

SAMPLE DOCTORAL STUDENT PLAN AT USC SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Substantive Core Courses must take 4 of 5 from the following:

- SOWK 702 Theories of Human Behavior in the Context of Social Environments (3)
- SOWK 703 Explanatory Theories for Larger Social Systems (3)
- SOWK 733 Policy Analysis and Advocacy in a Comparative Social Policy Context (3)
- SOWK 743 Theories for Practice with Small Systems (3)
- SOWK 744 Theories for Practice With Large Systems (3)

Minimum Total Required Units 12

Please note: Macro students **must** take at least one course of SOWK 702 or SOWK 743. Micro students must take at least one course SOWK 703, SOWK 733 or SOWK 744 to give them exposure to perspectives, research and theories outside their core interests.

Required Core Research/Statistics Courses:

- SOWK 760L Introduction to Social Work Statistics (3)
- SOWK 761L Multiple Regression in Social Work Research (3)
- SOWK 762 Social Work Research Methods I (3)
- SOWK 763 Social Work Research Methods II: Issues in Research for Social Work Practice (3)
- SOWK 764 Advanced Multivariate Statistics (3)

An additional course in statistics or research inside or outside the School Social Work (note: units for this course come from external course units, elective units, or tutorial units).

Minimum Total Required Units 18

Additional Required Outside Courses and Tutorials

- Course #1 in Other Department (3)
- Course #2 in Other Department (3)
- Course #3 in Other Department (3)
- 790 Faculty Tutorial 1 (2)
- 790 Faculty Tutorial 2 (2)
- 790 Faculty Tutorial 3 (2)

Minimum Total Required Units 15

Minimum Grand Total Required Units 45

TYPICAL FIRST YEAR COURSES

(Minimum of 12 units must be completed per semester excluding Summer)

Fall (First Semester):

- SOWK 760L Introduction to Social Work Statistics (3)
- SOWK 762 Social Work Research Methods I (3)
- SOWK 702 Theories of Human Behavior in the Context of Social Environments (3)
- SOWK 703 Explanatory Theories for Larger Social Systems (3)

12 units Completed First Semester

Spring (Second Semester):

- SOWK 761L Multiple Regression in Social Work Research (3)
- SOWK 763 Social Work Research Methods II: Issues in Research for Social Work Practice (3)
- SOWK 733 Policy Analysis and Advocacy in a Comparative Social Policy Context (3)
- SOWK 743 Theories for Practice with Small Systems (3)

12 units Completed Second Semester

Summer:

- SOWK 790 Faculty Tutorial 1 (2)

2 units Completed

TYPICAL SECOND YEAR COURSES

(Minimum of 10 units must be completed third semester only)

Fall (Third Semester):

SOWK 790 Faculty Tutorial 2 (2)
SOWK 790 Faculty Tutorial 3 (2)
SOWK 764 Advanced Multivariate Statistics (3)
Course #1 Other Department (3)
10 units Completed Third Semester

Spring (Fourth Semester):

Course #2 Other Department (3)
Course #3 Other Department (3)
Elective Internal Statistic Course (3)
9 units Completed Fourth Semester

TYPICAL THIRD YEAR COURSES

Students who have completed all major course requirements in the program AND are not otherwise enrolled during the semester in which the Qualifying Examination is to be taken must enroll in GRSC 800: STUDIES FOR QUALIFYING EXAMINATION.

Fall (Fifth Semester):

GRSC 800 Studies for Qualifying Examination (1)
1 unit Completed Fifth Semester

Spring (Sixth Semester):

GRSC 800 Studies for Qualifying Examination (1)
1 unit Completed Sixth Semester

SAMPLE OF QUALIFYING EXAMINATION TITLES

"Worker Perceptions of Service Quality and their Job Satisfaction: Theoretical and Managerial Implications for Human Service Organizations."

"Home Based Palliative Care Study: Satisfaction and Costs of Medical Care for Patients with CHF, COPD, and Cancer."

"Quality of Life for Family Caregivers of Patients with Chronic Physical Illness: Focus on Family Stress Theory."

"The Relationship Between Organizational Characteristics and Client Outcomes: A Case Study in Child Welfare."

"Community HIV prevention: The Long Beach AIDS Community Demonstration Project."

TYPICAL FOURTH YEAR AND BEYOND COURSES

Students who have passed the Qualifying Examination must enroll in doctoral dissertation SW 794 course (summers excluded). The Graduate School requires that students must be registered for 2 units of SW 794 (a,b,c,z) in every semester during which dissertation is underway until completion (except for summers). A minimum of two semesters of dissertation credit is required (794a & 794b).

Fall (Seventh Semester):

794a Doctoral Dissertation (2)
2 units Completed Seventh Semester

Spring (Eighth Semester):

794b Doctoral Dissertation (2)
2 units Completed Eighth Semester

SAMPLE OF DISSERTATION TITLES

"Functional Outcome in Schizophrenia: A Biosocial Predictive Model Over Time."

"Mental Health Service Use and Placement Change in Foster Care."

"Spiritual Well-Being in Health-Related Quality of Life for Older Chronically Ill Adults."

"Examining Characteristics of School Social Work Macro Practice: The Academic Preparation of MSW Students."

"Prospective and Retrospective Examinations of Factors Related to Intention to Leave and Turnover Among Public Child Welfare Workers."