
SOCIAL WELFARE (Ph.D. & D.S.W.)

Executive Officer: Michael Fabricant

Hunter College School of Social Work

129 East 79 Street, #901

New York, NY 10021

Email: Kelvin.Wallace@hunter.cuny.edu

URL: <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/SocialWelfare/>

FACULTY (AS OF JULY 2009)

Mimi Abramovitz ■ James A. Blackburn ■ Martha S. Bragin ■ Steve Burghardt ■ Elizabeth A. Danto ■ Sarah-Jane Dodd ■ Irwin Epstein ■ Michael Fabricant ■ Manny J. Gonzalez ■ Harriet Goodman ■ Roberta K. Graziano ■ Bernadette R. Hadden ■ Paul Kurzman ■ Gerald P. Mallon ■ Jacqueline B. Mondros ■ Carmen L. Morano ■ Beth Spenciner Rosenthal ■ Anthony Sainz ■ Andrea Savage-Abramovitz ■ Michael Smith ■ Willie F. Tolliver ■ Florence Vigilante ■ Darrell P. Wheeler

For the most up-to-date faculty listings and specializations, see the program's Web site.

THE PROGRAM

The Graduate Center of the City University of New York offers the Ph.D. Program in Social Welfare at the Hunter College School of Social Work. The program prepares professional social workers for leadership in human services and higher education. Current students will be able to complete the D.S.W. degree.

The program's emphasis is to develop student capacity to contribute to social work practice theory and knowledge. The areas of theory and knowledge development include: the design, implementation, and evaluation of social policies and programs; practice interventions and services; and social welfare education and training programs. The program accepts up to 15 students each year and requires that the candidate have at least three years of post-master's work experience.

The program selects a highly qualified and diverse student body. Almost without exception, students remain full-time professionals while attending the program. A small pool of non-matriculated part-time students are admitted annually to specific elective classes.

Policy, program design and administration, knowledge development, and research courses develop students' ability to analyze policies and to design, implement, and evaluate programs to achieve policy goals in a variety of social agencies and related institutions. These courses are structured to extend and deepen the knowledge base of practice in social agencies. As the student begins to define an area of inquiry, specialization can be developed flexibly through the elective courses in the curriculum. These courses can be taken at the Graduate Center or at any one of the member universities of the Interuniversity Doctoral Consortium. Historically, students have taken courses at the Graduate Center in a number of disciplines, including, but not limited to, sociology, political science, and psychology. Recently, a number

of students have taken the required courses at the Graduate Center to earn the Women's Studies Certificate.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

The applicant must have a master of social work degree or its equivalent from an accredited program of study; at least three years of successful experience in social welfare and/or human services subsequent to the award of the master's degree; and a capacity for successful doctoral study. Capacity for doctoral study is assessed in each of the following ways: evidence of significant achievement in previous educational programs; a record of progressively greater professional responsibility, in both employment and community activity; outstanding samples of published or unpublished written work; and positive references by recognized social work and/or education professionals personally familiar with the applicant's work and scholarship. Applicants are interviewed by the faculty as part of the admissions procedure.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Course of Study The current curriculum includes 39 credits of course work, a dissertation seminar (12 credits), two qualifying examinations, a doctoral prospectus, original research work, and completion and defense of a dissertation. The program requires that students complete a series of courses in the areas of research and knowledge development, social welfare policy, and program design and administration. In the first year the student completes six required courses (two each in social policy, program design, and knowledge development and research).

Movement to the second year requires successful completion of the First Qualifying Examination. The First Qualifying Examination requires that students demonstrate mastery and integration of the content in the core curriculum. It is a take-home examination, consisting of questions from each of the three areas of the core curriculum. Each area's questions require a paper of approximately twenty-five pages, double-spaced. This examination is completed in the summer following the student's successful completion of the core curriculum. In the second year, students take the remaining required courses (three in research and knowledge development) and electives. This second year of study emphasizes a multimethod approach to inquiry. The research courses provide students with the tools to design and to implement both qualitative and quantitative inquiry. Students are required to apply what they have learned by collecting and analyzing data in the qualitative and quantitative components of the curriculum.

The third year, students enroll in the Dissertation Seminar. This course enables students to focus sharply on their Second Exam and dissertation work through the development of a literature review and a pertinent design/method discussion.

Students are expected to complete the Second Qualifying Exam by the end of the third year. The Second Qualifying Examination requires that students develop a substantial paper in which they demonstrate an ability to formulate the problem statement for their dissertation; demonstrate mastery and synthesis of the scholarly literature relevant for their work; and develop key questions for study and a preliminary research methodology. Once this exam is successfully completed, the student constitutes a dissertation committee, with the approval of the Executive Officer, and proceeds to develop a dissertation prospectus. The dissertation committee is composed of four members (including the chair), three of whom must be doctoral fac-

ulty. Once the dissertation prospectus is defended and accepted by the committee, the student is admitted to candidacy for the doctoral degree and may begin the dissertation project.

The dissertation is designed by the student under the supervision of his/her dissertation chair and committee. All dissertations must focus on developing knowledge in a significant area of social work practice, policy, or education. Dissertation research projects may be qualitative, quantitative, or multimethod in approach. All dissertations are expected to meet rigorous standards of research and scholarship. The student must complete a final oral defense of his/her dissertation.

Courses

70000 courses constitute the required curriculum required of all students for the Ph.D. In addition to the two-semester core seminars (SSW 70000 and 70100, SSW 71000 and 71100, SSW 75000 and 75100), students are required to complete SSW 76000 Methods of Data Analysis, SSW 76100 Advanced Statistical Analysis, SSW 77000 Methods of Qualitative Research, and a minimum of 12 credits of elective courses or independent studies at the college, other City University units, or other colleges and universities in the metropolitan area. At least one of these elective courses must be taken outside the Social Welfare program. These courses are chosen under the guidance of the student's educational adviser.

Unless otherwise stated, courses are *30 hours, 3 credits each semester*.

The courses in program design and administration are as follows.

SSW 70000 Program Design and Administration I

SSW 70100 Program Design and Administration II

SSW 71000 Social Welfare Policy and Planning I

SSW 71100 Social Welfare Policy and Planning II

SSW 75000 Development of Practice Knowledge in Social Work

SSW 75100 Methods of Quantitative Research

In the second year, students are required to take three research courses. A special feature of the program is the requirement that students be proficient in both quantitative and qualitative methods. In addition, they are offered a menu of electives in the second year. They are required to take three electives.

The required research courses taken in the second year include the following.

SSW 77000 Methods of Qualitative Research I

SSW 76000 Methods of Data Analysis

SSW 76100 Advanced Statistical Analysis

The elective courses offered provide students an opportunity to pursue career or specialization interests; they include the following.

SSW 77100 Methods of Qualitative Research II

SSW 85000 Special Topics in Social Welfare

SSW 85100 Education in Social Welfare

SSW 85200 Comparative Approaches to Theory and Practice in Social Work

SSW 85300 Theories of Change for Social Work Practice

SSW 85400 Women and Social Welfare Policy

In their third year students are required to take a preparatory course for dissertation work and an elective.

SSW 89900 Dissertation Seminar

1 to 12 credits

SSW 83000 Independent Studies

1 to 6 credits

SSW 90000 Dissertation Supervision

1 credit