

Ph.D. in Social Work Program Admission Application Requirements

A Ph. D., or Doctor of Philosophy, is the highest academic level degree awarded following a course of study and research. It is earned after a period of three or more years of graduate-level study, culminating in the creation, submission, presentation and defense of a research dissertation.

The Ph.D. in Social Work will be offered as a bichronous online program with students taking a mix of hybrid, synchronous, and asynchronous online classes. Synchronous and hybrid classes will be offered on weekday evenings after 6:00 PM CST.

The curriculum of the program extends from the knowledge base of the profession of social work and its values and principles. It also draws upon broad theoretical and empirical knowledge from related disciplines helpful in the formulation, analysis, and solution of social problems. Specific curriculum content focuses on the assessment and application of social work perspectives and behavioral and social science theories, research methods, social work education, critical analysis and assessment of social problems, social welfare policy, and knowledge development in a substantive research area of interest.

The curriculum consists of a minimum of 58 credit hours, including dissertation hours. It is organized around three major components: (1) core curriculum; (2) electives, and (3) dissertation.

Admissions and Graduation Requirements:

To be admitted to the Ph.D. in Social Work Program, the applicant must meet the admission requirements outlined by the School of Graduate Studies, in addition to meeting the admission criteria set by the Ph.D. in Social Work Program. Requirements are provided below:

School of Graduate Studies Application Process and Criteria for Admission:

Specific Requirements for Admission:

- Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis; however, admissions will only occur in the fall. Applications for fall admission must be received by the spring application deadline of March 1st. All applications must be submitted via the School of Graduate Studies Application portal. A \$45 application fee is required to initiate the application process.
- The following materials must be submitted to AAMU's School of Graduate Studies Admissions Portal which will allow the student to upload all required documents:

Ph.D. in Social Work Program -Graduate Admissions Application

Personal Statement

The Personal Statement must be submitted as part of the online graduate admissions application. The Personal Statement (double-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins, 6-page maximum) should answer the following questions:

- What is your motivation for pursuing a Ph.D. in social work?
- Why is a Ph.D. in social work important to your professional trajectory?
- What specifically attracts you to the Alabama A & M University Social Work Ph.D. program?
- What practice experience in social work have you had?
- What is your career goal?
- What is your research interest?

One-way Video Interview

- Admission into the program requires a one-way video interview for the Social Work Program Admissions Committee. In 3-5 minutes please discuss your ability to persevere through the rigors of an online doctoral program.

Resume

- Applicants should upload a current resume into the Admissions Portal.

Transcripts

- The School of Graduate Studies requires the submission of official academic transcripts from all colleges and universities attended. International applicants must submit one official original-language copy of their academic transcript with a certified English translation from each institution attended.

Recommendations

- Please identify three persons who are in a position to provide recommendations concerning your academic, professional, and/or personal qualifications for entry into doctoral social work education. At least two of the three references should be people who have known you in a professional or academic setting. Each identified reference person will be provided with a recommendation form and directed to follow the instructions forwarded to them for uploading their recommendation into the Graduate School's application portal.

Scholarly Writing Sample

- All applicants are required to submit a sample of their best scholarly writing, such as a case study, policy analysis, research paper, or conceptual paper not to exceed 20 pages. Applicants must use the School of Graduate Studies Application Portal to submit the writing sample.

Admission Status

- Official notification of admission status will come from the School of Graduate Studies by mid-May.

Admission to the Ph.D. in Social Work Program is based on the following criteria:

- A master of social work degree from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)

- A minimum grade point average of 3.0 in graduate courses
- Academic promise, as evidenced by above-average achievement in graduate education.
- Professional competence as demonstrated through substantial experience in responsible social work practice, internships, or other positions, prior to, during or subsequent to the master's program.
- Personal qualities compatible with performance in social work indicating a potential for leadership in the field: Relationship skills, flexibility and openness to new ideas, maturity, identification with the profession of social work, and commitment to furthering the development of the profession.
- Satisfactory performance on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) for all international students prior to the date of application.
- Evidence of a degree from a regionally accredited institution.
- Submission of all application materials as outlined in the application process.