PH.D. IN SOCIAL WORK

Frequently Asked Questions

How are the M.S.W. and Ph.D. programs different?
The M.S.W. is considered a terminal degree and prepares students for careers in direct practice, administrative social work practice, community organizing, and policy. The Ph.D. program prepares individuals for careers as social worker researchers within and outside academia and as an social work educators.

Do I need an M.S.W. degree to enter the program?
While having an M.S.W. is preferred, students are eligible to apply to the program with a master’s degree in a related discipline (i.e., public health, psychology, sociology, economics, etc.). Students who do not have a background in social work may be required to complete additional coursework.

Do you have a combined or joint M.S.W./Ph.D. option?
No.

Can I attend the program part-time?
No. Students are required to maintain full-time enrollment. Students take 12 credits per semester or 24 credits per year for two years.

Do I need post-M.S.W. practice experience?
No. However, the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) require those teaching practice courses to have post-M.S.W. practice experience. Individuals seeking to obtain faculty positions in a social work program are encouraged to get post-M.S.W. practice experience prior to completing the doctoral program.

Do I need to take the GRE to apply to the program?
Yes. Students can contact the program director to request a waiver.

Will I get classroom (i.e. teaching) experience?
Yes, students will have coursework on teaching and need to complete a teaching practicum.

What is the difference between a Ph.D. and D.S.W.?
A D.S.W. program focuses on social work practice, supervision and applied research, whereas a Ph.D. program’s emphasis is scholarly and theoretical research and educational practices.

The Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work (GADE) provides information valuable information on doctoral education in social work.

Does Fordham have a D.S.W. program?
No.

What do graduates do with their doctoral degree?
Graduates have obtained tenure-track academic positions, served as administrators in city government, and with nonprofit social service agencies.

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