



CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY

MANDEL SCHOOL OF APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCES



MSASS Doctoral Program: Information for Applicants

What is the Purpose of Doctoral Education in Social Welfare?

- To prepare scholars, teachers and leaders to generate new knowledge on the policies and programs of social welfare and the practice of social work
- Since 1952, MSASS doctoral program has developed leadership in social work *theory, research and teaching*
- PhDs in social work make significant contributions to social work education and the scientific and professional literature in social work & social welfare



What is the Program Structure?

Credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 36 credit hours of coursework▪ 18 hours dissertation credit
Sequence to degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Coursework▪ Qualifying exam (Take home essay & one day in class exam)▪ Prospectus▪ Dissertation
Dissertation Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 3 MSASS faculty▪ 1 member from another department/discipline
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Interdisciplinary coursework▪ Research training▪ Teaching

Program Structure: Full Time vs. Part Time

	Full Time	Part Time
Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 courses a semester over 2 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 courses a semester on Fridays over a 3 year period
All students complete the qualifying exam and dissertation		
Research activity / Fellowship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 yr research fellowship stipend assigned to work with a faculty research advisor to learn hands on research & teaching skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faculty advisor assigned throughout the program A semester for hands on research skill training and/or teaching
Tuition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition waivers covering all required credits for three years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half tuition waivers for all coursework

Who Applies?

- Between 40-60 applications annually
- Program accepts 5 full time students and up to 4 part time students
- Master degree in social work or related field is required
- Social work or related experience preferred
- Average GRE score (verbal+quantitative) of entering students over past five years is 1231.
- Current students come from 13 states and 3 countries.



Who graduates?

- Our student finish! 88% retention rate
- Average time to completion 5-6 years
- 21% completed coursework and dissertation in four years or less; 22% completed in five years
- 16% were minority and 8% were international students
- MSASS graduates are in 34 states & 11 countries
- Three fourths (76%) of graduates are employed in university-based tenure track faculty, research or administrative positions; others are in government or non profits



What Do Doctoral Students Do?

- Nearly half (46%) of our doctoral students publish while they are in the program
- On average, MSASS doctoral students publish 2.29 peer reviewed journal articles while in the program
- During the past academic year, MSASS doctoral students presented at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, the Gerontological Society of America, and Society for Social Work, and Research Conference, among others
- On average, MSASS doctoral students conduct 2.6 presentations at professional conferences



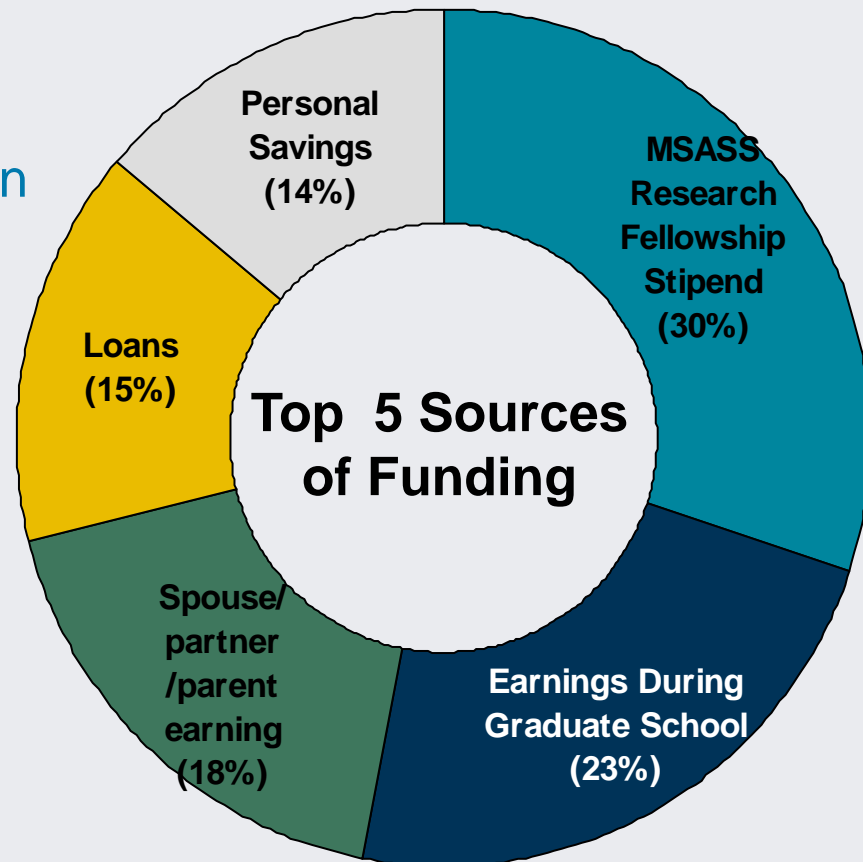
What Do Doctoral Students Do?



- 72% of MSASS doctoral students gain teaching experience while in the program
- 48% of currently enrolled students received travel funds from the program to present at and attend conferences

How do Students Fund their Education?

- Externally funded dissertation grants or awards (7 students currently)
- Teaching as paid MSASS adjunct faculty (20%)
- Employed by University with benefits (13%)



What do Doctoral Students Say about the Program?



***“This program is wonderful;
it is both internally supportive
and externally competitive.
I have learned to think critically
and examine policy and practice on a deeper level”***

What do Doctoral Students Say about the Program?

- Over 90% of students are satisfied with the availability/accessibility of faculty
 - : *80% of these students were highly satisfied*
- 100% are satisfied with the quality of teaching
- 80% report experiencing *strong* mentoring from the program
- Over 90% feel they “belong” to the program
- Library resources are *highly* rated



What do Doctoral Students Say about the Program?

- Over three-fourths rate interactions with faculty as *highly* interactive and supportive
- Over two-thirds find their fellow students *highly* supportive
- Quality of faculty and faculty research are by far considered to be the greatest strengths of the MSASS doctoral program
- Current doctoral students chose to come to the MSASS doctoral program due to MSASS school ranking, financial support and quality of doctoral faculty

What do External Reviewers Say about the Program?



“Overall, the doctoral program is achieving its goals, has a talented faculty and a well-thought out program, has strong support from the dean, and has excellent leadership from the director and the doctoral committee” (June, 2008)

Where Can I Get Further Information?



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