Doctor of Social Work (DSW)

Darold Bigger, Dean; Susan B. Smith, (DSW Program Director), Cheris Current, Kari Firestone, Ann Szalda-Petree, Laurellé C. Warner

The Walla Walla University Wilma Hepker School of Social Work and Sociology offers a Doctor of Social Work degree that is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. The program emphasis is on social work education and leadership with a mission to develop experienced social work practitioners into outstanding educators and leaders who engage in the dissemination of scholarly knowledge that will invigorate social work practice and advance social justice.

DSW Learning Objectives include:

• Engage in systematic inquiry that adheres to scholarly conventions.
• Critically evaluate and use evidence-based practices.
• Develop and disseminate practice-relevant knowledge through a variety of channels, such as teaching, administration, scholarship, professional presentations, and mentoring.
• Develop and maintain substantive expertise in teaching and leadership in social work.
• Assess the roles of diversity, equity, and inclusion in shaping human experiences and develop intervention strategies.
• Apply ethical decision-making and professional practices.

ADMISSION: Applicants must first meet the minimum expectations outlined in the Graduate Bulletin admissions requirement. Additionally, all applicants must meet the qualifications listed below:

1. Hold a Master’s of Social Work degree from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) or a CSWE-recognized international program.
2. Minimum of two years of excellent post-MSW direct, full-time practice experience, or its equivalent.
3. Minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5 at the graduate level and 3.0 in undergraduate studies.
4. Professional-level skills in the use of technology and have reliable internet access.

Note: An active license in clinical social work is preferred but not required.

Applications should demonstrate a commitment to teaching and leadership in social work. The DSW admissions committee may request an interview. Those who meet the admissions requirements are required to submit the following:

1. Completed WWU Graduate School application.
2. All transcripts for graduate coursework and a transcript showing a conferred bachelor’s degree.
4. Three letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the applicant’s professional and academic abilities.
5. Criminal background check.
6. Recent professional writing sample.
7. An admissions essay that includes the following:
   o A discussion of your professional experiences and the factors that led to the decision to apply to the Doctor of Social Work program at Walla Walla University.
A description of a situation in a professional role and how you used practice knowledge, skills, and values to intervene successfully.

A statement of your future professional vision and how the pursuit of a DSW degree will aid you in achieving your goals.

A discussion of an area of in-depth study that you might pursue in this doctoral program and how this subject area would aid the field of professional social work.

TRANSFER STUDENTS: Students who wish to transfer from another doctoral program must provide a letter of good standing from their current school. A maximum of twelve quarter credits will be accepted for transfer, and these courses must be approved by the department to determine they are equivalent and relevant to the DSW curriculum. Students accepted for transfer must complete a minimum of 56 doctoral-level credits at Walla Walla University.

DOCTOR OF SOCIAL WORK
DSW students must complete 68 quarter credits, including 64 credits of core requirements, and 4 credits of electives. Classes are taught in real-time using videoconferencing, online asynchronous course work, and two on-campus week-long summer residencies. Students will engage in professional activities appropriate to doctoral-level candidates, including but not limited to critique, research committee work, research project defense, and collaboration with department faculty. No academic credit may be awarded for life or work experience.

REQUIRED COURSES
Core Requirements:

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 610</td>
<td>Ethics and Social Responsibility</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 611</td>
<td>Introduction to Teaching and Leadership in Social Work</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>SOWK 612</td>
<td>Leadership Theory</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>SOWK 613</td>
<td>Teaching Pedagogies: Theory and Practice</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>SOWK 614</td>
<td>Challenging Oppression and Confronting Privilege</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>SOWK 615</td>
<td>Data-Driven Decision Making</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>SOWK 616</td>
<td>Social Work Curriculum Development and Instruction</td>
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<td>SOWK 617</td>
<td>Program Evaluation and Quality Improvement</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>SOWK 630</td>
<td>Research Methods I</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 631</td>
<td>Research Methods II</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 632</td>
<td>Peer Reviewed Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 634</td>
<td>Diversity, Oppression, and Change</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 636</td>
<td>Innovations in Social Work Education and Practice</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 638</td>
<td>Organizational Behavior and Leadership</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>SOWK 639</td>
<td>Strategic Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 650</td>
<td>Capstone Research Project I</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 651</td>
<td>Capstone Research Project II</td>
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Electives*:

*Select one class from the following list of electives:

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOWK 660</td>
<td>Teaching Practicum</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 662</td>
<td>Leadership Practicum</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 669</td>
<td>Advanced Study</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOWK 696</td>
<td>Social Work Seminar</td>
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SOWK 610 - ETHICS AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (2)
Course addresses historical and philosophical bases of ethical leadership, ethical decision-making, and social responsibility. Examines awareness of the role of personal biases and self-awareness as they relate to professional judgment and the ability to manage ethical dilemmas effectively. Students will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills in the decision-making process, and articulate their ethical framework and understanding of social responsibility as leaders and educators.

SOWK 611 - INTRODUCTION TO TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP IN SOCIAL WORK (4)
Introduction and orientation to the Doctor of Social Work program. Exploration of worldview, theoretical foundations, scholarship, and critical reflection in social work leadership and higher education.

SOWK 612 - LEADERSHIP THEORY (4)
Course provides broad coverage of leadership theory. Examines research evidence to support theoretical approaches and the implications to inform practice and future research. Multi-faceted analyses will include but not be limited to issues such as ethics, power, equity, diversity, inclusion, problem-solving, and organizational development. Prerequisite: SOWK 611

SOWK 613 - TEACHING PEDAGOGIES: THEORY AND PRACTICE (4)
Course provides coverage of teaching theories, methods, and practices in higher education. Grounded in critical pedagogy and reflective teaching to attend to issues of power and privilege. Includes the development of a theoretical framework and the examination of practices that address learner needs to facilitate optimal outcomes for all students. Prerequisite: SOWK 611

SOWK 614 – CHALLENGING OPPRESSION AND CONFRONTING PRIVILEGE (4)
Course addresses anti-oppressive and anti-privilege theory and practices in social work. Encourages students to think critically about structural dynamics involved in power and privilege. Students will demonstrate self-awareness, cultural humility, and the ability to critique diversity, equity, and inclusive practices in professional settings.

SOWK 615 - DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING (4)
Emphasizes the use of data to make decisions that support organizational strategy, structures, and stakeholder experiences. Covers types of data, data collection methods, analysis, and presentation format.

SOWK 616 - SOCIAL WORK CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND INSTRUCTION (4)
Study of curriculum design, delivery, and assessment, and their influence on the practice of professional social work. Explores the role of curriculum development and instruction to foster inclusive, equitable, and just learning environments. Prerequisite: SOWK 613

SOWK 617 - PROGRAM EVALUATION AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (4)
Exploration and application of effective evaluation practices and models to determine the outcome of projects and programs. Course examines strategies for quality improvement as a product of the evaluation process. **Prerequisites:** SOWK 615, 616

**SOWK 630 - RESEARCH METHODS I (4)**

Study of social science quantitative and qualitative research designs. Addresses research process such as defining variables, problem formulation, devising research methodology, review of the literature, data collection, data analysis, and ethical responsibilities. Students will develop a research proposal and an annotated bibliography.

**SOWK 631 - RESEARCH METHODS II (4)**

Course focuses on research processes and methodologies, literature review, data collection, and analysis specifically related to the student’s capstone research project proposal. Includes working with the Ethics in Research Committee (EIRC), and developing a capstone research project committee. At the end of the course, students will have an EIRC approved capstone research project proposal, a formally constituted committee, an approved review of the literature, and an established research methodology. **Prerequisite:** SOWK 630

**SOWK 632 - PEER-REVIEWED SCHOLARSHIP (4)**

Students gain the knowledge and skills necessary to disseminate research findings to scholarly sources for peer review. Subject areas include the preparation of manuscripts for submission to peer-reviewed journals and the development of conference proposals. Various modes of conference presentations will be addressed, including poster presentations, papers, symposia, and panel participation. Students will demonstrate oral, written, and media skills required for juried environments. **Prerequisite:** SOWK 631

**SOWK 634 - DIVERSITY, OPPRESSION, AND CHANGE (2)**

Exploration of methods to assess organizational structures for anti-oppressive and anti-privilege practices, and also to develop strategic plans that foster socially just work and learning environments. **Prerequisites:** SOWK 614

**SOWK 636 - INNOVATIONS IN SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION AND PRACTICE (4)**

Course identifies innovative practices in social work education. Areas of study include an exploration of educational and discipline-specific research and the implications for social work practice. Content includes designing methods of instruction, program planning, assessment, evaluation, and social justice. **Prerequisites:** SOWK 616

**SOWK 638 - ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR AND LEADERSHIP (OR MGMT 520) (4)**

Analysis of business organizations from the perspective of the individual, the workgroup, and the organization as a system. Topics include motivation, employee development, creative problem-solving, and organizational design. **Prerequisite:** SOWK 612, 615

**SOWK 639 - STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT (OR MGMT 540) (4)**

An integrative assessment of an organization’s internal and external environment and its impact on competitive advantage. **Prerequisites:** SOWK 638

**SOWK 650 - CAPSTONE RESEARCH PROJECT I (4)**

Implementation of the research proposal prepared in SOWK 632 Research Methods II that addresses an issue in social work practice. **Prerequisites:** SOWK 632
SOWK 651 - CAPSTONE RESEARCH PROJECT II (4)
Preparation of a publishable paper reporting the results of students’ research study. Students defend their paper at an oral defense. Prerequisites: SOWK 650

SOWK 660 - TEACHING PRACTICUM (4)
An elective course taught under faculty supervision. Students implement, teach, and assess a social work course at the BSW or MSW level. Permission of instructor required. Prerequisite: SOWK 636

SOWK 662 - LEADERSHIP PRACTICUM (4)
An elective course in which students develop, implement, and assess leadership specific learning objectives within an organization under faculty and agency supervision. The department must approve practicum placements. Permission of instructor required. Prerequisite: SOWK 639

SOWK 669 - ADVANCED STUDY (4)
Advanced directed study in which students enhance their study in breadth or depth not covered in the DSW curriculum. The study proposal must be approved by the department and the Graduate Standards Committee and is to indicate the methods of evaluation. May not be substituted for existing courses.

SOWK 696 – SOCIAL WORK SEMINAR (4)
An in-depth elective that focuses on an issue relevant to social work higher education or leadership. Specific subjects studied will vary from quarter to quarter. Permission of the instructor required.