

Teaching Opportunities for Ph.D. Students

The following sections describe the teaching opportunities that may be available to Ph.D. students, as well as the requirements, procedures, and time lines for applying for these positions. If you have any questions regarding the procedures or requirements, please contact the Director of the Ph.D. Program. Specific teaching appointments are made by the Associate Dean of the School of Social Work.

Courses that Ph.D. Students May Teach

In general, there are three types of courses that Ph.D. students may be eligible to teach, and the requirements for teaching these courses differ. The courses are:

Social Work 200 Teaching assistant for this large undergraduate course that introduces students to social work. In some cases, students who have gained initial teaching experience can become instructors for this course as well.

MSW Foundation Courses Adjunct instructor for series of courses for MSW students who did not receive BSW degrees. These “foundation” courses include SW 400 (Generalist Social Work Practice Methods), SW 410 (Social Welfare Policy and Services), SW427 (Social Work Research Methods), and SW 451 (HBSE I: Human Development).

Advanced MSW Courses Adjunct instructor for MSW courses other than foundation courses (only if Ph.D. student has special expertise related to the course).

In addition to the social work courses indicated above, Ph.D. students occasionally serve as teaching assistants or adjunct instructors in other departments. In that case, students are subject to the procedures and requirements of the department offering the courses as they pursue teaching assignments.

Requirements for Teaching Assignment Eligibility for School of Social Work Courses

The requirements for Ph.D. teaching eligibility differ depending on whether a student is teaching undergraduates (Social Work 200) or MSW students. These differences derive from the requirement of the UIUC Graduate College that graduate student teachers generally should have a higher degree than the students they teach, unless a written exception is made. Within the School, such exception requests will be made only after Ph.D. students have completed all coursework and their qualifying examination. In addition, Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) rules require that persons teaching MSW practice courses have at least two years of post-MSW practice experience.

The Graduate College also requires international students to complete additional requirements from which U.S. students are exempt. The following table summarizes all requirements for both international and U.S. students for the opportunities for which Ph.D. students may be eligible.

Summary of Eligibility Requirements for Teaching Various Courses

Type of Course	U.S. Students	International Students
Undergraduate course (SW 200)	<p><u>Before consideration:</u> Completion of teaching course (except with written exception)</p> <p><u>If selected to teach:</u> Completion of general teaching assistant workshop (recommended)</p>	<p><u>Before consideration:</u> Completion of teaching course (except with written exception)</p> <p>Passage of SPEAK test</p> <p><u>If selected to teach:</u> Completion of international teaching workshop</p> <p>Completion of general teaching assistant workshop (recommended)</p>
MSW foundation courses (SW 400, SW 410, SW 427, and SW 451)	Same as for undergraduate course, except also must have completed all required coursework and qualifying examination	Same as for undergraduate course, except also must have completed all required coursework and qualifying examination

	For practice methods courses, two years of post MSW practice experience also is required	For practice methods courses, two years of post MSW practice experience also is required
Advanced MSW courses	Same as for MSW foundation courses, except must also demonstrate special expertise related to the content of the advance course	Same as for MSW foundation courses, except must also demonstrate special expertise related to the content of the advance course