



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

School of Social Work (SSW) – Ph.D in Social Welfare

University of Washington

Information session by [Shirley Chu](#)



Land Acknowledgement

UW's Seattle campus is situated on the ancestral homeland of the Duwamish people – the first people of Seattle

The University of Washington acknowledges the past, present, and future of the Coast Salish peoples of this land, the land which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within Suquamish, Tulalip, and Muckleshoot nations.

To learn what indigenous land(s) you're living on:
<https://native-land.ca/>



AGENDA

- PhD vs DSW (Doctorate in Social Work)?
- Why UW and Seattle?
- PhD Program
 - Structure
 - Funding
- Admissions/Application Process
 - Application
 - Research “Fit”
 - Application Timeline – planning ahead



PhD vs DSW

What is PhD?

- **Research** oriented positions (faculty/leadership) in academia
- High emphasis on scholarly and theory practices
- Career track: tenure position, research/teaching positions, professional researchers, etc.

What is DSW?

- **Advanced clinical** and/or macro training
- Focuses on social work practice, supervision, *applied* research
- Career track: leadership roles, advanced practice social work positions supporting clients, Clinical teaching only positions, etc.

Reference Link: [Gade Social Work](#)



Why Research?

- Research
 - Research matters. Research informs and advances practice and policies
 - 14 [affiliated research & innovation centers](#) at SSW including: Latino Center For Health, Indigenous Wellness Research Institute, Center for Women's Welfare, West Coast Poverty Center, Forefront (Suicide Prevention), Center for Oncology and Palliative Care Social Work



Is UW For Me?

UW SSW

- Core Values: Diversity, equity, inclusion focus
- Committed to addressing critical issues of race and equity that communities and country faces
- Mission: “..commit ourselves to promoting social and economic justice for poor and oppressed populations and enhancing quality of life..”
- Research skills development
 - Intensive mentoring
 - Access to leading social work researchers
 - Extensive course and research opportunities



Is Seattle For Me?

- Residing in Seattle for 5 years (while completing PhD)
 - Unlikely to get hired by UW post-doctoral studies
- The city of Seattle hold initiatives and commitment towards achieving race and social equity and ending institutionalized racism
- Celebration of diversity and historical and present remembrance of Seattle (Some museums/cultural centers: Tulalip Tribes Hibel Cultural Center, Wing Luke Museum, Northwest African American Museum, and Sea Mar Museum of Cicano/a/Latino/a Culture)
- Experience all seasons, proximity to nature



PhD Program - Structure

| YEAR | PROGRAM MILESTONE |
|--------|---|
| YEAR 1 | First Year Comprehensive Exam |
| | Individual Development Plan (IDP)** |
| YEAR 2 | Complete Coursework including Research and Teaching Practica |
| | Identification of Chair Formation of Supervisory Committee |
| YEAR 3 | Outline of Qualifying Paper approved by Committee and submitted to Program Office |
| | General Examination (Qualifying Paper and Oral): Advance to Candidacy (PhC) |
| YEAR 4 | Formation of Reading and Supervisory Committee for Dissertation |
| | Dissertation Prospectus approved |
| YEAR 5 | Dissertation Completion and Defense |

Year 1: Structured coursework in social work, theory, and method, comprehensive exam in summer

Year 2: Complete coursework including research and teaching practica

Year 3: General exam (qualifying paper and oral), identification of chair and formation of committee, mix of structured coursework and independent studies

Year 4 & 5: Funding ends in year 4, researching/writing, dissertation

[Click here to enlarge](#)



PhD Program - Funding

- Guaranteed 4 years of funding through 9 months academic year (summer not covered)
- Types of funding:
 - Academic Student Employee (ASE) – 20 hours/week (on average) work required
 - RA'ship
 - TA'ship
 - Sole instructorship
 - Quarterly fellowship – no work requirements
- Students successfully apply to receive to find external funding from national organizations



Admissions - Application

How to Apply:

- Apply [online](#) by Dec 1, 2021
- [Guide](#) for the application process

Application Checklist (submitted with online application):

- [SSW Application Form](#)
- [GPA Worksheet](#)
- Scholarly & Professional Statement (5-pages)
- Scholarly Writing Sample
- Curriculum Vitae
- Letters of recommendation (minimum 3; max 5)
- Unofficial transcript
- English Proficiency Test Scores (for international applicants)



Admissions – Ideal Candidate

Ideal candidate

- Received MSW or other related Master's degree
- Two years of post-MSW practice
- Strong commitment to diversity, equity, justice, and inclusion
- Evidence of research experience
- Career goals – how will you use research and scholarly skills post-doctoral studies?



Admissions – Scholarly and Professional Statement

- Most important document of the application
- An opportunity to share who you are, your experiences, your research, and teaching goals in maximum of 5 pages double spaced
- Required to address:
 - Why do you want to pursue a PhD in Social Welfare at UW?
 - What are your experiences and commitment to diversity, equity, justice, and inclusion?
 - What are your research questions/interests? How does this inform social work and practice/policy?
 - How will PhD Social Welfare program help/support your career goals?
 - Why is UW a good fit for you?



Admissions – Application – Tips

- Anchor your statement in some personal/lived/professional experience that drives you to pursue a PhD and how to this is related to your commitment to diversity, equity, justice, and inclusion.
- Share the research experience that you have done and research questions that you will pursue during the program
- Describe your career goals post-doctoral studies and how PhD would support this
- Share some details about which [faculty](#) you want to work with and what you hope to accomplish. It is particularly helpful if you have reached out to these faculty members to talk about potential collaborations.



Admissions – Application – Research ‘fit’

- Must have research questions and experience
- Must identify at least one faculty whose research is relevant to your research questions who could act as your potential mentor
- Explore [research and innovation centers](#) to see if there’s any research alignment between yours and faculty at UW SSW



Admissions – Application - Timeline

- Have a draft of your scholarly and professional statement completed by September/October
- Contact your letter references that you are applying to the PhD program
- Send the draft of your scholarly and professional statement to your references that will be writing your letter
- Finish final revisions on your scholarly and professional statement
- Update your curriculum vitae by November
- Complete [PhD Social Welfare Application Form](#) and [GPA Worksheet](#) by November
- Submit application [online](#) by December 1
 - Application fee is \$85
 - Information on application [fee waivers](#); needs to be requested 7 days before deadline of application



Admissions – Application – Review Process

Holistic Application Review – January to February

- Admissions Committee completes the first screening of applications (60-80 applications)
 - Applications ranked based on appropriateness for research training, commitment to diversity, equity, justice, and inclusion, and social work related background
 - Through various reviews, the pool of applications are narrowed to 10 - 12 top applicants
 - Potential mentors review applications
 - Potential applicants are interviewed by the committee
 - Initial decisions regarding admissions offers and waitlist are made mid-February



Admissions – Application - Process

After Offers Made - March to April

- **March: Visit Day** (up to 7 applicants)
 - 5-7 candidates are invited to visit campus (expenses paid by UW)
 - If still under COVID-19 restrictions, campus visit will be held virtually
 - During the visit, there will be opportunities to meet with faculty and other doctoral students
 - If visit is held on campus, there will be time to explore UW and Seattle
 - Individualized funding packages are developed
- **April 15** - National deadline for accepting offers & indicating intention to enroll at UW



Final Thoughts

- Important to know that only a handful of students are admitted during their first round of applications. It is not unusual to reapply for the PhD Social Welfare more than once.
- Is a PhD in Social Welfare at UW right for me?
 - Are you interested in research?
 - Do you see yourself living in Seattle area for 5 years?
 - Have you made a connection with faculty of interest?
 - Do you have a community/support system in place as you complete the program?



Q & A | Contact Information

- Thank you for attending the information session
- Do you have any questions for me?
- Contact sswphdpr@uw.edu with any additional questions



Helpful Links

- [Research and Innovation Centers](#)
- [2020 Impact Report](#)
- [Current PhD Students](#)
- [PhD Program Info](#)
- [PhD Admissions - Instructions](#)
- [PhD Application](#) - Due 12/01/2021

