




THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SOCIAL WORK (PHD KNOXVILLE PROGRAM)

A photograph of three students in a classroom or meeting setting. Two women and one man are seated at a table, looking towards the right. The woman on the left has long dark hair and is wearing a purple top. The woman in the middle has long dark hair and is wearing a black top. The man on the right has long brown hair and is wearing a blue shirt with an orange fruit pattern. They are all smiling and appear to be engaged in a discussion. In the background, there are white storage bins and a person standing.

“I am passionate about the understanding of trauma and trauma-informed care in context of Latinx immigrants including the barriers they encounter in accessing quality care.”

*Eliza Galvez,
PhD Student*

THE PROGRAM

THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK OFFERS A DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD) DEGREE WITH A MAJOR IN SOCIAL WORK.

The PhD is a research degree where students take courses in research methods, statistics, grant writing, teaching preparation, and theory to prepare them for careers in research and teaching.



THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE DSW AND PHD PROGRAMS

- ▶▶ **The DSW is a professional practice degree** – designed to prepare students for *advanced clinical practice and advanced practice leadership*. The curriculum is offered in an online format where students who are full-time working clinical social workers can continue in their on-going clinical practice while taking classes.
- ▶▶ **The PhD program is a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree with a major in social work** – a research degree designed to prepare students for careers in research and teaching. Students take a mix of classes in-person and virtually for two years, and work on their comprehensive exam and dissertation for an additional one to two years.

THE GOAL OF THE PHD PROGRAM is to create scholars who will develop and disseminate new knowledge about interventions, programs, and policies that will advance social justice and improve quality of life and well-being for vulnerable groups of people. Our program fosters deep understanding and appreciation of the scientific method and prepares graduates for careers as social work researchers, educators, and leaders.

PREPARING SCHOLARS TO ADVANCE SOCIAL JUSTICE

THE PROGRAM OFFERS:

Extensive training in advanced research methods.

Mentorship from nationally and internationally recognized faculty experts.

Four years of competitive funding (includes tuition, health insurance, and stipend).

Close linkages with the Center for Behavioral Health Research (CBHR) and the Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS).

Opportunities to develop teaching skills in both face-to-face and online courses.

AT THE COMPLETION OF THE PHD PROGRAM, GRADUATES WILL BE ABLE TO:

- ▶ *Demonstrate expert knowledge in a focused, substantive area relevant to social work.*
- ▶ *Conduct independent and original scientific research that advances knowledge in a substantive area.*
- ▶ *Communicate scientific findings in an effective way to a range of audiences.*
- ▶ *Secure funding for a research agenda.*
- ▶ *Teach students the knowledge, skills, and values they need to be proficient social workers.*



The PhD curriculum includes required coursework, electives, and mentored research opportunities.

REQUIRED COURSEWORK INCLUDES:

- ▶ *34 credit-hours of research design, statistics, advanced critical thinking, and teaching methods*
- ▶ *9 credit-hours of electives in related social and behavioral science areas*

ALL PHD STUDENTS are required to pass the comprehensive examination and an oral defense of their research proposal after their second year of course work. The comprehensive examination consists of a major paper that demonstrates the student's knowledge of a substantive area and the student's ability to integrate that knowledge with the foundation content of the program. This paper is the first paper in the student's three-paper dissertation.



WHY UTK?



FOUR YEARS
OF
COMPETITIVE
FUNDING



IN-PERSON
FULL TIME
PROGRAM



LEARN FROM
NATIONALLY
RENOWNED,
CUTTING-EDGE
RESEARCH
FACULTY



OPPORTUNITIES
TO DEVELOP
TEACHING
SKILLS



PREPARATION
FOR FACULTY
AND RESEARCH
POSITIONS



COLLABORATION
WITH TWO
RESEARCH
CENTERS

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PHD PROGRAM:

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
www.csw.utk.edu

CONTACT US:
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