

# PHD CURRICULUM WITH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

---

## YEAR ONE

### Fall (12 credit hours)

#### **SOWK 8217 – History & Philosophy of Social Welfare and Social Work**

(3 hours, graded A/F)

This seminar presents the major philosophical, ideological, and historical ideas, values and assumptions that have shaped the field of social welfare and the profession of social work.

#### **SOWK 8116 –Quantitative Research Methods in Social Work**

(3 hours, graded A/F)

This course provides instruction in the assumptions, underlying logic, and methods of social work research. The course emphasizes examination of a range of methods of data collection, criteria that determine selection of specific methods, understanding of the strengths and limitations of various methods, and translational relevance of research methods.

#### **SOWK 8176 – Data Analysis and Statistical Inference in Social Work I**

(3 hours, graded A/F)

First of two courses in applied statistics emphasizing applications in social work research, including, univariate, bivariate, and multivariate analyses of quantitative data. Topics include frequency distributions, central tendency and dispersion, cross tabulation, mean differences, simple linear regression, statistical inference, hypothesis testing, and use of statistical software to conduct analyses.

#### **SOWK 8417 – Integrative Seminar**

(3 hours, graded A/F)

This first-year PhD seminar introduces students to the culture of doctoral studies within the context of a Research Intensive University, and orients them to their role as developing social work scholars. Through readings, discussions, presentations, and experiences, students integrate the philosophy of science with theory and research.

### Spring (12 credit hours)

#### **SOWK 8022 - Theory**

(3 hours, graded A/F)

This course emphasizes a critical perspective on theory and a pragmatic approach to development, grounded in recognition of theory's complex and dynamic interrelationship with research and social work practice. Students will critically analyze theories designed to address persistent and emerging social issues and will develop theory construction and model-building skills.

### **SOWK 8166 - Qualitative Research Methods in Social Work**

(3 hours, graded A/F)

Theories and methodologies of qualitative social work research, including ethnography, case study, interview, document analysis, and life history studies. The relationships between qualitative and other research traditions are examined. Techniques for data collection, analysis, and presentation are studied.

### **SOWK 8186 – Data Analysis and Statistical Inference in Social Work II**

(3 hours, graded A/F)

This is the second sequence of courses in applied statistics emphasizing development of skills in a range of multivariate procedures and programs, emphasizing how statistical analysis is incorporated within social work, which statistical techniques to use, and types of questions that can be answered using multivariate statistical analysis. Topics covered include linear and logistic regression, mediation/moderation, multiple analysis of variance/covariance, exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis, survival analysis, discriminant analysis, person/variable-centered classification, and introductions to longitudinal data analysis, multilevel modeling, and structural equation modeling.

### **SOWK 8417 – Integrative Seminar – Second semester**

(3 hours, graded A/F)

#### **Summer**

No required coursework. Students may take electives.

*If awarded an assistantship for the fall and spring semesters students are eligible for the reduced summer tuition rate of \$25.00 plus applicable fees. Students must register for at least 9 credit hours to receive this tuition reduction.*

## **YEAR TWO**

### **Fall (12 credit hours)**

#### **SOWK 8227 - Social Work Education and Pedagogy**

(3 hours, graded A/F)

Overview of social work education, including the structure of the educational continuum, foundation and concentration courses, and accreditation standards and issues. Preparation for effective teaching within social work degree programs, including syllabi development, assessment of student learning, instructional methods, grading, and ethical issues. Completion of this class with a grade of 'B' or higher is a prerequisite for a PhD student to receive a Teaching Assistantship.

### **SOWK 8306 – School of Social Work Doctoral Research Practicum I**

(3 hours, graded A/F)

This is the first semester in a two-semester applied course sequence. Students collaboratively design and implement a social work focused research study including navigating topic selection, literature review, gathering, managing, analyzing and interpreting data. Conceptual discussions and readings emphasize survey research methodology, research topic selection, and best practices.

**Research Methods or Statistics Course 1\* (3 hrs.)**

**Elective 1\* (3 hrs.)**

### **Spring (12 credit hours)**

### **SOWK 8315 - Social Work Education Practicum**

(3 hours, graded S/U)

The teaching practicum offers doctoral students the opportunity to work closely with a faculty mentor. The purposes of the teaching practicum are to provide students with teaching experience in a classroom setting, and to provide instruction and feedback from faculty mentors who are responsible for the courses in which the practica take place. Students' practica will vary in the extent to which emphasis is placed on instructional time, course development (e.g., preparation of syllabus, assignments, and bibliography), assignment grading, and other curriculum review and planning issues and tasks. Students must complete this class with a grade of 'S' in order to be eligible to receive a Teaching Assistantship.

### **SOWK 8307 – School of Social Work Doctoral Research Practicum II**

(3 hours, graded A/F)

This is the second semester in a two-semester applied course sequence. Building on collaborative research done in first semester, students will engage in scholarly collaborative writing, will consider questions of co-authorship, and will focus on the mechanics of writing for publication. Students will complete multiple submission ready manuscripts.

**Research Methods or Statistics Course 2\* (3 hrs.)**

**Elective 2\* (3 hrs.)**

### **Summer**

No required coursework. Students may take comprehensive exams, dissertation prospectus, or electives. *If awarded an assistantship for the fall and spring semesters students are eligible for the reduced summer tuition rate of \$25.00 plus applicable fees. Students must register for at least 9 credit hours to receive this tuition reduction.*

## **IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE COURSES, THE FOLLOWING 4 FOUR COURSES ARE REQUIRED TO GRADUATE.**

### **SOWK 8428 – Comprehensive Exams**

(3 hours, graded S/U). *Repeatable for a maximum of 9 hrs.*

This course is for students preparing to undertake their comprehensive examinations. Taken individually as an independent study with the student's major professor.

### **SOWK 8240 - Dissertation Prospectus.**

(3 hours, graded S/U). *Repeatable for a maximum of 9 hrs.*

Preparing the student's doctoral dissertation prospectus. Taken individually as an independent study with the student's major professor.

### **SOWK 9000 - Doctoral Research**

(3-6 hours, 3 hours required, graded S/U). *Repeatable for a maximum of 30 hrs.*

Research while enrolled for a doctoral degree under the direction of faculty members.

### **SOWK 9300 - Doctoral Dissertation**

(3-9 hours, 3 hours required, graded S/U)/ *Repeatable for a maximum of 24 hrs.*

Dissertation writing under the direction of the major professor.

## **OTHER COURSES**

### **SOWK 9105, Social Work Research Internship**

(3-9 credits per semester, graded S/U). *Repeatable for a maximum of 18 hrs.*

This course is for students who hold a research assistantship past year one. The student is required to complete a research project related to the work that is being completed with a faculty supervisor.

### **SOWK 8309 – Independent Study**

(1-3 credits per semester, graded S/U). *Repeatable for a maximum of 12 hrs.*

Research under the supervision of a faculty member. This course may be used to complete independent research, prepare manuscripts for publication, and/or to work on other non-dissertation related topics under faculty supervision.

*Students pursuing an independent study must submit the [Independent Study Syllabus form](#) before they may register for the course. The form should be completed in collaboration with the faculty member who will be supervising the independent study.*

*\*At least one of the two required electives must be taken outside of the School of Social Work. Electives may be in the form of either a traditional course or an independent study. If taken as an independent study, the student in collaboration with the faculty supervising the independent study, will create a course plan to be submitted by the student to the PhD program director for approval prior to the course.*

## Statistics Skills Requirements

1. SOWK 8176 - Data Analysis and Statistical Inference in Social Work I
2. SOWK 8186 - Data Analysis and Statistical Inference in Social Work II
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> research methods or statistics course –**approval required by advisor**
4. 4<sup>th</sup> research methods or statistics course – **approval required by advisor**

## Electives

**In addition to core social work courses, all students are required to complete no less than two 3-hour electives at the graduate level (one of which must be in a non-social work discipline).** The function of electives is to ensure that the student is exposed to interdisciplinary training on substantive topics related to the student's research interests. Electives may be taken from a single discipline, from several fields or in the form of independent study. They are chosen and scheduled with the advice and consent of the advisor.

## Courses Taken at another Accredited Institution

No courses taken at another institution prior to admission to the doctoral degree program at The University of Georgia are eligible for transfer. A maximum of 9 hours of credit earned after admission to UGA may be transferred pursuant to the guidelines on the following Graduate School web page: <http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/acceptance-of-credit-by-transfer/>

## ARCHE Cross Registration

ARCHE's Cross Registration Program allows students at member institutions to broaden their academic experience by registering for courses at other member colleges and universities. It shares the vast resources of ARCHE member specialties by offering students access to courses not offered at their home institution, and allows them a chance to experience a different campus environment. Registration is handled through a student's home institution. Students must contact the UGA Cross Registration Coordinator – Aaron Weimer, 706-542-4040, FAX 706-583-8162, [aweimer@uga.edu](mailto:aweimer@uga.edu).

Website:

<http://www.atlantahighered.org/Collaboration/CrossRegistration/ParticipatingInstitutions/tabid/611/Default.aspx>

## Certificate Programs

The University of Georgia Graduate School offers numerous graduate certificate programs. Certificates are considered a supplement to the PhD program of study and do not take precedence in the curriculum planning process. The School of Social Work does not control the scheduling of non-social work certificate courses. For a complete listing of the graduate certificate programs go to the [Grad School website](#).

## Program Grade Requirements

The SSW PhD program requires a grade of B- (2.7) or higher in all courses including those taken within the School of Social Work as well as those taken outside the School of Social Work.

It is very important to note that the Graduate School at the University of Georgia specifies that, to be eligible for graduation, a student must maintain a 3.0 (B) average on the graduate transcript and a 3.0 (B) average on the program of study. <http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/cumulative-graduate-average/>

*Updated 8/23/2017*