

# ADMISSION TO THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM

FALL 2025

## ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM REQUIRES:

- A Graduate Record Examination (GRE) taken within the previous 5 years\*  
\*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 2024 admissions consideration, please submit your current resume/CV and any relevant additional supplementary materials.
  - Success and Aptitude for Research:
    - a) Undergraduate or graduate research-based thesis in a relevant field.
    - b) Post-undergraduate research experience in a relevant field.
    - c) Post-graduate research experience in a relevant field.
    - d) Participation in the FSU Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) or equivalent experience.
    - e) Extensive (at least 2 year) relevant research or clinical experience related to the applicant's research interests.
    - f) Co-authored research paper published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.
    - g) Extensive (at least 2 years) relevant employment related to the applicant's graduate training goals.
  - Academic Preparation:
    - a) Upper-division undergraduate GPA of 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) or higher from any nationally or internationally accredited college or university.
    - b) MSW GPA of 3.75 (on a 4.0 scale) or higher from any Council of Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited college or university.

If you believe you meet these criteria, please complete our GRE waiver [here](#). Please email Charlotte Hayes ([chayes4@fsu.edu](mailto:chayes4@fsu.edu)) with any questions regarding the GRE waiver process.

- "Good standing" status at the last school attended.
- 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.
- 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.

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## APPLICATION AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS:

[Applications](#) must include:

- **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](#).
- **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
- A **statement of purpose** describing:
  - 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
  - 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.
- 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).
- **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.

- **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.
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## 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**

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## 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:**

- For Domestic Applicants Application Closes: March 1, 2025
- For International Applicants Application Closes: January 15, 2025

### **Rolling Admission Process**

Florida State University College of Social Work Doctoral Program will conduct rolling admission for the fall 2025 admission consideration from when our application opens on August 1st, 2024, until our application deadline on March 1st, 2025, or when our incoming cohort is filled, whichever is first.

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 2024 is encouraged. The Doctoral Program Committee will review applications and aim to provide applicants with an admission decision within 8 weeks from submission of a fully completed application. Once an application is reviewed, an application will either be denied, or the applicant will be offered an interview with the Doctoral Program Committee. Following the interview, applicants will receive an admission outcome of Admit, Deny, or Waitlist. Applicants who are placed on the waitlist will be provided a final admission outcome of Admit or Deny at the latest May 1st, 2025.

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

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## 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 Charlotte Hayes in the doctoral program office at [chayes4@fsu.edu](mailto:chayes4@fsu.edu) as they prepare their applications. Applicants may also contact Dr. Stephen Tripodi, Doctoral Program Director at [stripodi@fsu.edu](mailto:stripodi@fsu.edu).