Social Work Ph.D. Program
Teaching Sequence

Students interested in pursuing careers in academia are strongly encouraged to participate in the sequence of structured learning and teaching opportunities offered by the Doctoral Program:

**SOWK 835.** The sequence begins with SOWK 835, Theory and Practice of Social Work Teaching. Requirements include presentation of lectures, observations and analysis of experienced teachers, and developing a beginning statement of teaching philosophy. 3 credits, generally taken fall semester second year.

**Teaching Assistantship:** As TAs, students work with a specific faculty member to obtain a more in-depth introduction to the role and responsibilities of the social work educator. The faculty member will be identified by the student, in consultation with the doctoral program director and the student’s advisor. While specific assignments will be negotiated between the student and course instructor, students will have the opportunity to observe classroom lectures and participate, in limited ways, in classroom discussions and other teaching responsibilities. *Pre-requisite: SOWK 835. Approximately 1-4 hour(s) per week plus attendance at monthly integrative teaching seminar. Serves as an introduction to classroom teaching for those students who have limited or no experience. Non-credit, generally taken spring semester second year.*

**Graduate Teaching Fellowship.** In the mentored graduate teaching fellowship (GTF) experience, students have the opportunity to teach two courses with the supervision and mentorship of a faculty member. Students must apply for a GTF and teaching assignments are based on the student’s interests and ability and the needs of the BSW and MSW programs. Students are assigned to work with mentors based upon their interest in teaching at a particular level (i.e., BSW or MSW) and/or preference for a particular course (i.e., research or practice; foundation/generalist or advanced). Specific requirements of the fellowship are:

- Develop and present classroom lectures
- Develop and grade classroom assignments and exams
- Meet weekly for an hour with the mentor
- Attend a monthly teaching brown bag lunch session
- Update, revise, and refine statement of teaching philosophy developed in SOWK 835

Faculty mentors are selected based upon their willingness and ability to commit their time to the learning needs of the doctoral student as well as their expertise as social work educators and scholars. At minimum, mentors must be able to:

- Meet weekly with the student for discussion of and feedback regarding teaching experiences
- Assist student with developing and presenting classroom lectures
- Assist student with developing and grading assignments
- Provide ongoing feedback to student about her or his performance
- Review and discuss student’s teaching philosophy
Pre-requisite: SOWK 835, previous teaching experience, or successful completion of teaching assistantship. Graduate Teaching Fellows teach one course per semester for two semesters and receive a stipend, tuition remission, and health insurance coverage at the same rate as a 10 hour per week Graduate Research Assistant. Non-credit, generally taken fall and spring semesters third year.

Adjunct Teaching. Students are assigned to teach a specific course, based upon their interest area and the teaching needs of the graduate and undergraduate programs. The student will have sole responsibility for teaching the course, but will have the support and guidance of a designated advisor. Students are strongly encouraged to attend the monthly integrative seminar. Students also are strongly encouraged to continue to refine and update their statement of teaching philosophy first created in SOWK 835. Pre-requisite: Successful completion of the mentored teaching fellowship. Students are paid at the same rate as other adjunct instructors. Non-credit.

Other Encouraged Educational Activities. Students are encouraged to participate in other educational or teaching activities, such as reviewing applications for the M.S.W. program, when possible.