The PhD in Social Welfare prepares students for leadership in the advancement of social welfare education, practice, policy development and research. The program promotes social justice and global understanding through scholarly inquiry using a variety of approaches, including indigenous and mixed method approaches. With advanced research and leadership training, a variety of career opportunities become available, including research and academic positions, as well as positions in government offices and non-profit organizations.

As the only school in Hawai‘i that offers a Ph.D. in Social Welfare, our program emphasizes knowledge development which enhances the wellbeing of Native Hawaiians, and the diverse people and communities of Hawai‘i and Asian-Pacific Region. Built upon fundamental knowledge and research methods, our curriculum is customized to each student’s interests through a specialization plan. Students engage in research on the topics ranging from mental health services, Native Hawaiian elder care, child welfare, homelessness, human trafficking, to social justice in social work education, to name a few. The program requires 46 credits for graduation besides dissertation research; the average time to degree is 6 years.

Why pursue a Ph.D. in Social Welfare at UH Mānoa?

Our faculty are experts in areas ranging from child welfare, youth development, mental health, substance use, gerontology, indigenous wellbeing, Asian and Pacific Islander health, juvenile justice, hate crimes, community intervention, health care policy, and international social welfare. We collaborate with State Departments, non-profit and grass-roots organizations, and national and international institutions. We have the only national research center for Native Hawaiian elders, Ha Kupuna. See our faculty directory and faculty research profiles at https://www.hawaii.edu/sswork/facnstaff.html
### ACADEMIC JOURNEY

- **46 credits; 4-6 years**
- **Core courses: 18 credits**
- **Specialization & Elective: 18 credits**
- **Research & Teaching Practica: 6 credits**
- **Seminar & Dissertation design: 4 credits**

**ENgage**
- New student orientation
- Meet with faculty advisors each semester
- Annual student review

**NAvigate**
- Complete core courses;
- Key benchmarks: Qualify exam; Specialization plan;
- Comprehensive exam; and Final defense

**Communicate**
- Conduct dissertation research, write, and submit dissertation

### INVOLVEMENT

- **Student representative in PhD program committee**
- **Graduate Student Organization**
- **SW Doctoral Students Hui**
- **Professional societies and conferences**

**ENgage**
- Participate in PhD program committee on curriculum and student affairs
- Participate in department brown bag series

**NAvigate**
- Participate in SW and University graduate student organization
- Participate in professional societies regional and national conferences
- Participate in community-based research
- Participate in faculty research projects via Research practica and research assistantship
- Present scholarly work to faculty, students, and professionals

**Communicate**
- Participate in SW and University graduate student organization
- Participate in SW and University graduate student organization

### KNOWLEDGE/SKILL BUILDING

- **Social Work Knowledge**
- **Qualitative research methods**
- **Quantitative research methods**
- **Policy analysis**
- **College-level teaching skills**

**ENgage**
- Learn quantitative, qualitative and indigenous research
- Develop substantive knowledge on topics of specialization
- Develop presentation and scientific writing skills

**NAvigate**
- Take specialization courses and elective courses disciplines on campus
- Take seminar to develop dissertation research
- Identify faculty adviser/chair for specialization and dissertation committee
- Complete Research and Teaching practica to gain hands-on experience

**Communicate**
- Discuss career opportunities with advisers and alumni
- Participate in workshops on resume/CV development, and job market info.

### CAREER PLANNING

- **Professional materials**
- **Professional development**
- **Other opportunities and experiences**

**ENgage**
- Discuss career opportunities with advisers and alumni
- Participate in workshops on resume/CV development, and job market info.

**NAvigate**
- Expand community and professional network through research and professional activities
- Develop a portfolio of research and teaching statement, writing samples, professional experiences and accomplishments
- Update resume/CV and solicit letters of recommendations

### Links

**Program Website:**
- [https://www.hawaii.edu/sswork/phd/](https://www.hawaii.edu/sswork/phd/)
**Contact Information for program:**
- sswadmit@hawaii.edu
**Funding Opportunities:**
- [https://www.hawaii.edu/sswork/phd/student-resources/](https://www.hawaii.edu/sswork/phd/student-resources/)

**Recent research by graduates and alumni:**
- [https://www.hawaii.edu/sswork/phd/phd-graduates/](https://www.hawaii.edu/sswork/phd/phd-graduates/)
**PhD Student Profile**
- [https://www.hawaii.edu/sswork/phd/phd-profile/](https://www.hawaii.edu/sswork/phd/phd-profile/)
**Faculty webpages, CVs, or profiles:**
- [https://www.hawaii.edu/sswork/phd/graduate-faculty-research/](https://www.hawaii.edu/sswork/phd/graduate-faculty-research/)

**Career options with this degree:**
- Faculty and researchers at Universities and Colleges
- Researchers at think tanks and research centers
- Researchers and officers at the military
- Administrators in government agencies
- Administrators in non-profit organizations
- Community practitioners and Policy advocates