

**Our Lady of the Lake University**  
**Worden School of Social Service**  
**PhD Course Sequence and Course Description - 2021-2022 Catalog**  
**54 hours**

**SUMMER I**

**SOWK 9301: Introduction to Pedagogy**

Focusing on social work curriculum policy and issues, course development and content, teaching techniques, and classroom management. Emphasizing skill as well as conceptual content and theory. Students will identify and develop a variety of specific concrete strategies for teaching and evaluating the practice of teaching course will cover several considerations for developing these strategies to address the complex system of concerns including multiple learning styles, developmental needs of students, and diversity. Evaluating and teaching will be addressed as a strategy for scholarship. On-campus residency required. Course fee: \$550

**FALL I**

**SOWK 9308: Epistemology and 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 9311: 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.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of SOWK 9301 (Introduction to Pedagogy).

**SPRING I**

**SOWK 9315: Statistical Methods I**

The course is designed to provide a basic introduction to the conceptual and quantitative tools used to analyze, describe, and interpret data in social work research. Students will learn how to select, calculate, and interpret appropriate statistics applicable to common data analysis situations in social work research. The course provides students with the opportunity to acquire personal computer skills in SPSS statistical software to calculate statistics and present results. Subjects include univariate and bivariate analysis, hypothesis testing, inferential statistics, and regression.

### **SOWK 9319: Qualitative Research**

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 9321: Scholarly Writing and Publication**

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. On-campus residency required. Course fee: \$550

## **FALL II**

### **SOWK 9325: Statistical Methods II**

Students apply complex research designs building upon Statistical Methods I. Students will study pre-analysis data screening and multivariate techniques in social work research. The focus is on advanced and multivariate statistical methods. Subjects include pre-analysis data screening, ANCOVA, MANCOVA, Path Analysis, Regression, Discriminant Analysis, and Factor Analysis.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of SOWK 9315 (Statistical Methods I).

### **SOWK 9330: Quantitative Research**

This course provides students an in-depth understanding of the quantitative research process and the competence necessary to design a quantitative research study. This process includes ethical research practices, problem formation, developing hypotheses and

research questions, experimental and observational research designs, measurement, sampling strategies, and data collection methods.

*Prerequisite:* Successful completion of SOWK 9315 (Statistical Methods I)

## SPRING II

### **SOWK 9335: 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.

*Prerequisite:* Successful completion of SOWK 9319 and SOWK 9330.

### **SOWK 9337: Social Welfare Policy**

Overview and analysis of social welfare systems in the United States as a response to social problems with special attention to the history of social work. Emphasizes on analysis of policy and programs aimed at addressing poverty and social justice.

## SUMMER III

### **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 become 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. On-campus residency required. Course fee: \$550

## FALL III

### **SOWK 9345: Comprehensive**

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:* Successful completion of all courses prior to Fall III in the course sequence.

### **SOWK 9352: Decolonized Pedagogy**

This course is theoretically grounded in writing studies and academic literacy from a (de) colonial and anti-racist framework. This course prepares students to conceptualize approaches from a decolonized perspective. The course will address ethical debate and conversations on the current state of the academic job market, including the challenges and controversies of the profession, and lesson plans and teaching strategies from a decolonized perspective.

*Prerequisite:* Successful completion of SOWK 9311 (Pedagogy of Distance Education).

### **SOWK 9164: Dissertation I**

Selecting dissertation committee chair, forming dissertation committee, engaging in literature review, select dissertation topic, and approval of the dissertation topic. Pass/fail.

## **SPRING III**

### **SOWK 9366: Academic Leadership**

Colleges and universities are unique institutions, but they increasingly resemble the complex organizations typically found in business and public administration. However, their special missions of teaching, research, and service put them in a distinct category where collegiality and university traditions of academic freedom introduce powerful crosscurrents of equality. The course critically examines the theory and practice of leadership and management in academia. Students work to master leadership theories and apply them within higher education settings. The course emphasizes the conceptual framework and skills, as well as the values and beliefs, which inform effective leadership in academic institutions.

### **SOWK 9367: Proposal Development**

Designed to provide on-going support and feedback concerning the process of developing the area of focus and the various components of the proposal. Designed to maximize progress on the paper. Unlike other courses in the doctoral sequence, this course focuses

more on the process of developing this document than on the mastery of content from lectures and readings. The writing assignments should support the objectives of the proposal. Students responsible to complete the various sections leading to the final document and the various writing assignments are meant to facilitate the process.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of SOWK 9164 (Dissertation I)

### **SOWK 9167: Dissertation II**

Completion of student's literature review, theoretical underpinning, and the draft of the first three chapters of the dissertation proposal. Pass/fail.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of SOWK 9164 (Dissertation I)

## **SUMMER IV**

### **SOWK 9369: Dissertation III**

Completion of student's literature review, theoretical underpinning, methods sections of dissertation, and defending the dissertation proposal. Pass/fail. On-campus residency required. Course fee: \$550

*Prerequisite:* Successful completion of SOWK 9167

## **FALL IV**

### **SOWK 9372: Dissertation IV**

Engaging in data collection and/or data analysis for approval of dissertation study. Pass/fail.

*Prerequisite:* Successful completion of SOWK 9369

## **SPRING IV**

### **SOWK 9183: Dissertation V**

Engaging in data analysis and finalizing all dissertation chapters for the approval of dissertation study. Pass/fail.

*Prerequisite:* Successful completion of SOWK 9372. May be repeated for credit if students do not transition to candidacy.

