

Admissions Policies and Procedures

Prospective PhD students apply [online](#). Contact the PhD Program Director, Megan Gilster, to discuss the PhD program: megan-gilster@uiowa.edu Contact the admissions coordinator, Tomeka Petersen, about the application: ssw-admissions@uiowa.edu

Prospective combined MSW/PhD students complete the full online application for BOTH the MSW and PhD programs, including references. Please also see the MSW Admission Policies: <https://socialwork.uiowa.edu/graduate/admissions>.

Full-time and Part-time Study

A small number of applicants (1 - 2) may be admitted to the PhD program on a part-time basis. Please contact the director of the PhD program if you are interested in part-time study. The MSW/PhD program is full-time only.

Size of Cohort

To ensure that all our doctoral students receive mentoring and support, we typically admit 3 - 4 students annually.

Admission and Selection Process

We evaluate applicants based on their potential to *independently conduct and disseminate scholarship that contributes to policy or practice and on their potential to prepare future social workers*. About 35% of applicants are admitted. Because we are only able to provide mentoring and support to a limited number of students, some qualified applicants unfortunately are declined admission.

Applications are due on February 1. Admission decisions are made in March. Applicants are notified of our decision in writing by April 1. Some years we have a waitlist. If you are placed on the waitlist, you will be notified by April 1. Please notify the school immediately of changes to your address, phone number, or email.

Admission Requirements

1. Students are required to have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, and a minimum undergraduate grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
2. Applicants applying only to the PhD program are required to have an MSW or a master's degree in a related field, such as public policy, public health, sociology, psychology, political science, economics, education, nursing, or anthropology.
3. GRE is not required.
4. Students should have completed an introductory statistics course and received a grade of B or higher. An introductory statistics course includes graphing techniques for presenting data, descriptive statistics, correlation, introduction to regression, elementary probability models, and tests of significance. Research methods courses taken in an MSW program typically do not meet the criteria for an introductory statistics course. Applicants who have not taken an introductory statistics course must complete one before beginning the combined MSW/PhD or PhD programs. An introductory statistics course is offered at the University of Iowa during the summer.
5. For international applicants, you must have a minimum score of:
 - 100 on the TOEFL iBT Total Score; a score of 26 on the speaking portion of the TOEFL is preferred; or
 - 7 on the IELTS Overall Band Score, with no IELTS sub-score less than 6.0.; or
 - 140 score on the DuoLingo exam.
 - Waiver eligibility guidelines posted [here](#).