# Sample Plan of Study for the PhD in Social Welfare

The following sample plan of study outlines a suggested sequence of coursework and some major doctoral degree completion activities and milestones. Please note these are just sample guidelines - it is important to be flexible and recognize that your ideal plans may not always work out. Having a “plan B” is essential. We also recommend that you talk to peers and attend PhD navigation meetings to hear about other students’ experiences, as well as gain insights and advice about making your way through the PhD program.

## First Year

### Fall
- **Coursework:**
  - PB HLTH 142 or EDUC 293A
  - SOC WEL 279
  - SOC WEL 287
  - SOC WEL 375
- Develop a plan with your adviser for QE areas & examiners
- Plan independent studies with professors to work on papers & bibliographies
- Begin work on Qualifying Paper #1 (in context of SW 279) & Bibliography #1
- Begin keeping a list of interests & potential research questions to discuss with adviser
- Research GSR/GSI opportunities

### Spring
- **Coursework:**
  - PB HLTH 145 or EDUC 275B
  - SOC WEL 289A
  - SOC WEL 296 units
- Choose at least 2 QE committee members
- Decide on other two areas for papers and bibliographies
- **Complete Qualifying Paper #1**
  - Meet with paper & bibliography advisers about plans for summer progress & summer advising
- Serve as GSR/GSI

### Summer
- **1st Year Competency Exam**
- SOC WEL 296 (Independent Study) units
- **Complete Qualifying Bibliography #1**
- Serve as GSR/GSI

## Second Year

### Fall
- **Coursework:**
  - PB HLTH 241
  - Social Science Theory course(s); SOC WEL 296 units
- Identify outside Qualifying Exam committee member
- Begin work on Qualifying Paper #2 & Bibliography #2
- Continue formulating dissertation idea with adviser
- Serve as GSR/GSI
- Work with adviser to develop article ideas based on first qualifying paper
### Second Year

**Spring**
- **Coursework:**
  - PB HLTH 242
  - Required Research Elective
  - SOC WEL 296 units
- Have QE committee selected
- **Complete Qualifying Paper #2**
  - Dissertation plans should be well-formulated; consider access issues to data, populations of interest
  - Serve as GSR/GSI
  - Submit abstract to CSWE, SSWR, & other conferences for paper presentation on article idea

**Summer**
- Individual study units
- **Complete Qualifying Bibliography #2**
- Serve as GSR/GSI
- Work with adviser to write article on qualifying paper

### Third Year

**Fall**
- **Coursework:**
  - SOC WEL 295-Dissertation Seminar; individual study units; elective research/stats course
  - Begin Qualifying Paper #3
  - Develop dissertation proposal
  - Prepare applications for dissertation funding and submit throughout the year
  - Submit human subjects protocol to IRB
  - Serve as GSR/GSI
  - Present at CSWE, SSWR, other conferences

**Spring**
- **Coursework:**
  - Individual study units; elective research/ stats course
  - Contact QE committee members early in semester to set exam date
  - **Complete ALL qualifying materials 6 weeks in advance of exam**
  - Complete QE before end term
  - Apply for advancement to candidacy
  - Serve as GSR/GSI
  - Submit dissertation funding
  - Submit presentation abstract to CSWE, SSWR, other conferences

**Summer**
- **Coursework:**
  - Individual research units
- **Meeting with Dissertation Committee**
- Submit dissertation paperwork
- Serve as GSR/GSI, or teach in undergraduate program
- Write article or paper relating to GSR experience

Complete online Academic Progress Report (APR)
## Fourth Year

- Data collection & analysis
- Dissertation writing
- Present at CSWE, SSWR, other conferences

## Fifth Year

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<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Dissertation draft complete</th>
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<td>Apply for faculty positions</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Dissertation complete</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interview for faculty positions</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Present dissertation research at annual Haviland Scholars Day</td>
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**Graduation!!**

- Degrees conferred in May & December
- Annual Scholars Day presentations & Commencement Ceremony in May