

# PhD IN SOCIAL WORK

## PhD DEGREE

Loyola's School of Social Work was founded in 1914. Throughout its history, the school has been dedicated to social work practice-based knowledge development at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels and has prepared career-minded students through scholarship and developing direct practice skills. Loyola's doctoral program extends the tradition of educating outstanding professionals for social work research grounded in innovative practice, community engagement, and social justice. By the time students earn their PhD, they will be skilled in practice-based research, scholarship, and teaching.

### PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- The degree offers full-time enrollment. Average time for completion is 4–6 years
- Two years of required courses (3 per fall/spring semester and 1 in the summer)
- Comprehensive exams take place after all required coursework is completed
- Classes are held at Loyola's Water Tower campus in downtown Chicago
- Courses are taught by full-time faculty
- Financial assistance is offered to every newly admitted student

### RESEARCH AND DISSERTATION

Admission into the program requires a shared research interest between the student and faculty to ensure support for future dissertation work. Students, as part of their financial assistance, are matched with faculty members during the first 2 years of required coursework. Research skills are developed through quantitative and qualitative methods courses, an advanced statistics course, followed by your dissertation work on a topic of interest within the field of social work. Teaching skills are developed through a two-semester teaching class and seminar. Successfully completing the course prepares the student as an adjunct professor within the School of Social Work. Faculty mentorship and grant work opportunities provide experiences in scholarship through publications and conference presentations.

### EXPECTATIONS AFTER GRADUATION

The PhD program prepares you to teach undergraduate and graduate level social work programs, to pursue scholarship opportunities at academic and agency settings, and to advance practice through research expertise. The program supports publication and conference presentation opportunities as part of the doctoral experience to have a competitive edge in the job market.

### PROGRAM DISTINCTIONS

Loyola's Jesuit ideals of service to others and commitment to social justice guide the program, preparing students for leadership roles in practice and academic arenas. The program, located in an urban setting and with established international collaborations, provides opportunities to evaluate social work services and the context of those services.

**FACULTY** Our faculty has a wide variety of practice-based research interests including direct practice, organizational/community practice, and policy practice in the context of and as they relate to the areas of school social work, mental health, health care, children & families, leadership & development, migration & immigration, gerontology, LGBTQI, poverty & employment, suicide intervention & prevention, advocacy, domestic violence, substance abuse, at risk youth, social justice, and many others.

Learn more about faculty research interests at [LUC.edu/socialwork](http://LUC.edu/socialwork).

**FINANCIAL AID** A limited number of tuition waivers from the Graduate School may be available. The School of Social Work may match these tuition waivers with a research assistantship stipend that requires a student to work for a faculty member with similar interests. While some doctoral students may find part-time employment during their time in the program, financial assistance requires that the student does not work full-time.

## LEARN MORE

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS  
AND DEADLINES

[gpem.LUC.edu/apply](http://gpem.LUC.edu/apply)

CONTACT INFORMATION

*For further information about the academic program, or to arrange a visit, please contact:*

School of Social Work  
Loyola University Chicago  
820 N. Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60611

PHONE: 312.915.7005

ONLINE: [LUC.edu/socialwork](http://LUC.edu/socialwork)

*You are encouraged to contact the director to discuss your interest in the program.*

*Send all supporting documents to:*

Graduate and Professional  
Enrollment Management  
Loyola University Chicago  
820 N. Michigan Avenue  
Lewis Towers 1200  
Chicago, IL 60611

PHONE: 312.915.8950

EMAIL: [GradApp@LUC.edu](mailto:GradApp@LUC.edu)

ONLINE: [gpem.LUC.edu/apply](http://gpem.LUC.edu/apply)

