

Due Date: **DECEMBER 4, 2020**

**Instructions for PhD Program Application**

Welcome to our guide for applying to the PhD program. Careful attention to (1) the application materials, requirements, and instructions, and to (2) the description of standards of behavior should smooth the entire process. **To avoid following outdated guidelines, please be certain to use only current year application materials found at** [**https://socialwork.uw.edu/admissions/phd-application-instructions**](https://socialwork.uw.edu/admissions/phd-application-instructions)

The materials and information needed to apply to the PhD Program in Social Welfare are on this website. Applicants must observe the deadline of **DECEMBER 4, 2020** for submission of application forms. Early applications are accepted. [Go to end of instructions for contact info.]

Materials are submitted online through the Graduate School application website. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all necessary materials are received. The instructions below note which items are submitted by the applicant and which by other parties.

***General Admissions Requirements***

Annual admission of new students into the Social Welfare PhD Program is limited, and the applicant pool tends to be quite competitive. Applicants who are selected for admission are those who have completed a Master's Degree in Social Work or a related field and whose scholastic achievement, previous experience, and aptitude for social welfare research and scholarship indicate the greatest promise for achieving the objectives of the program. Although an MSW is not required for admission, the Council on Social Work Education states the following: "Faculty who teach social work practice courses have a master's degree in social work from a CSWE-accredited program and at least two years of social work practice experience" in order to teach foundation practice courses in accredited programs [(EPAS 3.2.2](https://www.cswe.org/Accreditation/Standards-and-Policies/2015-EPAS)). Thus, an MSW can be beneficial when doctoral graduates seek jobs in schools of social work. An effort is made to maintain a balance among the students that reflects a range of interests in social work and social welfare areas of research.

***Areas of Focus in Application Materials***

**Research:** The Social Welfare PhD Program is focused on the training of outstanding researchers and teachers who can fill jobs in academia and research-oriented think tanks, policy centers and government positions. It is important for applicants to know that this program is not a clinical doctorate. For people interested in clinical doctorates, please see the Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work’s description of the difference between PhD and DSW programs here: <http://www.gadephd.org/Prospective-Applicants/Why-a-PhD-or-DSW>. Competitive applicants for the Social Welfare PhD Program have demonstrated a commitment to research through activities such as completing a thesis, writing for publication or working as a research assistant in an academic environment.

**Social Justice Orientation:** The Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers requires social workers to challenge social injustices. At the UW, our school has a strong commitment to furthering social justice through our research, teaching and practice, as seen in the [School’s Mission Statement](https://socialwork.uw.edu/about/our-mission) and our [PhD Social Justice Learning Objectives.](https://socialwork.uw.edu/content/social-justice-learning-objectives) Social work as a profession, and the university professoriate broadly, require re-imagining from people with diverse experiences in the world who contribute their own understanding of what will make a more just society. Strong applicants for the program are able to show the linkages between their personal history, family background, and work experiences on their views regarding issues of justice and how it informs their desire for doctoral education. Applicants should consider discussing cultural and educational opportunities (or lack thereof), social, economic, or physical advantages and/or disadvantages and the ways in which these experiences have affected your life and decisions concerning social welfare research as a career goal.

**Policies:** Please carefully review three UW School of Social Work (SSW) policies and become familiar with them. The first is entitled [Essential Skills, Values and Standards of Professional Conduct Important to Admission and Continuance in the School and Profession of Social Work*.*](https://socialwork.uw.edu/blurb/essential-skills-values-and-standards-professional-conduct) The next two are located in the [Important University Policies](https://socialwork.uw.edu/uw-social-work-policies)section. The second is*Academic Performance and Conduct Which May Result in a Review and Possible Dismissal from the School of Social Work.*The last is the *Unprofessional Conduct Law.* All applicants should review these to attain an understanding of the qualities and professional behavior expected of all students at the School of Social Work.

**Timing of Application and Admission**

Individuals are admitted to the program as first-year, full-time PhD students in **Autumn Quarter only**. The School of Social Work does not accept transfer credits from other doctoral programs. The deadline for application for the autumn quarter is **DECEMBER 4, 2020**. We cannot evaluate your application until all materials are received. International applicants especially need to note that files will not be reviewed until the TOEFL scores are received.

**Completing the School of Social Work Application for Admission**

The application process provides you with the opportunity to present fully your past experiences, your current status, and your future plans as a doctoral student and social welfare scholar. The application materials are intended to give the members of the faculty a comprehensive picture of your qualifications for admission to the Social Welfare PhD Program. All forms must be downloaded, completed, and uploaded through the UW Graduate School website. All files should be named with the following format: your lastname-initials-form name (e.g. lastname-ii-sswadmissionsform, lastname-ii-Univ-X-transcript).

**Applying to the Graduate School and School of Social Work**

The **"Application for Admission to the UW Graduate School"** is submitted directly online to the Graduate School as the first step in the application process. A fee of $85 is required in order to complete the application process. The amount of this fee may be; subject to change without notice.

All application materials are submitted via the online portal located at [https://grad.uw.edu/admissions/apply-now/.](https://grad.uw.edu/admissions/apply-now/)  For any questions regarding this process, please contact the Graduate School:  phone, 206.543.5929; fax, 206.543.8798; US email, [uwgrad@uw.edu](mailto:uwgrad2@uw.edu). Email for international applicants: [intlgrad@uw.edu](mailto:intlgrad@uw.edu).

In general, properly qualified students who are graduates of the University of Washington or of other colleges or universities of recognized rank are eligible to apply to the Graduate School at the University of Washington.

**SSW Application Form**

Download the application form from [SSW admissions documents](https://socialwork.uw.edu/admissions/phd-application-instructions) website. This SSW PhD Application form is completed, printed out, signed, scanned to pdf, and then uploaded.  School of Social Work materials are also submitted through the online Graduate School admissions portal.

By signing and submitting this form, applicants attest that they have read the read the [Essential Skills, Values and Standards of Professional Conduct](https://socialwork.uw.edu/blurb/essential-skills-values-and-standards-professional-conduct) policy referenced above.

**[SUBMIT ONLINE.]**

**GPA Worksheet Calculations Form**

Applicants fill out the [**GPA Worksheet**.](https://socialwork.uw.edu/admissions/phd-application-instructions) Two separate GPAs are calculated: undergraduate and master’s degrees. If one of your schools uses a narrative transcript format, indicate that in the appropriate place on the form. Follow the directions on the GPA Worksheet.

**[SUBMIT ONLINE.]**

**Statistics Preparation Prerequisite**

Students entering the PhD program must have successfully completed an introductory undergraduate level statistics course within the last five years. This requirement refers to courses that identify the learning of statistical theory and statistical methodologies as their main purpose and substantive content, as opposed to courses that might include some infusion of selected content on statistical methods. It is not necessary to have already met this prerequisite to apply to the program. The prerequisite can be satisfied any time prior to entering the University. [See GPA worksheet for indicating fulfillment.]

The statistics prerequisite course should cover topics such as:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| levels of measurement | sampling theory |
| probability theory | tests of means |
| univariate statistics | power tests for tests of means |
| positional measures | basic graphic expression and interpretation |
| ANOVA | Chi-square tests of independence and goodness of fit |
|  | and bivariate correlation and regression. |

**Resume or Curriculum Vita (CV)**

Upload a full resume or CV that provides your relevant educational and employment history including the employer agency and address, your job title, and your dates of employment. If there is substantial discontinuity in your employment experience, please explain on a separate page attached to the resume. The resume should also list all scholastic or related honors (with dates received), significant volunteer activities, membership in professional organizations, and all published work. In addition, include research assistant activities, bachelor or masters theses, papers presented at conferences, and other professional writings, such as institutional manuals.

**[SUBMIT ONLINE.]**

**Scholarship and Professional Statement**

The scholarship and professional statement provides an opportunity for you to give your assessment of yourself as a strong candidate for admission to the Social Welfare PhD Program. Since the program emphasizes both research and teaching and has an explicit social justice orientation, we are interested in your views about social welfare scholarship as well as your future role of as a scholar educator. Please be as specific as possible in answering the questions below. Use no more than five (5) double-spaced typewritten pages. These questions should be answered in the form of a narrative, not as individual short answers. **[NOTE: Place your last name and first initial on every page of all documents.]**

1. Discuss your qualifications and readiness for pursuing doctoral studies in social welfare. In doing so, provide examples of your ability in the following areas:
   1. academic and prior intellectual and scholarly accomplishments
   2. commitment to social justice
   3. analytical thinking and clear communication
   4. working with colleagues of diverse backgrounds and perspectives,
   5. self-direction and initiative
2. Describe the questions you hope to address in your research.
   1. How does your work experience inform your research priorities and how will your research inform practice and/or policy?
   2. How do your research objectives demonstrate your commitment to social justice and enhancing social well-being?
   3. In what ways do you see our doctoral program and the UW as a good fit for your research goals? In doing so, identify any research projects and social welfare PhD faculty - or faculty in other departments within UW - who you might be interested in working with. Please discuss if you have met with these faculty prior to the application process.
3. Articulate how your cultural and educational opportunities, structural or systemic issues you have grappled with, and your personal and professional experiences in diverse communities inform your research interests and commitment to social justice and equity.
4. Describe your career plans after you complete your PhD. How do you expect to use the research and scholarly skills developed in the doctoral program?

**[SUBMIT ONLINE.]**

**Scholarly Writing Sample**

Submit one example of your scholarly writing that provides evidence of your capacity to think analytically and critically, and to express yourself clearly and concisely. Your written work should demonstrate your readiness to undertake doctoral level work that reflects a concern with the advancement of social justice. If you submit a co-authored article, please select one for which you had major writing responsibility and indicate in an attached note the parts of the writing that reflect your input and work. The following are examples of appropriate submissions of scholarly writing:   
a. published article, chapter, book   
b. master's thesis   
c. unpublished research report, conference presentation   
d. term paper written in a graduate course   
e. training manual   
f. grant application   
g. legislative testimony

**[NOTE: Place your last name and first initial on every page of all documents.]**  
**[SUBMIT ONLINE.]**

**Professional References**

When you submit your application to the Graduate School, you will at that time identify at least three individuals (and their email addresses) who can provide letters of reference in regards to your personal qualities, academic abilities, commitment to social justice. Four letters are recommended and five is the maximum. The Graduate School system will then automatically send each person a notification of request for reference with individualized URLs for response. Those providing references can quickly and easily submit online in any of several formats. At least two of the persons writing the references, should be academics or persons who can evaluate your capacity to perform independent scholarly study.

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 permits admitted students to review all pertinent documents in their records, including letters of reference. When you submit your list of names to the Graduate School, you will be required to indicate whether you waive that right.

**[Recommenders SUBMIT ONLINE.]**

**Academic Transcripts**

Copies of an**unofficial transcript**s from each undergraduate and graduate institution attended must be submitted online as pdfs. (If you are admitted to the program and decide to accept the offer, you will then be required to provide official transcripts for the Graduate School from your master's degree institution.)

If you are enrolled in a graduate program at the time you submit your application, you must send updated transcripts or grade reports for computation of your grade point average upon completion of the degree.

**[SUBMIT ONLINE.]**

**Additional Information for International Applicants**

The School of Social Work welcomes students from around the world. We advise international applicants to submit the application to the Graduate School well before the due date because of the time required for processing international applications. Applications must be completed online (<https://grad.uw.edu/admissions/apply-now/>). This site has more information for international applicants:

<https://grad.uw.edu/admissions/understanding-the-application-process/international-applicant-information/>

An international student is anyone who IS NOT a US citizen or does not hold a US Permanent Resident Visa (i.e., "Green Card or Immigrant"). Individuals who hold a US visa, such as F-1 students, exchange visitors, or any other non-immigrant classifications are considered international applicants. International applicants must use the Graduate School website to determine eligibility for applying to the University of Washington and the School of Social Work PhD Program in particular.

See the Graduate School [FAQs for International Applicants](http://www.grad.washington.edu/admissions/faq/international.shtml) for detailed information.

**Special Required Materials for International Applicants**

1. TOEFL score report: Request Educational Testing Service, PO Box 6151, Princeton, NJ 08541-6151, to forward your report using the institution code #4854. Score reports more than two years old (from the test date) are not valid. (See Graduate School website for instructions and exceptions.)
2. University of Washington Statement of Financial Ability form. The form is available online to individuals who have successfully submitted an application to the Graduate School via the website.

**Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)**

A satisfactory command of the English language is required for admission to the University of Washington Graduate School. Applicants who are not citizens of the United States on the date of admission and whose native language is other than English must meet the following terms and conditions. The TOEFL (or MLT) is required unless one of the specific exceptions listed in the [Graduate School Memo 8](https://grad.uw.edu/policies-procedures/graduate-school-memoranda/memo-8-graduate-school-english-language-proficiency-requirements/) is met. Test scores must be less than 2 years old from the test date, and no waivers of this English competency requirement may be given. A minimum score of 7.0 (IELTS), 92 (TOEFLiBT), 580 (TOEFL), 237 (TOEFLC), or 90 (MLT) is required for application and admission to the School of Social Work PhD Program in Social Welfare.

**Test of Spoken English (TSE)**

The Graduate School requires that students achieve a score of at least 55 on the TSE (alternates: 26 on speaking portion of TOEFL8iBT, 7.0 on speaking portion of IELTS, 230 on SPEAK test at UW) before being allowed to teach. The School of Social Work expects most students to be engaged in teaching assistantships during their doctoral studies; therefore, we require all incoming international students to take this test before or during their first year in the program.

For both the TOEFL and TSE, registration forms or previous score reports less than 2 years old may be requested from the [Educational Testing Service,](http://www.ets.org/) Princeton, NJ 08541; email at toefl@ets.org. (See Graduate School Memo 15 for the University's policy.)

**Financial Requirements**

The US State Department of Justice and US Immigration and Naturalization Service mandate all schools to verify certification of adequate financial support from each international student. See the [Graduate School website](http://www.grad.washington.edu/admissions/finability.shtml) <https://grad.uw.edu/admissions/understanding-the-application-process/international-applicant-information/financial-ability-requirement/>  for the estimated total cost of study. When the full application is submitted, all international applicants must fill out and submit the University of Washington Statement of Financial Ability form.

Graduate appointments awarded by degree programs are considered authorized employment. The School of Social Work works with students to ensure financial support in the form of 9-month research or teaching appointments or fellowships from within the University of Washington or from external sources for at least the first 4 years of the doctoral program. These appointments will satisfy the majority of the annual (12-month) financial requirement; applicants are required to provide proof that they have supplemental support.

**Reasonable Accommodation**

The School of Social Work meets the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements for accessibility. Our application materials can be made available in alternative formats.

The University of Washington reaffirms its policy of equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or Vietnam era veteran in accordance with University policy and applicable federal and state statutes and regulations. The University of Washington is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education, and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation in the application process, contact the School at 206-543-5676 or the Disability Services Office at: 206.543.6450/V, 206.543.6452/TTY, 206.685.7264 (FAX), e-mail at [dso@uw.edu](mailto:dso@uw.edu).

**Decision-making process**

Faculty members on the PhD Program Committee make admissions decisions on the basis of the following: aptitude for social welfare research and scholarship as shown by articulation of social welfare research area(s) of concern to applicant, capacity to undertake training in research, demonstrated commitment to social justice, letters of reference, professional experience, match with potential faculty mentors, institutional resources available to support the applicant's research, and scholastic achievement.

**Due Date for PhD Application Materials**

**DECEMBER 4, 2020**

Please note: Application materials must be uploaded by **DECEMBER 4, 2020.**

Routine inquiries about application procedures and the program should be addressed to the PhD in Social Welfare Assistant Director (206.685.1680; [sswphdpr@uw.edu)](mailto:sswphdpr@uw.edu). Please see XX for information on online sessions regarding the doctoral program. Questions related to research interests or availability of specific faculty should be directed to the Assistant Director.