

ADMISSION TO THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM

FALL 2023

ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM REQUIRES:

1. An official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) taken within the previous 5 years*

*If you do not have a current GRE score report and if you are unable to take the test due to the current circumstances of COVID-19, you can submit a GRE Waiver by Exception Request. Please email jfarinella@fsu.edu requesting the paperwork to initiate this request. Submission of request does not guarantee approval of GRE Waiver by Exception.

2. "Good standing" status at the last school attended
3. 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.

International applicants must have a CSWE accredited MSW or equivalent degree. If the degree is earned outside of CSWE jurisdiction, the applicant must have his or her degree evaluated and validated by CSWE. The cost of CSWE validation is the responsibility of the applicant. Exceptions may be considered by the Doctoral Program Director on a case by case basis. Information about this process is located at: <https://www.cswe.org/Centers-Initiatives/International-Degree-Review/Application-Instructions.aspx>

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, the Michigan Language Assessment, or Duolingo. The minimum scores required are as follows:

- Internet based TOEFL (IBTOEFL): 80
- Paper based TOEFL (TOEFL): 550
- International English Language Testing System (Academic IELTS): 6.5
- Pearson Test of English (PTE): 55
- Duolingo: 120
- Cambridge C1 Advanced Level: 180
- 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.

Those applicants whose qualifications meet our minimum requirements and who have complete application files will be considered for admission. If you meet or exceed these requirements, we encourage you to continue with the application process. However, please keep in mind that meeting these requirements does not guarantee admission, only admission consideration. The admissions process is limited and competitive. Please note, applicants whose scores are slightly below these minimums may be considered for admission on a case by case basis. This is determined by the Doctoral Program Director. Applicants are responsible for contacting the Program Director in writing to request an exception. Once the application file is completed, the Program Director will review the application materials and decide whether or not an exception will be granted.

APPLICATION AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS:

[Applications](#) must include:

1. **Transcripts** from all previous undergraduate and graduate academic work
2. An official **Graduate Record Examination (GRE)*** taken within the previous 5 years.

*Request for GRE Waiver by Exception available

3. **Resume/Curriculum Vitae** that documents your:

1. Education
 2. Substantive areas of expertise or interest
 3. Professional positions, publications, and presentations
 4. Research experience, grant awards, etc.
 5. Teaching or training experience
 6. Professional affiliations, honors, awards
 7. Service
3. A **statement of purpose** describing:
1. Your research interests and goals
 - Please explain how your previous professional experiences have contributed to your research interests and goals
 - Previous research/academic experience that provides evidence of your potential for engaging in doctoral-level scholarship
 - Discuss your strengths and challenges in the following: academic writing, research methods, statistics
 2. 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.
 3. Please discuss the FSU faculty members, Institutes, and/or Research Centers that you would want to work with and why?
 4. Please discuss your long-term goals/expectations for employment after you have earned the doctoral degree.
4. A **writing sample** such as a course paper, research proposal, a grant application, a professional research report, or a publication* that demonstrates intellectual potential (e.g., critical thinking skills, analytical ability). Applicants may include a maximum of two writing samples.

*if including a multi-authored publication, please indicate your individual contribution to the publication by highlighting your portion(s).

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 scholarly performance
 - characteristics that support your potential for success in doctoral-level study
 - evidence of research experience and/or capability to become a producer of rigorous research
 - evidence of your ability to think critically
 - 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 his or her letter. A maximum of four letters may be requested. We encourage you to send the above guidelines to your Recommenders.

6. **Potential Interview.** Select candidates 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 PROCEDURES

The application for admission to the Doctoral Program in Social Work is completed online:

<https://csw.fsu.edu/academics/doctoral-program-phd/admissions-information>

Note: students with earned FSU graduate degrees within the last 7 years or students who are currently working toward a graduate degree from Florida State University, 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 English proficiency scores (if required) must be submitted to University Graduate Admissions at the following mailing address. For GRE scores, if you selected FSU 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**

APPLICATION DEADLINE, REVIEW, AND ADMISSION DECISION

The College of Social Work's Doctoral Program Committee review only completed application files. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Applicants are notified electronically of the admissions decision by the Doctoral Program Director.

Application Deadlines:

Rolling Admission Process

Florida State University College of Social Work Doctoral Program will conduct rolling admission for the Fall 2023 admission consideration. It is beneficial for prospective students to prepare and submit all required application materials as soon they are ready, **and completion of the application by December 2022 is encouraged.** The Doctoral Program Committee will review applications within 8 weeks from submission of a fully completed application and provide an applicant with notification of an admission outcome. Potential admission outcomes include: Admit, Deny, or Waitlist. Applicants who receive notification of waitlist will be provided a final admission outcome of Admit or Deny at latest April 21, 2023.

Applications will continue to be accepted on a rolling basis until the application portal closes. With rolling admissions, we will admit qualified students until we are at capacity. **It is beneficial for an applicant to apply early and to complete the application by the end of December 2022.** The application for Fall 2023 admission consideration will close on March 1, 2023.

Please see the Application and Supplemental Materials above for the components needed to constitute a completed application, including receipt of three letters of recommendation.

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 12 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

Applicants are encouraged to contact Jennifer Farinella in the doctoral program office at jfarinella@fsu.edu as they prepare their applications. Applicants may also contact Dr. Stephen Tripodi, Doctoral Program Director at stripodi@fsu.edu.