

Spiritual Diversity Focus of Interest for KU Social Work Ph.D. Program *Guidelines for Students (2013)*

These guidelines explain how University of Kansas social work Ph.D. students interested in spiritual diversity can develop specialized knowledge by use of social work study and by drawing on other departments, such as Religious Studies, to enhance their coursework, qualifying paper, and dissertation. Students can use these guidelines to prepare discussions with their Advisors. Dr. Edward Canda (School of Social Welfare) is available to discuss these guidelines with students and their Advisors.

Note that these guidelines do not change any requirements for the doctoral program. Students must comply with current doctoral program requirements.

Coursework

- **Social Work Courses:** Students can look for opportunities to tailor assignments around spiritual diversity, including developing and applying research methods to their area of interest and increasing their knowledge and theory base regarding spiritual diversity.
- **Electives:** The program requires a minimum of 4 electives. Some ways to incorporate spiritual diversity interests include:
 - Taking the MSW Spiritual Aspects in Social Work Practice course and tailoring assignments to doctoral level interests
 - Designing a Readings and Investigations course to explore literature pertaining to an area of interest. The student would need to identify a faculty instructor. See instructions in the PhD Program Handbook. Faculty affiliated with our School's Spiritual Diversity and Social Work Initiative would be most likely interested in doing this. This course could also be conducted with a Religious Studies department faculty member.
 - Identifying research skills electives to develop methodological expertise (qualitative, quantitative, or otherwise) that pertain to spiritual diversity interests.
 - Taking courses that focus on spirituality and religion in departments outside our School. Religious Studies is an especially good fit and has faculty members interested in working with social work doctoral students. Classes can focus on a particular religious tradition or on theories of religion or religious experience. Other departments might offer opportunities, such as in psychology, anthropology, and sociology.

Qualifying Paper

- Students can identify an area of interest related to spirituality or religion that forms the basis of the Qualifying Paper process.

- Students can select a chairperson and committee members who are supportive of that focus of study and then discuss with committee members how to connect one's interest into the paper. The required non-social work member should have expertise related to religion and spirituality, such as a Religious Studies faculty person.

Dissertation

- Students can identify a research topic related to spirituality/religion.
- Students can form a committee that is supportive of their methods and research question. Select a chairperson who has special expertise and interest related to your topic. The non-Social Work committee member (Graduate Studies representative) should have relevant expertise, such as from Religious Studies.
- Apply for the Spiritual Diversity and Social Work Doctoral Dissertation Scholarship. See the explanation appended to these guidelines.
- Examples of past KU dissertations that have addressed spiritual issues include:
 - The Role of Spirituality in the Lives and Recovery Efforts of Individuals with Severe Mental Illnesses. Vincent Starnino, 2011.
 - The Influence of Perceived Workplace Spirituality on Job Satisfaction, Intention to Leave, and Emotional Exhaustion among Community Mental Health Center Workers in the State of Kansas. Young Joon Hong, 2009.
 - King Alcohol to Chief Peyote: The experiences of Indigenous People's Use of Peyote in the Recovery from Alcohol or Drug Addiction. Bob Prue, 2008. (Includes detailed examination of the Native American Church.)
 - Hope and Mental Health Recovery: Co-constructing New Paradigm Knowledge. Priscilla A. Ridgway, 2004. (Includes spirituality as a factor in hope and resilience in mental health recovery.)
 - The Meaning of Health from the Perspectives of People with Mobility Disabilities. Kyung Mee Kim, 2003. (Includes spirituality in holistic approaches to health.)
 - A Qualitative Inquiry into the Psychosocial and Spiritual Well-Being of Older Adults at the End of Life. Mitsuko Nakashima, 2002.

For further information or questions:

In Social Work, contact Professor Edward Canda at 785-864-8939 or edc@ku.edu. See the PhD Program description under Academic Programs and the Spiritual Diversity and Social Work Initiative website, both on our University of Kansas School of Social Welfare website.

Spiritual Diversity and Social Work
University of Kansas Doctoral Dissertation Scholarship
(established May 2010)

Funder

This scholarship for KU social work Ph.D. students was established by Professor Edward Canda on the basis of anonymous donations in the Spiritual Diversity and Social Work Initiatives Fund administered by the KU Endowment Association.

Eligibility Criteria

- Ph.D. Student in University of Kansas School of Social Welfare
- Doctoral dissertation topic related to issues of spirituality, religion, ethics, or philosophy of social work consistent with professional ethical standards respecting diversity
- Satisfactory completion of doctoral dissertation proposal defense
- Record of relevant professional contributions such as publishing, service, research projects, teaching, training, or conference presentations
- Preferred:
 - Minimum 3.5 doctoral GPA
 - Interdisciplinary graduate level coursework on content and research methods relevant to dissertation

Application Deadline

- As soon as possible **after dissertation proposal defense**

Nomination Process

- Ordinarily, the dissertation committee chair nominates the student who has successfully completed the dissertation proposal defense
 - In order to avoid role conflict, if Dr. Canda is the dissertation chair, the methodologist or another Social Welfare committee member nominates
 - The nominator completes a letter of nomination (see below)

Notes

- 1 or 2 awarded per academic year, as available
- Amount: \$1,000 cash award for dissertation related expenses (note: international students might have tax withholding subject to tax regulations)
- Award decision made by ad hoc faculty committee convened by Dr. Canda, based on 2/3 vote
- Student submits for consideration: (1) cover letter (4-5 pages double spaced) summarizing interest and dissertation plan (i.e. topic, research questions, methodology, timeline for completion), relevance to intent of scholarship, career goals, and qualifications; (2) KU current transcript or academic record; (3) letter of nomination and support from faculty nominator; (4) academic curriculum vitae. *All documents must be submitted as pdfs attached to an email to Dr. Canda, marked urgent.*
- Contact: Dr. Edward Canda, 785-864-8939, edc@ku.edu