

**Our Lady of the Lake University**  
**Worden School of Social Service**  
**PhD Course Sequence and Course Description- 2020-2021 Catalog**  
**54 hours**

**SUMMER I**

**SOWK 9102 Seminar on Issues in Social Work Education and Research (New Course)**

Restricted to doctoral students in social work. Exposure to the diversity of research topics and methods pursued by researchers and academicians in social work education and allied fields. Conference course. Offered on the credit/no credit basis only. Required every summer until proposal defense. Repeated 4 times for credit. Include onsite summer residency in San Antonio. Pass/fail. Course fee: \$550

Prerequisite: Admission to the PhD program and consent of the instructor or the graduate adviser.

**FALL I**

**SOWK 9308 – Epistemology & Theories**

Covers the conceptualization, development, and application of social work theories. Philosophical, theoretical, and empirical underpinnings of different social work practice theories will be studied with an emphasis on understanding and critically analyzing the philosophical assumptions and scientific basis of various theories. Students will become familiar with the historical context of different theories covered and research on their effectiveness within social work. Since social work has relied on other social science disciplines for much of its theoretical base, major theories will be covered from diverse disciplines.

**SOWK 9400 – Culturally Informed Pedagogy**

Covering factors important in teaching students using culturally informed pedagogy practices. Practices include the importance of communication of high expectations to minority students, teacher as facilitator, cultural sensitivity, culturally mediated instruction, reshaping the curriculum to be culturally informed, student-controlled classroom discourse, active teaching methods (including students in developing assignments) and positive perspectives on parents and families of culturally and linguistically diverse students. Includes guest teaching lecture requirements.

**SPRING I**

**SOWK 9315 – Statistical Methods I**

The fundamental procedures for data organization and analysis. Subjects include frequency distributions, graphical presentation, sampling, experimental design, inference, and regression.

**SOWK 9319 – Qualitative Research I**

Introduction to qualitative research paradigms, their epistemologies, theories, and methods. The major focus is to survey qualitative methods of inquiry including research designs, specific data collection methods, and analytic and interpretive procedures. A major portion of the class time is distributed toward a qualitative field experience where students work on a qualitative research project with a faculty member.

**SUMMER II**

**SOWK 9102 Seminar on Issues in Social Work Education and Research (New Course)**

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Prerequisite: Admission to the PhD program and consent of the instructor or the graduate adviser.

**FALL II**

**SOWK 9325 – Statistics II**

Designed to build upon Statistical Analysis I. The focus is on multivariate statistical procedures and the utilization of the statistical output in research findings.

**SOWK 9330 – Quantitative Research**

Designed to introduce the students to fundamental concepts and statistical procedures used in social work research. It also introduces students to computer applications of data analysis and helps to develop basic skills in data file construction, management, and statistical analysis. The primary focus of the course is on developing a conceptual and mathematical understanding of statistics needed for advanced work in research design, model development, model fitting and estimation, hypothesis testing, multivariate techniques, and interpretation of data.

## **SPRING II**

### **SOWK 9338 – Qualitative Research II**

Designed to build upon Qualitative Research I. An experiential course where students apply qualitative methods with the primary focus of the course on developing a publishable quality manuscript using rigorous qualitative design and analysis.

### **SOWK 9342 – Grants and Proposals**

This project-based course covers the complete process of grant proposal development: identification of achievable and fundable project, research and assessment of viable funding sources, funder relations, proposal writing, budget development, preparation of a full proposal package for submission, and post award or rejection follow-up with funders. Students gain an understanding of the academic research funding environment and became familiar with tools and resources available to assist them as they seek funds for their projects/ institutions. Students must have a specific project or fairly-well developed idea that they build upon as the basis for their coursework and final grant proposal.

## **SUMMER III**

### **SOWK 9102 Seminar on Issues in Social Work Education and Research (New Course)**

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Prerequisite: Admission to the PhD program and consent of the instructor or the graduate adviser.

## **FALL III**

### **SOWK 9446 – Pedagogy of Distance Education**

Applying what has been learned in Introduction to Pedagogy to the online environment covering curriculum development, working with instruction designers, implementation and evaluation, integrating technology across the curriculum, classroom environments and management, critical issues in distance education paradigms and developing community and student engagement.

Includes guest teaching lecture requirements.

### **SOWK 9351 – Mixed Methods Research**

Provides an overview of mixed methods research, with an emphasis on its application in social work research. Students are expected to have a basic understanding of quantitative and qualitative research methods prior to beginning this course. “Mixed methods” refers to the intentional mixing of quantitative and qualitative approaches within one study or across a program of research.

Engagement in mixed methods research is intended to enhance that researcher’s ability to study complex social phenomena holistically, while minimizing some of the limitations posed by mono-method (qualitative or quantitative) designs. The foundation for conducting mixed methods research in social work is laid by exploring the historical, philosophical, and epistemological, roots of this emerging research methodology. Methods for collecting, analyzing and presenting data will also be discussed.

### **SPRING III**

#### **SOWK 9363 – Scholarly Writing and Publishing**

To prepare students to develop and improve skills in scholarly writing and proposal development and providing students with both scholarly and practical knowledge on writing and publishing scientific manuscript in peer reviewed social science related journals. It will cover techniques for writing clear and well-organized manuscripts and ethical issues involving manuscripts preparation and publication. Emphasis will be placed on writing, editing, reviewing, revise and submit, and other applicable skills. At the end of this course, students will submit their paper publication.

#### **SOWK 9365 – Comprehensive (New Course)**

Designed to help students demonstrate knowledge in the substantive issues, key research questions, theory, empirical evidence, and implications in their area of specialization. The equivalent of three lecture hours a week for one semester. Offered on the credit/no credit basis only.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing and consent of instructor. Cumulates in the taking of the comprehensive.

### **SUMMER IV**

#### **SOWK 9102 Seminar on Issues in Social Work Education and Research (New Course)**

Restricted to doctoral students in social work. Exposure to the diversity of research topics and methods pursued by researchers and academicians in social work education and allied fields. Conference course. Offered on the credit/no credit basis only. Required every summer until proposal defense. May be repeated 4 times for credit. Include onsite summer residency in San Antonio. Course fee: \$550

Prerequisite: Admission to the PhD program and consent of the instructor or the graduate adviser.

**FALL IV**

**SOWK 9572 –Dissertation I**

Completion of student’s literature review, theoretical underpinning, methods sections of dissertation, and defending the dissertation proposal. Pass/fail.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of SOWK 9365 (Comprehension)

**SOWK 9172 – Colloquium Dissertation I (New Course)**

Pass/fail.

Prerequisite: Must be enrolled in SOWK 9572 (Dissertation I)

**SPRING IV**

**SOWK 9583 – Dissertation II**

Engaging in data collection for approval of dissertation study. Pass/fail. Course Fee - \$130

Prerequisite: Dissertation I and successful proposal defense. May be repeated for credit.

**SOWK 9183– Colloquium Dissertation II**

Pass/fail

Prerequisite: Must be enrolled in SOWK 9135 (Dissertation II)

*September 2019 - Gomez*