Social Work, Ph.D.

Admission

To ensure that all doctoral students receive mentoring, the School of Social Work typically admits three or four students annually; approximately 35 percent of applicants are admitted.

Admission Requirements

Students are required to have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university, and a minimum undergraduate g.p.a. of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale).

Students should have completed an introductory statistics course (including graphing techniques for presenting data, descriptive statistics, correlation, introduction to regression, prediction, logic of statistical inference, elementary probability models, estimation and tests of significance) with a grade of B or higher. Research methods courses taken in a M.S.W. program typically do not meet the criteria for an introductory statistics course. Applicants who have not taken an introductory statistics course must complete one before beginning the M.S.W./Ph.D. or the Ph.D. program. Under unusual circumstances, a highly qualified applicant may be conditionally admitted into the program without a statistics course, if they have a high score on the quantitative section of the GRE or if they have taken other mathematics courses. Regardless, applicants still must successfully complete an introductory statistics course the spring or summer semester prior to beginning the M.S.W./Ph.D. or the Ph.D. program.

Applicants whose first language is not English must submit official test scores to verify English proficiency. Applicants can verify English proficiency by submitting official test scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the Duolingo English Test (DET).

Applicants applying only to the Ph.D. program are required to have a M.S.W. or a master’s degree in a related field, such as public policy, public health, sociology, psychology, political science, economics, education, nursing, or anthropology.

Admission and Selection Process

Applications are accepted beginning September 1 for the following academic year; applications are due February 1. Admission decisions are made in February. Typically, all applications are evaluated on the same day. Applicants are notified, in writing, of the decision by April 1. In some years, there may be a waiting list. If applicants are placed on the waiting list, they are notified of this decision by April 1.

The school evaluates applicants based on their potential to independently conduct and disseminate scholarship that contributes to policy or practice and on their potential to prepare students to educate future social workers. Occasionally, an applicant who has been declined is encouraged to reapply in a subsequent year.