DEGREE AT A GLANCE

Average class size – 5 to 8 students
Total credit hours – 54 hours
Other pertinent information – After successful completion of all coursework, students are required to pass the Comprehensive Examination and complete a Dissertation.

For more information contact:
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All applications must be submitted online via the School of Graduate Studies website.
www.nsu.edu/sgsr

Norfolk State University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the associate, baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, telephone (404) 679-4500, http://www.sacscoc.org, for questions about the accreditation of Norfolk State University.
ABOUT THE DEGREE PROGRAM
At Norfolk State University, we do indeed see the future in you. At NSU, you will begin to discover your potential and find life-changing opportunities. The Ph.D. or Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work is a doctoral degree that prepares students for leadership roles in social work as educators, researchers, administrators and policy analysts. The program is unique in its focus on family-centered social work with African-American families. Students will become leaders of the profession who can facilitate change, advance social work knowledge, promote a scientific basis for social work practice, and advocate for social and economic justice in a rapidly changing and global world.

WHAT TO EXPECT AS A GRADUATE STUDENT IN THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT.
Students can expect a structured sequential curriculum with proactive faculty mentoring.

- Program completion time – With full-time study, the Ph.D. program can be completed in four years, but must be completed within seven years.

WHERE WILL MY GRADUATE PROGRAM TAKE ME?
The degree will prepare you for unlimited opportunities as scholars, researchers and administrators who function as stewards of the discipline.

- Workplaces – Universities, government agencies, forensic settings, and policy organizations, both public and private.

GATEWAY LINKS
- The Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work (GADE)

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
- A master's degree in social work.
- A minimum of two (2) years of full-time post MSW practice experience.
- Completion of a graduate course in research and a graduate course in statistics.
- The Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- A personal statement and writing sample.
- Four (4) letters of recommendation.
- A personal interview.

TESTIMONIAL:
“The Social Work PhD program was both challenging and rewarding. The supportive faculty helped me to develop into a scholar who can continue to enhance the field of social work. I experienced individual and professional growth as a result of my participation in this program.”
Jennifer Schweizer, Ph.D. ’17

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS
- The Ph.D. program is a fifty-four (54) credit hour program, which consists of forty-two (42) credit hours of course work, and twelve (12) dissertation credit hours.
- Course work includes a nine (9) credit hour core curriculum, twelve (12) credit hours of electives, and fourteen (14) credit hours of course work in research, policy, theory, and family-centered practice.
- At the conclusion of course work, students must successfully pass the comprehensive examination.
- Completion of a dissertation is the final requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Social Work.