The PhD Program

The PhD Program of the University of Georgia School of Social Work began in 1990 and has produced over 100 graduates, most of whom have gone on to assume academic, research or administrative positions. The program prepares social work professionals for careers in academic research settings and for practice in program evaluation and other forms of scientific research in the public and private sectors.

The overall goals of the program are to help students acquire the research skills necessary to develop original research studies that have direct applications to social work practice. In addition, we emphasize learning about teaching so that our graduates are able to provide quality instruction to the next generation of social work students.

My doctoral experience at the UGA School of Social Work has been exceptional. I have been most impressed with the collaborative learning environment, interdisciplinary opportunities, and research concentration. The School also offers multiple opportunities for teaching and research, which have provided me with a solid foundation for a career in academia.

— Denise L. Levy, PhD, Class of 2008

Thinking PhD? Think Georgia!

My doctoral experience at the UGA School of Social Work has been exceptional. I have been most impressed with the collaborative learning environment, interdisciplinary opportunities, and research concentration. The School also offers multiple opportunities for teaching and research, which have provided me with a solid foundation for a career in academia.

— Denise L. Levy, PhD, Class of 2008

Thinking PhD? Think Georgia!

The PhD Program

The PhD Program of the University of Georgia School of Social Work began in 1990 and has produced over 100 graduates, most of whom have gone on to assume academic, research or administrative positions. The program prepares social work professionals for careers in academic research settings and for practice in program evaluation and other forms of scientific research in the public and private sectors.

The overall goals of the program are to help students acquire the research skills necessary to develop original research studies that have direct applications to social work practice. In addition, we emphasize learning about teaching so that our graduates are able to provide quality instruction to the next generation of social work students.

— Denise L. Levy, PhD, Class of 2008
The University of Georgia is America’s first state charted university and the birthplace of the American system of public higher education. It is also the state of Georgia’s oldest, most comprehensive and most diversified university. As a land-grant and sea-grant institution, UGA extends its professional knowledge and expertise to help people improve the quality of their lives. UGA’s motto—to teach, to serve and to inquire into the nature of things—reflects the university’s integral and unique role in the conservation and enhancement of the intellectual, cultural and environmental heritage of the state and nation.

UGA is tied for 20th in U.S. News & World Report’s 2008 list of the 50 top public universities in America. The rankings are based on such factors as academic reputation, student retention, faculty resources, student selectivity and financial resources. The University libraries, with more than 4 million volumes, are ranked among the top third of the nation’s best 113 research libraries in ratings compiled by the Association of Research Libraries. To learn more about the University of Georgia, its history, mission and points of pride, visit www.uga.edu.

The School of Social Work

Established in 1964 and accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, the UGA School of Social Work is a leader among social work schools regionally and nationally. The School offers the following degrees: Bachelor of Social Work, Master of Social Work, and Doctor of Philosophy. The School also houses the Institute for Nonprofit Organizations which offers the Master of Arts Degree. The School also houses the Institute for Philosophy.

The PhD Curriculum

The PhD Curriculum is a series of required research courses, two research practica, other courses in the School of Social Work, three courses in statistics and advised cognates taken outside the School. PhD students also sign up for course hours that match the following events: Comprehensive Examinations, Prospectus Defense, and Dissertation Defense. While there has been great variance in the length of time needed to finish the program, future full-time students should plan to complete the PhD Program in 3-4 years.

Part-Time Students

We now offer a Part-Time Option for in-state students that uses individual advisement to plan the student’s program of study. This option is perfect for students that have full-time employment and can only take one or two courses per semester.

Financing

Students admitted as prospective candidates in full-time study are generally offered a research assistantship that provides a stipend of approximately $12,000 over two semesters, plus a tuition reduction to $25 (students are still subject to activity fees of roughly $700). The research assistantship requires the PhD student to work at least 14 hours a week with an assigned faculty member on a research project. In the second and subsequent years of study, students will be provided with various teaching, graduate and/or research assistantship opportunities, which provide equivalent stipends and tuition waivers, on a semester-by-semester basis. Historically the UGA School of Social Work has an exemplary record of providing financial support to students.

Our PhD students hail from all regions of the nation and different parts of the world such as Africa and Asia. Our graduates are practicing and teaching throughout the United States, as well as in countries such as Canada, Scotland, South Korea, India, and Israel. While many of our students, once teach, others are program evaluators, administrators of social service programs, private practitioners, consultants, members of the Armed Services, and university administrators. Some are working as researchers in institutions such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Career opportunities for social work PhD graduates are excellent. The number of social work doctorates produced nationally each year is not sufficient to fill the numerous positions open in academic social work programs across the nation.

Students admitted as prospective candidates in full-time study are generally offered a research assistantship that provides a stipend of approximately $12,000 over two semesters, plus a tuition reduction to $25 (students are still subject to activity fees of roughly $700). The research assistantship requires the PhD student to work at least 14 hours a week with an assigned faculty member on a research project. In the second and subsequent years of study, students will be provided with various teaching, graduate and/or research assistantship opportunities, which provide equivalent stipends and tuition waivers, on a semester-by-semester basis. Historically the UGA School of Social Work has an exemplary record of providing financial support to students.

Our PhD students hail from all regions of the nation and different parts of the world such as Africa and Asia. Our graduates are practicing and teaching throughout the United States, as well as in countries such as Canada, Scotland, South Korea, India, and Israel. While many of our students, once teach, others are program evaluators, administrators of social service programs, private practitioners, consultants, members of the Armed Services, and university administrators. Some are working as researchers in institutions such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Career opportunities for social work PhD graduates are excellent. The number of social work doctorates produced nationally each year is not sufficient to fill the numerous positions open in academic social work programs across the nation.

The University of Georgia is America’s first state charted university and the birthplace of the American system of public higher education. It is also the state of Georgia’s oldest, most comprehensive and most diversified university. As a land-grant and sea-grant institution, UGA extends its professional knowledge and expertise to help people improve the quality of their lives. UGA’s motto—to teach, to serve and to inquire into the nature of things—reflects the university’s integral and unique role in the conservation and enhancement of the intellectual, cultural and environmental heritage of the state and nation.

UGA is tied for 20th in U.S. News & World Report’s 2008 list of the 50 top public universities in America. The rankings are based on such factors as academic reputation, student retention, faculty resources, student selectivity and financial resources. The University libraries, with more than 4 million volumes, are ranked among the top third of the nation’s best 113 research libraries in ratings compiled by the Association of Research Libraries. To learn more about the University of Georgia, its history, mission and points of pride, visit www.uga.edu.

The School of Social Work

Established in 1964 and accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, the UGA School of Social Work is a leader among social work schools regionally and nationally. The School offers the following degrees: Bachelor of Social Work, Master of Social Work, and Doctor of Philosophy. The School also houses the Institute for Nonprofit Organizations which offers the Master of Arts Degree. The School also houses the Institute for Philosophy.

The PhD Curriculum

The PhD Curriculum is a series of required research courses, two research practica, other courses in the School of Social Work, three courses in statistics and advised cognates taken outside the School. PhD students also sign up for course hours that match the following events: Comprehensive Examinations, Prospectus Defense, and Dissertation Defense. While there has been great variance in the length of time needed to finish the program, future full-time students should plan to complete the PhD Program in 3-4 years.

Part-Time Students

We now offer a Part-Time Option for in-state students that uses individual advisement to plan the student’s program of study. This option is perfect for students that have full-time employment and can only take one or two courses per semester.

Financing

Students admitted as prospective candidates in full-time study are generally offered a research assistantship that provides a stipend of approximately $12,000 over two semesters, plus a tuition reduction to $25 (students are still subject to activity fees of roughly $700). The research assistantship requires the PhD student to work at least 14 hours a week with an assigned faculty member on a research project. In the second and subsequent years of study, students will be provided with various teaching, graduate and/or research assistantship opportunities, which provide equivalent stipends and tuition waivers, on a semester-by-semester basis. Historically the UGA School of Social Work has an exemplary record of providing financial support to students.

Our PhD students hail from all regions of the nation and different parts of the world such as Africa and Asia. Our graduates are practicing and teaching throughout the United States, as well as in countries such as Canada, Scotland, South Korea, India, and Israel. While many of our students, once teach, others are program evaluators, administrators of social service programs, private practitioners, consultants, members of the Armed Services, and university administrators. Some are working as researchers in institutions such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Career opportunities for social work PhD graduates are excellent. The number of social work doctorates produced nationally each year is not sufficient to fill the numerous positions open in academic social work programs across the nation.

Students admitted as prospective candidates in full-time study are generally offered a research assistantship that provides a stipend of approximately $12,000 over two semesters, plus a tuition reduction to $25 (students are still subject to activity fees of roughly $700). The research assistantship requires the PhD student to work at least 14 hours a week with an assigned faculty member on a research project. In the second and subsequent years of study, students will be provided with various teaching, graduate and/or research assistantship opportunities, which provide equivalent stipends and tuition waivers, on a semester-by-semester basis. Historically the UGA School of Social Work has an exemplary record of providing financial support to students.

Our PhD students hail from all regions of the nation and different parts of the world such as Africa and Asia. Our graduates are practicing and teaching throughout the United States, as well as in countries such as Canada, Scotland, South Korea, India, and Israel. While many of our students, once teach, others are program evaluators, administrators of social service programs, private practitioners, consultants, members of the Armed Services, and university administrators. Some are working as researchers in institutions such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Career opportunities for social work PhD graduates are excellent. The number of social work doctorates produced nationally each year is not sufficient to fill the numerous positions open in academic social work programs across the nation.