises five faculty members, appointed annually by the faculty Senate steering committee with the advice and consent of the senate for staggered two-year terms, and two students, one undergraduate and one graduate, appointed annually by the university president. The committee elects its chair annually from the faculty representatives and reports its findings and recommendations to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Students wishing to make appeals to the committee on student academic relations should consult the Dean of the Faculties. Appeals to this committee are made after all other available remedies have been exhausted.



GRADE APPEALS SYSTEM

The purpose of the grade appeals system is to afford an opportunity for a graduate student to appeal a final course grade under certain circumstances. Faculty judgment of students' academic performance is inherent in the grading process and hence should not be overturned except when the student can show that the grade awarded represents a gross violation of the instructor's own specified evaluation (grading) statement and therefore was awarded in an arbitrary, capricious, or discriminatory manner.

The evaluation (grading) statement utilized during the grade appeals process is the one contained in the instructor's syllabus at the beginning of the semester. This system does not apply to preliminary or comprehensive exams or to thesis or dissertation defenses; these issues are reviewed by the Student Academic Relations Committee via the dean of the faculties. The steps to pursue a grade appeal are outlined in detail in the Graduate General Bulletin.

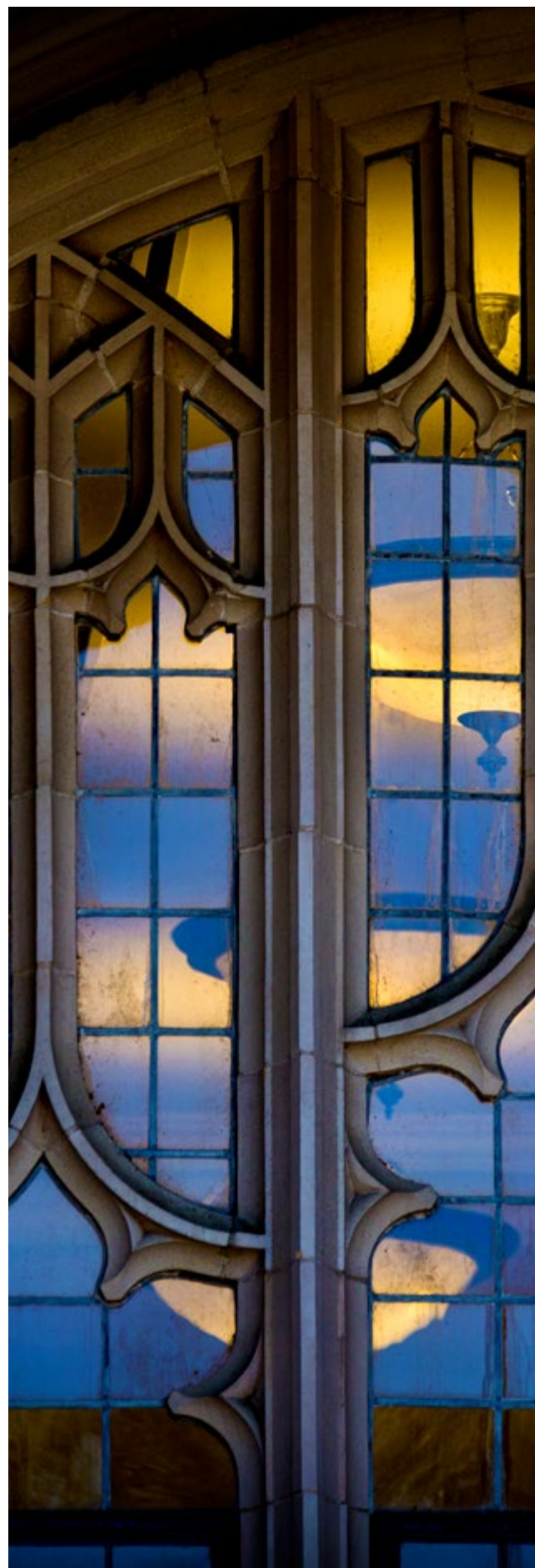
TIME LIMIT FOR COMPLETION OF DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

All requirements for the doctoral degree must be completed within five calendar years from the time the student passes the written and oral portions of the preliminary examination, or the student's supervisory committee will require that a new preliminary examination be passed.

In the College of Social Work, students renewing their doctoral candidacy by retaking their preliminary exams after the five-year period for completion of a dissertation has expired may do so a maximum of one time. After passing all components of the preliminary examination a second time (written and oral), students who have not successfully defended a dissertation within five years will be dismissed from the program.

WRITTEN AND ORAL COMPONENTS OF THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

Satisfactory completion of a preliminary examination shall be required for admission to candidacy for the doctoral degree. The preliminary examination is designed to test scholarly competence and knowledge and to afford the examiners the basis for constructive recommendations concerning the student's subsequent formal or informal study.





There are two components to the preliminary exam, including a written and oral examination component that are prepared and graded by the student's supervisory committee. Details about each component are described in the following section.

Typically, the examining committee will be identical with the supervisory committee. In the College of Social Work, the examining committee must include a minimum of four members of the faculty who have graduate faculty status, one of whom is the university representative of the faculty. All additional members of the committee must hold graduate faculty status or be in a tenure track position. (Please see the "Supervisory Committee" section for more detailed information about committees). Students must have the signed approval from all members of the examining committee prior to beginning the written and oral components of the exam process. Before students begin the written or oral section of their preliminary exam, they must have all their committee members sign the committee form, and it must be approved by the doctoral program director.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION PROCEDURES

The examination is program-driven and can begin at the end of the spring semester of the second year of the program (e.g., May), after students have completed all required core social work courses, with a 3.0 grade point average. For students who have not completed the required coursework by the end of the spring semester of their second year, beginning the exam will be arranged on a case-by-case basis.

The purpose of the written/oral components of the preliminary exam is to test students' independent ability to integrate what they've learned in their coursework and to determine if they are prepared to progress toward the independent scholarship required of a dissertation. As such, the student must work independently during the entire preliminary exam process – no consultation with faculty or outside sources is allowed. This means that committee members, including the major professor, should not review any documents or provide any verbal or written feedback

explicitly related to exam content, before the committee has determined whether the student has passed or failed the written portion of the exam. During the written and oral components, students may maintain contact with their major professor and communicate updates on the progress of their written exam and seek clarification on any questions regarding expectations of the preliminary exam contract. Major professors can regularly meet with the student to provide support and discuss student's planned timeline. Students cannot seek consultation on questions they may have regarding content of their preliminary written exam, retaining the integrity of producing an independently constructed preliminary exam. If there is a unanimous vote to pass the student on the written portion of the exam, the major professor may provide assistance to the student with regard to planning and formatting the oral defense presentation.

The written and oral examination components of the preliminary examination are committee-driven. Meaning, the supervisory committee collaborates with the student to develop the format and timeline for these components of the preliminary exam (i.e., preliminary examination strategy form, the prelim contract).

While the timeline is committee driven, all students are allowed a maximum of twelve weeks to complete the written preliminary exam and submit it to their committee members. It is expected that students complete the written preliminary exam by the spring of their third year.

Please note: the prelim contract may not be completed before the student's committee is approved.

The format may vary within the guidelines established by the DPC. However, the content to be covered may not vary. The written/oral examination must focus upon the student's substantive area and include theoretical conceptualization and research methodology (i.e., research design, sampling, measurement, and data analysis).

The research methodology section is designed to assess the student's depth of understanding of the methodological issues associated with the student's specific substantive area. All members of the examining

committee must participate in the development and grading of both the written and oral components of the examination. All committee members and the student must attend the entire oral examination in real time, either by being physically present or participating via distance technology. If exceptional emergency circumstances, e.g. medical or other emergency situations, prevent the participation of a committee member, then it may be necessary to arrange for an additional appropriately qualified colleague to attend the defense. A minimum of four members with graduate faculty status must participate. In the case of such an emergency, the major professor should work with the doctoral program director to find an appropriate replacement.

Possible grades include pass, and fail. Committee members must be unanimous in their vote to pass a student. Students who do not pass either the written or the oral component of the exam should receive feedback from their committee members, are allowed time to revise the written portion of their prelim or to prepare more carefully for their oral exam, and then they are re-examined. The committee should determine:

- In which areas the student must be re-examined.
- Whether remedial coursework is needed before re-examination.

Other activities to help students prepare to retake the exam if applicable. This can include, but is not limited to, retaking research or data analysis courses, conducting a DIS, reading research texts and articles and then integrating those concepts to their substantive interests, writing sessions, and practicing oral presentations.

- The nature and time of the re-examination as allowed by the DPC's examination guidelines.

Only one re-examination of each component, written and oral, is allowed. Students who fail the second attempt of either the written or oral component of their preliminary examination are dismissed from the FSU College of Social Work doctoral program.

Using the preliminary examination results form available at the FSU CSW doctoral program Canvas website, the examining committee will report the outcome (i.e., high pass, pass, or fail) of the examination to the doctoral program director. If a student fails the examination, the student should work with the major professor and the committee to arrange for a reexamination.

Upon completion of the reexamination, a second preliminary examination results form should be completed and submitted to the doctoral program director. The results of the examination will be reported to the doctoral program director, CSW dean and Office of the University Registrar to be included in the student's permanent record.

The doctoral program director, the dean of the College of Social Work, and/or the dean of the Graduate School may attend any session of the supervisory or examining committee as nonvoting members. A member may be appointed to the examining committee at the discretion of the dean of the College of Social Work or dean of the Graduate School or on recommendation of the major professor.

Please Note: Students may take up to a maximum of 27 hours of preliminary exam preparation.



RE-EXAMINATION

The second attempt at a component of the preliminary exam shall occur no sooner than six full class weeks after the results of the first attempt are shared with the student. For the purpose of this policy, a “full class week” is defined as a week with five days during which classes are held at FSU. Students must be registered separately for their first and second attempt, if necessary, within the same semester, and must receive either a “pass” or a “fail” grade for each attempt.

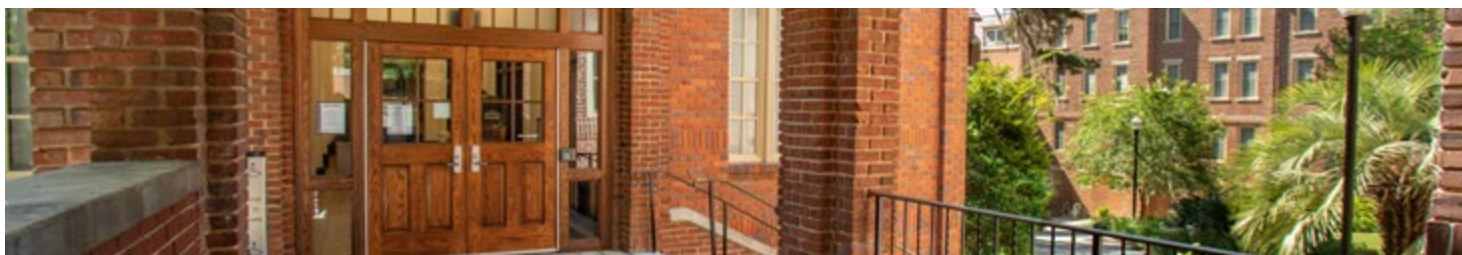
An exception request regarding the timing of the re-examination can be submitted for consideration to the academic dean’s office by either the student or the supervisory committee. Students who allege that academic regulations and/or procedures were improperly applied for the re-examination of their preliminary exam may have their grievances addressed through the general academic appeals process.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION FORMS

Three forms are used as a part of the CSW Preliminary Examination process. All forms are available at the Doctoral Program Canvas website. These forms are required and are retained in the student’s file.

- Preliminary Examination Strategy Form: This form provides the plan for the preliminary examination, and it is a contract between the student and their supervisory committee. The student and all supervisory committee members participating in the examination must sign the form and submit it to the doctoral program director for an approval signature and retention in the student’s file. This must be submitted and approved before the student begins the examination. The doctoral program office has several exemplary contracts on file if a committee needs guidelines in creating a contract.
- Preliminary Examination Results Form: This form provides the results of the student’s preliminary examination. The student and all supervisory committee members must sign the form and submit it to the doctoral program director for further action (i.e., admission to candidacy or termination from the program).
- Admission to Candidacy Form: This form is required by the FSU Office of the Registrar as a part of becoming a doctoral candidate. The student should complete the form and submit it to the doctoral program manager, for approval of the doctoral program director and submission to the Office of the Registrar. This form is also available on the FSU CSW doctoral program Canvas site.

Students need to download the preliminary examination checklist from the Canvas site, a detailed step-by-step overview of the entire prelim process.



ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY

A student who has passed the preliminary examination and has been certified to the Office of the University Registrar (on an admission to candidacy form) is considered a candidate for the doctoral degree and is eligible to register for dissertation credits.

No student may register for dissertation or doctoral treatise hours prior to the point in the semester in which the preliminary examination was passed. An admission to candidacy form must be completed, approved and signed by the doctoral program director, and filed in the Office of the University Registrar prior to registration for dissertation/treatise hours.

After completion of the admission to candidacy process, the student may retroactively add dissertation hours for that semester in which the preliminary examination was completed. Retroactive changes are only permitted if the preliminary examination is passed by the mid-point of the semester. This date is the end of the seventh week of

the semester according to the registrar’s calendar and will be posted on the registrar’s calendar. If the student defends after the seventh week of the semester, they will be eligible to enroll in dissertation hours the following semester.

A student must be admitted to candidacy at least six months prior to the granting of the degree. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure a minimal lapse of time for effective work on the dissertation after acquisition of the basic competence and after delineation of the problem and method of attack. More realistically, the student should expect to spend a year or more of work on the dissertation.

In the College of Social Work, students may take the preliminary examination, and be admitted to candidacy, concurrent with the teaching seminar. However, successful completion of the teaching seminar is required for graduation.

RE-EXAMINATION

The second attempt at a component of the preliminary exam shall occur no sooner than six full class weeks after the results of the first attempt are shared with the student. For the purpose of this policy, a “full class week” is defined as a week with five days during which classes are held at FSU. Students must be registered separately for their first and second attempt, if necessary, within the same semester, and must receive either a “pass” or a “fail” grade for each attempt.

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the forms section. A copy is also available at the FSU CSW doctoral program Canvas site.

Students need to download the preliminary examination checklist from the Canvas site, a detailed step-by-step overview of the entire prelim process.





PROSPECTUS

After passing all components of the preliminary examination, the student is required to submit to the major professor, supervisory committee, and doctoral program director a prospectus on a research project suitable for a doctoral dissertation.

The dissertation prospectus is the first major step in writing a dissertation. Students prepare the prospectus under the guidance of their major professor and with the assistance of committee members, as appropriate. Students shall not proceed with the formal development of a prospectus until after the successful completion of all components of the preliminary examination.

The prospectus defines the scope of students' research, presents the details of the research design, implementation plans, and data analysis strategies, describes plans for presenting the implications of the findings, and suggests the timeline by which the work will be accomplished. The approved prospectus may be viewed as a contract between the student and the supervisory committee. The final draft of a prospectus commonly is reviewed by the major professor and then submitted to the other members of the supervisory committee and the doctoral academic program manager at least three weeks prior to scheduling the defense. The student will notify the doctoral program office of the defense date as soon as the defense has been scheduled.

This defense is an open discussion of student's ideas with their supervisory committee to gain final approval of the dissertation prospectus. Students must be enrolled for the minimum required hours during the semester of their prospectus defense.

All committee members and the student must attend the entire prospectus defense in real time, either by being physically present or by participating via distance technology. Individual departments may impose stricter requirements on physical attendance, e.g., all members must be physically present.

If exceptional emergency circumstances, e.g. medical or other emergency situations prevent the participation of a committee member then it may be necessary to arrange for an additional appropriately qualified colleague to attend the defense. A minimum of four members with graduate faculty status must participate. If an emergency prohibits a committee member from attending the defense, the major professor should work with the doctoral program director to find a suitable replacement.

A grade of "pass" requires a unanimous vote by the oral examining committee. All members of the supervisory committee will sign the prospectus approval signature page when they agree it is an acceptable proposal for a doctoral dissertation and all modifications and corrections have been completed. Thereafter, any major changes in this prospectus will require the approval of every member of the supervisory committee. The major professor decides what constitutes a major change.

Following successful defense of the prospectus, the student must submit the prospectus approval signature page to the doctoral program manager, which has been signed by the supervisory committee, doctoral program director, and the dean, to be kept in the student's file. Students should also keep an original copy for themselves.

Important Note: After approval of the prospectus, students must submit applications and receive approval from the university's Institutional Review Board before beginning to collect any data for the dissertation project. The student's name must appear on the approval form and/or applications as a PI or co-PI for the period of time when the student's research was conducted. Failure to obtain the required approvals may result in the dissertation being permanently embargoed and not publishable in any form.

Copies of this approval must be submitted to the student's major professor and doctoral program office to be included with the prospectus in the student's file.

Note: A sample prospectus cover page is available on the doctoral program Canvas website.



DISSERTATION

A doctoral dissertation must be completed on some topic connected with the major field of study. To be acceptable it must be an achievement in original research constituting a significant contribution to knowledge and represent a substantial scholarly effort on the part of the student.

In the College of Social Work, students choose their dissertation topic with the advice and approval of the major professor and members of the supervisory committee. All dissertations are expected to contribute to the existing body of knowledge relevant to social work. Within these broad parameters, the candidate's personal interest, resources, and skills determine the choice of topic.

The dissertation is a major scholarly work. It includes critical reviews of the theoretical and conceptual literature, a conceptual model and its operationalization, a critical review of the research in the substantive area of interest, a completed and original research project, a report of the findings, and a description of the implications for social work and the substantive area of interest. It is to be formatted according to the most recent guidelines for APA style, with exceptions only as required for electronic submission.

Note: approval from the FSU IRB must be received prior to engaging in dissertation-related data collection activities, as indicated previously in this manual.

1. Students should become familiar with the university's manuscript formatting and clearance requirements before writing their dissertation. Formatting and clearance guidelines for the final electronic submission copy may be accessed [from the Graduate School website](#), found in the submenu, "Thesis, treatise, and dissertation." Templates for Microsoft Word and Latex, an annotated sample manuscript illustrating formatting criteria, and a PowerPoint about the manuscript clearance process, are also available. Manuscript clearance workshops are also held during each semester. The Graduate School will announce the dates of these workshops. [They are also posted to the Graduate Student Resource Center Events and Workshops web page.](#)
2. A dissertation checklist, including links to all the necessary forms, is available on the doctoral program Canvas website. Students should review the dissertation checklist with their major professors at all stages of the dissertation process. Students must also contact the doctoral program manager well before the term of graduation to review all the necessary requirements.

DISSERTATION CREDIT HOURS AND REGISTRATION FOR FINAL TERM

Students who have completed their required course work, passed all components of the CSW preliminary examination, and submitted an admission to candidacy form to the Office of the Registrar are eligible to register for dissertation credit hours. The minimum number of dissertation credit hours for completion of a doctoral degree is twenty-four semester hours. The number of dissertation credit hours for which a student registers each semester should be commensurate with the amount of faculty time and university resources utilized, but it should not be for fewer than three credit hours per semester, except as indicated in the next section.

Once a student has reached the minimum needed 24 credit hours of dissertation can take a minimum of two hours of dissertation credit with underload approval. Underloads must be approved by the doctoral program director (see the "Minimum Credit Hours and Underload" section under "Academic Standards" for more information). Students should also register for SOW 8985 (Dissertation Defense) prior to the beginning of the final semester. Final approval of the dissertation by the entire supervisory committee is a prerequisite to the awarding of the degree. This is true no matter how many hours a student has completed in dissertation credit or what grades have been recorded for the dissertation hours. Doctoral students must register in the final term in which a degree requiring a thesis, dissertation, or treatise is granted, in accordance with the policies stated in the "thesis" and "dissertation" sections of the FSU Graduate General Bulletin. Submission deadlines for each semester are posted in the manuscript/clearance sub-menu of the Graduate School Website; students not meeting those deadlines will be considered graduates of the following semester. The deadlines are as follows:

- **Initial, Pre-Defense Deadline**

The relevant pre-defense (initial) format review deadline is the date by which students must submit their manuscript to the Manuscript Clearance Advisor for a pre-defense (initial) formatting review. Manuscripts will not be reviewed and counted as an initial submission under the following conditions: 1) not submitted via the ProQuest ETD website; 2) poorly formatted based on The Graduate School's guidelines, or 3) otherwise appears incomplete (e.g., multiple sections omitted). While it is understood that content will likely change after the defense, it is expected that manuscripts submitted for the pre-defense (initial) format review are at least 90% complete and have been formatted in full accordance with the criteria in the most recent version of The Graduate School's formatting guidelines.

- **Final, Post-Defense Deadline**

The post-defense deadline indicates the date by which students must submit the post-defense, final content-approved version of their manuscript to ProQuest ETD and ensure completion/signatures of all required manuscript clearance forms in The Graduate School's Manuscript Clearance Portal (except "Official Final

Clearance"). Although students cannot complete all forms in the Manuscript Clearance Portal directly, they are ultimately responsible for ensuring their committee has completed the needed approvals.

*If there are no content changes requested by the student's supervisory committee or made to the manuscript after the defense, a resubmission of the final, content-approved manuscript is still required in ProQuest ETD by this deadline. A pre-defense manuscript submission in ProQuest ETD is not sufficient in meeting this deadline.

Additional formatting revisions are often required after this date in order for final manuscript clearance to be completed, but content changes are prohibited.

- **Formatting Deadline**

The Formatting Deadline is the date by which any post-defense formatting revisions (only those required by the Manuscript Clearance Office) should be completed and "Official Final Manuscript Clearance" should be granted in the Manuscript Clearance Portal.

EXAMINATION IN DEFENSE DISSERTATION

The defense of the dissertation is held orally. Responsibility for suggesting the time, designating the place, and presiding at the examination rests with the major professor. It is recommended that students defend no later than the eighth week of classes in the semester of intended graduation. Students must meet all semester deadlines for manuscript clearance set by The Graduate School in the semester of graduation. Manuscript/forms submission deadlines can be found on The Graduate School's website under Thesis, Treatise, and Dissertation. Additional rules apply to thesis, treatise, or dissertation students who miss a Manuscript Clearance deadline during their defense semester. Consult the Graduate School website for more information.

Dissertations are expected to reflect original work. The review of academic integrity should be completed prior to the defense. Faculty may choose to use appropriate plagiarism checkers and peer review tools with early drafts of these manuscripts as an instructional aid in advising students on matters relating to plagiarism. The signatures of all committee members appearing on the manuscript signature approval form submitted electronically through the manuscript clearance online portal constitute testimony from the committee that they are satisfied that the dissertation meets FSU's standards of academic integrity as described in the FSU academic honor code and appropriate steps have been taken to assure that this is the case.

A supervisory committee's judgments on the quality of a student's thesis or dissertation should be based solely on the academic merits of the work before them. Any other standard risks a breach of professional ethics or law and undermines the integrity of the process and those involved. Any personal or financial relationships (e.g., involving the

major professor, committee members, and/or student) that may create the perception of favoritism in that process must be avoided. This would not include the typical practice of hiring a student on a university assistantship in the home unit but would include the student being hired by the major professor's private company. If any such conflicts of interest could exist, they should be reported to the administrative head of the student's academic unit, who will evaluate same for potential harm and take appropriate action. Please see the "Supervisory Committee" section for a more detailed explanation of the university's conflict of interest policy.

Academic courtesy requires that a preliminary draft of the dissertation be submitted to each member of the supervisory committee four weeks before the date of the oral examination. The dissertation draft can be submitted earlier than four weeks with committee approval and must be submitted at least two weeks before the defense. At the same time, the dissertation should be submitted electronically to the university manuscript clearance adviser in the Graduate School so that the clearance adviser can provide the student with a critique of the manuscript with respect to the Graduate School's formatting requirements. The supervisory committee, the chair of the major department, and other members of the faculty as may be appointed by the academic dean will conduct the examination. All members of the graduate faculty are invited to attend.

At least two weeks prior to the date of the examination, the student or major professor will present an announcement of the dissertation title and the date and place of the examination to the dean of the Graduate School and notify the doctoral program office. Failure to follow either of these steps is likely to result in delaying the student's graduation in the current semester as well as additional tuition cost. Consult the registration guide for the deadline dates. A link to this electronic form is available on the doctoral program Canvas website.

In the College of Social Work, the examining committee determines the date by which the final dissertation manuscript is to be submitted to committee members. A final copy of the dissertation manuscript must be placed at the front desk of the college's main office a minimum of one week (and preferably two weeks) before the dissertation defense so interested graduate faculty have access to it. Normally, major changes in a manuscript made one to two weeks prior to a defense requires that the defense meeting would need to be rescheduled for a time that is agreeable to all committee members.

In the College of Social Work, the dissertation defense is considered a formal academic occasion. The examining committee determines the format of the defense. All committee members and the student must attend the entire defense in real time, either by being physically present or by participating via distance technology. Individual departments may impose stricter requirements on physical attendance, e.g., all members must be physically present.

Departments and other degree-granting programs must publicize their policy on defense attendance in their graduate student handbook and in the relevant section of the Graduate Bulletin. If exceptional emergency

circumstances, e.g. medical or other emergency situations prevent the participation of a committee member then it may be necessary to arrange for an additional appropriately qualified colleague to attend the defense. A minimum of four members with graduate faculty status must participate. If an emergency prohibits a committee member from attending the defense, the major professor should work with the doctoral program director to find a suitable replacement.

The oral examining committee will certify in writing to the doctoral program director and academic dean of the major department the results of the examination: passed, failed, or to re-defend. The report of results following a reexamination must indicate the student either passed or failed. To receive a passing grade, the written dissertation must be in final form or require only minor revisions at the time of the defense. A grade of "pass" requires a unanimous vote by the oral examining committee. If the student passes, each member must sign electronically the manuscript signature form to substantiate the results of the defense through the manuscript clearance portal.

A written critique of conduct of the examination in defense of the dissertation should be submitted by the university representative from the graduate faculty to the doctoral program director, academic dean, and the dean of the Graduate School via the manuscript clearance online portal within one week after the date of defense.

In the College of Social Work, under no circumstances shall the major professor sign the final degree clearance form via the manuscript clearance online portal before all corrections and modifications are completed. After the defense and changes to the dissertation (if any) have been made, the doctoral candidate submits one copy of the dissertation to the doctoral program director and dean for review and approval. The major professor's signature on the final clearance form via the manuscript clearance online portal represents the last step in the approval process in the College of Social Work.

After approval by the oral examining committee, the student should submit the final manuscript electronically to the manuscript clearance advisor. A manuscript processing fee is charged. A student's manuscript must be cleared in order to graduate. A manuscript is considered cleared if the manuscript clearance adviser has approved the formatting of the manuscript and all forms have been received and verified by the manuscript clearance advise.

Important Note: Students must submit their final manuscript and all forms by the final manuscript submission and forms deadline.

A cleared manuscript is one that has formatting approved by the manuscript clearance advisor and all forms received by the manuscript clearance advisor.



MANUSCRIPT CLEARANCE ONLINE PORTAL

You will need to log-in and fill out two forms in preparation of your dissertation defense on the [FSU Manuscript Clearance Portal website](#):

- Manuscript Access Agreement Form: this must be completed at least two weeks prior to your defense.
- Defense Announcement: the announcement can be completed or updated until the day prior to the defense date. This information cannot be submitted retroactively or on the day of defense.

Once you have completed the two forms, you can use the student interface to keep track of where your forms are in the process and once completed.

[Formatting Guidelines are also available via Manuscript Clearance Portal.](#)

[Keep track of all deadlines on the Graduate School Manuscript Clearance Deadline website.](#)

FEES

Students are responsible for paying all fees as required by The Graduate School. If the student wishes for University Microfilms International, Inc. to register the copyright, an additional fee must be paid.

PUBLICATION OF THE DISSERTATION

As a condition of undertaking a dissertation program, the student agrees that the completed dissertation will be archived in the University Libraries system. The student will make the electronic dissertation available for review by other scholars and the general public by selecting an access condition provided by the Graduate School. For answers to questions regarding publication of their dissertation, students should contact their manuscript clearance advisor in the Graduate School.

GUIDELINES FOR RESTRICTIONS ON THE RELEASE OF THESIS AND DISSERTATIONS

The free and open dissemination of the results of research conducted at Florida State University is required if the university is to contribute effectively to the education of its students and to the body of human knowledge. Conflicts can develop among the interests of research sponsors, research directors, and the students doing the research. To ensure that the interests of all parties are protected, the following guidelines should be observed.

- An Electronic Thesis/Dissertation (ETD) must be made available in its complete and original format. It cannot be subdivided into chapters and disseminated under different distribution options.
- Worldwide Distribution. This option makes the ETD freely available worldwide via the FSU ETD Digital Library. It should be noted that some publishers may see a conflict with this level of distribution prior to publication.
- Embargoed Access (twenty-four months). Recommended to students who have a patent application in process or who want to restrict access to the ETD for a limited amount of time in order to pursue commercial interests or other publication. After the restricted time period, the document will be made freely available through worldwide distribution (option above).

The maximum delay in the release of a thesis, treatise, or dissertation to the University Libraries and ProQuest Information and Learning (UMI/PQIL) shall not exceed twenty-four months from the date the thesis, treatise, or dissertation is approved by the FSU Graduate School. In special circumstances, the dean of the Graduate School may grant an additional delay of twenty-four months upon request if the case is made that the delay is in the best interests of all parties or if publication or commercial interest in the document is still ongoing. Such a request must be submitted at least one month prior to the expiration of the original period of delay.

It should be recognized that adherence to this policy does not constitute a guarantee that information in the sequestered thesis or dissertation will not be disseminated by means other than the written thesis or dissertation. Information about access issues related to electronic theses, treatises, and dissertations may be obtained from the Graduate School. A request for such a delay must be presented in writing to the dean of the Graduate School and carry the endorsement of the student, the major professor, the department or program chair, and the dean of the relevant college or school.

Note: Students should not suffer delays in their normal academic progress, including the final defense of the thesis or dissertation, as a result of a desire to delay release of the thesis or dissertation to the library.

Students will find a comprehensive dissertation checklist, along with samples of all the forms and other guidelines on the doctoral program Canvas site.

APPLYING FOR GRADUATION

A student's manuscript must be cleared in order to graduate; however, students also must meet all other departmental and university requirements. During the first two weeks of the term in which a candidate expects to receive a degree, an application should be made for a diploma at the Office of the University Registrar. If a candidate previously filed for a diploma but did not receive the degree, the application procedure must be repeated. [Find more information on the University Registrar Graduation web page.](#)

The doctoral program manager must be notified when the student turns in their application as they are required to run a graduation check and provide proof that the student is eligible. If the student decides for any reason to delay graduation after submitting an application, they must contact the registrar's office to fill out paperwork to withdraw their application. They must also notify the doctoral program manager, so their name is not included on the graduation program.

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK POLICY FOR STUDENT SANCTION FOR ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL REASONS

The primary objective of the College of Social Work doctoral program is to prepare social work scholars and leaders in research and education who use systematic methods of inquiry and reasoned argument to advance knowledge. The College is responsible for the educational preparation of students for this role and for the evaluation of students' achievement of our academic standards.

Moreover, as a professional school, we are responsible for ensuring that students meet standards of behavior that are congruent with expectations of the social work profession, as outlined in the [NASW Code of Ethics](#) and in standards for Licensed Clinical Social Workers in the state of Florida. Such professional schools have the ability to set consequences for behavior that go beyond those for other departments on campus. Our students are also expected to comply with the FSU Academic Honor Policy and the FSU Student Conduct Code.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

A student is expected to:

- Maintain required grades for their academic program.
- Correct any deficiencies related to academic probation within one year.
- Meet the generally accepted standards of social work conduct, ethics, personal integrity, and emotional stability required for practice. This includes, but is not limited to, the following: appropriate and respectful behavior with peers, faculty, clients, and staff.
- Consistently demonstrate effective interpersonal skills necessary for





forming social work helping relationships, such as allowing for peer and client self-determination, basic interviewing skills, etc.

- Consistently demonstrate respect and responsibility in matters of punctuality and presentation of self.
- Fully meet the standards set by the College of Social Work, FSU's Academic Honor Policy and Student Code of Conduct, NASW Code of Ethics, and the policies of the field education agency.
- Consistently demonstrate abilities at an expected level in the areas of verbal and written communication skills.

PROCEDURES FOR IMPOSING SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS OF THESE EXPECTATIONS

A student who commits an act of academic dishonesty, including all forms of cheating and plagiarism, shall be dealt with according to steps outlined in the Florida State University Academic Honor Policy.

A student who exhibits behaviors that are judged to hinder the student's development toward becoming a professional social worker may precipitate a review by the doctoral program director depending on the student's enrollment status in those programs. Such behaviors might include: violation of college and university policies, aggressive statements or acts, disruptive behavior, fraud, dishonesty, or any forms of harassment of other students, faculty, or staff.

When faculty, staff, students, or other personnel employed or authorized to supervise students by the university identify any of the above indicators as a concern, they should refer the matter to the doctoral program director. The doctoral program director will review the information, determine whether to meet with the students and formulate a plan, and place documentation in the student's academic file describing the referring incident(s). The corrective action plan would specify:

- Activities to gain further skill, insight, or behavior change (e.g., gain work/volunteer experience, write a paper, participate in counseling, and coursework).
- The specific time frame to address these actions.
- The evidence required to fulfill the requirements.
- Date and signatures of the student and the doctoral program director.

If the student either does not agree with the corrective action plan, does not complete its requirements, or the incident is deemed so egregious as to warrant a faculty review, the doctoral program director may refer the student to the associate dean for academic affairs. The associate dean will request that a subcommittee of the Academic Affairs Committee, the faculty committee charged in the College of Social Work bylaws with responsibility for judicial appeals for students, be formed within thirty calendar days of notification. The associate dean for academic affairs will appoint a chair who will convene a meeting of the subcommittee to review the incident(s).

At this meeting, students will have the opportunity to respond to identified concerns and to provide a statement and/or evidence. Students may invite no more than one advisor who may speak only to the student, but not to the subcommittee members. Advisors who do not adhere to this policy will be asked to leave the meeting.

The subcommittee will make a determination based upon the greater weight of evidence, which means that the evidence, as a



whole, shows that the fact sought to be proved is more probable than not. The standards of proof are not required to be at the level of legal standards in civil or criminal courts of law.

Sanctions may include:

- Affirmation or modification of the original corrective action plan.
- Probation from the program, including a plan of action outlining expectations for resolution of the probation period.
- Suspension from the program, including canceling enrollment in any current or future social work courses. In some cases, a corrective action plan will be developed in addition to a suspension.
- Termination from the program; all current and future enrollment for social work courses will be canceled.

Copies of the written decision will be distributed to all parties within fourteen days and placed in the student's academic file.

If a corrective action plan is indicated, the faculty subcommittee will meet with the student on the date specified in the plan (as described above) to review progress. The faculty subcommittee may render a decision as to the student's continuation in the program.

The student will be notified of this decision in writing within fourteen days.

Students may appeal the decision of the faculty subcommittee by submitting a written statement to the associate dean for academic affairs within thirty calendar days of the receipt of the decision. Students may appeal the associate dean's decision to the dean of the College of Social Work who has the final authority for maintaining standards within the College of Social Work.

The faculty subcommittee shall also refer students, if appropriate, for disciplinary action to the dean of students for conduct code violations, and/or consult with the dean of the faculties for academic honor policy violations.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

All Florida State University graduate students are responsible and held to the following policies, which can be found in detail in the Graduate General Bulletin:

- Academic Honor Policy.
- Academic Honor Pledge.
- Sexual Harassment Policy.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Florida State University adheres to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) in prohibiting discrimination against any qualified person with a disability. Any student with a disability may voluntarily self-report the nature of the disability and identify needed accommodations to the Office of Accessibility Services, 108 Student Services Building.

Any students with a disability, for which they wish to receive accommodation from the instructor, are expected to advise the instructor of this request by the

end of the first week of class. Students requesting accommodation must be registered with the FSU Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) in most circumstances. Students must also provide written documentation of the disability and the desired accommodations to the instructor in order to develop the most effective and appropriate educational plans. The instructor will work with the OAS and with students to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure that all have a fair opportunity to perform in class.

FSU COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK ELECTRONIC POLICY

It is the policy of the College of Social Work that technology applied to or used for a course and/or official college business cannot be used for any other purposes than those that directly relate to the curriculum and/or official college business. Technology includes but is not limited to electronic mail services (including electronic mailing lists), the Internet, software, and course web site programs.

Furthermore, this policy applies to the use of all computer equipment owned by the College of Social Work.

Activities that are expressly prohibited under this policy include:

- Giving or selling e-mail addresses and/or other personal information regarding students, instructors, staff, or faculty to any outside person or organization.
- Using e-mail lists for students, instructors, staff, or faculty for commercial and/or solicitation purposes.
- Enabling anyone who is not registered for a particular

course to access the system without permission and consent from the instructor for the course.

- Enabling anyone who is not authorized to use the university or college database to access the system without permission and consent from the supervisor.
- Utilizing the college's electronic system for activities or purposes which do not pertain to course content and/or official school business, illegal activities, or for other activities not authorized by the College of Social Work.,
- Installing (or allowing to be installed) "pirated", i.e. copied unlawfully, software on any college computer or distributing software purchased with college (including grant) resources to persons for non-college-related purposes.

Any person found in violation of this policy will be sanctioned by the College of Social Work according to the appropriate university policies.

GENERAL INVOLVEMENT INFORMATION FOR THE FSU COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

INVOLVEMENT IN ACADEMIC LIFE

Students are encouraged to become active in the college, the university, and in professional organizations. Doctoral students can present their work at academic conferences, publish in academic journals, become student members of research and academic societies, and participate in the governance of the college and university. Opportunities include the following:

Doctoral Student Organization (DSO)

The College of Social Work Doctoral Student Organization (DSO) is an official FSU student organization. Membership is awarded when students are admitted to the doctoral program, and students elect their officers in the spring of each academic year. The DSO provides service to the college and community, selects a representative to participate in Doctoral Program Committee meetings, and advocates for the needs of students.

Congress of Graduate Students (COGS)

The Congress of Graduate Students (COGS) is the representative government for all graduate, professional, and post-baccalaureate students at Florida State University. COGS promotes accessibility to education and funds graduate organizations that contribute to the professional development of graduate students at Florida State University. [Visit the Student Government Association website for more information.](#)

The Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)

The Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) is the leading research society in the discipline of social work. Students and

faculty submit their work for presentation at the SSWR Annual Conference, and student membership fees are quite reasonable. Membership in this society represents an important means of networking and preparing for academic life.

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) is the accrediting body for BSW and MSW programs, and it holds an annual conference at which many faculty members and students present their work.





OFFICE SPACE

The doctoral students' office/computer lab is room C2312. The doctoral students' lab is fully equipped with state-of-the-art computers, each having full Internet access and current software. The office also has wireless connectivity. Doctoral students teaching independently should not meet with their students in the doctoral students' office. A separate adjunct faculty office is available for meeting with students during office hours.

If students need access to software not currently provided, they may request that the doctoral program install software licenses onto the computers in the lab. Requests may be submitted to the doctoral program director.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

RESEARCH AND TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

The College of Social Work provides funding to students for the first four calendar years of their education (from the beginning of the fall semester of the first year through the end of the summer semester of the fourth year). The college offers a tuition matriculation waiver for up to twelve credit hours of students' tuition in the fall and spring semesters and nine hours in the summer for their first two years of study and up to 9 credit hours during the fall, spring, and summer semesters during their third and fourth years of study as well as an assistantship with a stipend of \$21,450 annually, for the 2026–2027 academic year.

Continued funding of the stipend at the offer level is contingent upon university allocations, satisfactory student performance, and maintenance of full-time enrollment. The college aids students in obtaining scholarships, fellowships, and dissertation funding. After successful completion of their teaching seminar and assistantships, students may be eligible to teach independently and can be hired to teach courses while they finish their dissertation work.

Note: domestic out-of-state students will be responsible for obtaining Florida residency after the first year of the program. Out-of-state tuition will be reimbursed for the first year only.

International students are not eligible for in-state status and will receive out-of-state tuition reimbursement for the first four years of their program. Students are responsible for verifying that the correct tuition waiver amount has been disbursed each semester by accessing "My Account Statement" in myFSU Student Center.

WAIVER INFORMATION (PAPERWORK ASSOCIATED WITH ASSISTANTSHIPS)

Each semester students will receive an email from the doctoral program manager asking to sign a graduate waiver receipt form. This form states the contingencies described previously as a contract between the student and the College of Social Work. Failure to sign this waiver will result in the tuition waiver and stipend for the semester in question, and could jeopardize the student's standing in the program. Please see the "Research and Teaching Assistantship" section of this handbook for additional information.



SCHOLARSHIPS

The College of Social Work awards numerous scholarships to incoming and current students each year. [Learn more on the College of Social Work Financial Assistance web page.](#)

Several are available to doctoral students including:

- Art Cleveland Play Therapy Scholarship
- Barbara White Scholarship
- Bill and Nolia Brandt Scholarship
- Cheryl R Rowland Scholarship
- Christopher D. Hefren Child Welfare Doctoral Scholarship
- Citrus Health Network Scholarship for Graduate Students
- Coyle and Mabel Moore Scholarship
- David L. Albright Social Work Doctoral Scholarship
- Dianne F. Harrison Scholarship for the Best Dissertation Prospectus
- Herndon Scholars/Helios Education Foundation Scholarship
- Jane Addams Fund
- Joanna F. Gorman Scholarship
- John P and Jane W Wakeman Memorial Scholarship
- Joyce Harper Laidlaw Scholarship in Child Welfare
- Jim Clark College of Social Work Leadership Fund
- Lamar F Everett Scholarship
- Karen Oehme Scholarship
- MacDill Wold Unconquered Scholarship
- Mark DeGraff and Lula Hamilton DeGraff Scholarship
- Mary DiNitto Scholarship
- Robert P. Hurrle Doctoral Scholarship
- Spearman Social Work and Veteran Support Fund
- Violet Crook Graduate Scholarship

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Florida State University Graduate School offers several scholarships with generous support for doctoral students. Many social work doctoral students have been awarded these scholarships. One social work doctoral student receives the Legacy Scholarship annually, which provides \$10,000 per year for five years. The Graduate School also offers the Wilson-Auzene Scholarship, which provides a \$5,000 stipend for eligible minority students. [Learn more on the Graduate School's Funding and Awards website](#)

RESOURCE CENTER TRAVEL GRANTS PROGRAM

This program offers Attendance Grants and Presentation Grants for full-time FSU doctoral candidates seeking support with expenses associated with traveling to an approved professional conference or event related to their program of study.

- Attendance grants: up to \$500 of qualified expenses
- Presentation grants: up to \$1,000 of qualified expenses

Full-time doctoral candidates are limited to one GSRC grant (either presentation or conference attendance) per fiscal year (July 1 Current Year-June 30 Following Year).

[Learn more about travel grants on the Graduate Student Resource Center Travel Grants website.](#)

EXTERNAL FUNDING

Doctoral students can apply for funding (e.g., fellowships, scholarships, research awards) outside of FSU to support their coursework and their dissertation studies. Students typically work with their major professors to pursue these opportunities with the support of the doctoral program.

Examples of foundation and government external funding agencies include the Hartford Foundation, the

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, National Institute of Mental Health, and the National Institute on Aging. Students are highly encouraged to contact the [**Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards**](#).

SUPPORT FOR CONFERENCE TRAVEL

For the 2026-2027 academic year, the College of Social Work can provide support in travel expenses up to \$1,000 total per current student (available for conferences between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027). To qualify for these conference travel funds, you must present at the conference in some capacity. The following describes what type of travel the college will fund and the procedures for requesting funding, as a part of the FSU CSW support of doctoral student development.

- The following activities that require travel are eligible for travel reimbursement:
 - » National conference (vs. regional conference).
 - » Scholarly/Academic conference (vs. travel to job interviews, training conferences, or professional conferences).
 - » Paper or poster accepted (vs. no presentation).
 - » Any authorship (vs. first author only).

- At least two weeks before the conference, the student should:
 - » Submit a request via the travel funding request Qualtrics survey. If approved, the doctoral program director will notify the student and the CSW staff travel representative.
 - » Upon approval from the doctoral program director, the student should complete and submit the doctoral student travel request form and FSU departmental documentation form (available on the doctoral program Canvas site) to the CSW staff travel representative. If the student has received approval for a travel grant from the Congress of Graduate Students (COGS), the COGS acceptance documentation must be provided at this time as well.
 - » Upon return from the conference, travel receipts should be submitted to the CSW staff travel representative for reimbursement.

Note: Unused funds for reimbursement do not roll over to subsequent academic years.





FSU
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