HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND
SOCIAL POLICY PROGRAM
PHD

Degree Requirements

The following requirements are in addition to, or further elaborate upon, those requirements outlined in The Graduate School Policy Guide (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/tgs/academic-policies-procedures).

Master's

There is no terminal degree in Human Development and Social Policy. Students pursuing the PhD may receive the MA as part of their doctoral course of study at their discretion; those leaving the program prior to the completion through to earning the PhD may receive the MA if they qualify.

Total Units Required: 13

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<tr>
<td>HDSP 401-0</td>
<td>Proseminar in Human Development and Social Policy</td>
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Foundations of Human Development (4 units)

Three of the four following courses:

- HDSP 402-0: Child Development and Social Policy
- HDSP 403-0: Adolescent Development
- HDSP 404-0: Adult Development and Aging
- HDSP 415-0: Nature vs. Nurture Revisited

Foundations in Empirical Research Methods (4 units)

- HDSP 410-0: Quantitative Methods I: Probability and Statistics
- HDSP 411-0: Quantitative Methods II: Regression Analysis
- HDSP 432-0: Field Methods

Foundations of Social Policy (4 units)

Students must take one course from each of the following groups:

Group I

- HDSP 430-0: Economics of Social Policy

Group II

- HDSP 429-0: Social-Community Interventions
- HDSP 451-0: Topics in Human Development & Soc Policy (Organizations, Institutions and Society: Persistence and Change Among Public, Private and Non-Profit Sectors)

Group III

- HDSP 428-0: Education Policy: Design, Implementation and Effects
- HDSP 427-0: Sociology of Education

Group IV

- HDSP 433-0: Modern Theories of the State and Social Policy
- HDSP 442-0: Social Policymaking and Policy Implementation

Other MA Degree Requirements

- Examinations: none specified
- Research/Projects: see master’s thesis below
- Master's Thesis (HDSP Trial Research): The Trial Research addresses questions that can be answered through empirical, feasible investigations (please note that neither a critical review of the literature on a topic, nor a speculative essay, is acceptable). The final paper should include the student’s particular
  a. research questions
  b. conceptual framework and review of prior literature
  c. methods of data collection
  d. results, and
  e. discussion, conclusions, interpretations, and suggestions for further research.

PhD

HDSP Curriculum Overview To obtain a PhD in Human Development and Social Policy (HDSP), students entering the program without master’s degrees must complete 27 courses, including the core curriculum and electives, a trial research and an annotated course outline. Those students entering the program with a master's degree may petition the Program Chair to receive up to nine elective course waivers, which could potentially reduce the required course number to 18 courses, including the core curriculum and remaining 4 electives. There are no qualifying examinations. Instead, successful completion of the Trial Research and The Guided Literature Review OR Course Outline admits a student to PhD candidacy. There is a two quarter teaching requirement to serve as a teaching assistant. The last requirement for the degree is completion of a dissertation.

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