

PhD IN SOCIAL WORK

Campus Where the Program Is Offered: CSH

OBJECTIVES

Scholars capable of advancing knowledge in social work and ensuring higher education teaching that aligns with the complexity and new challenges of contemporary social realities.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (COMPETENCIES)

1. Master the theoretical frameworks, conceptual foundations, and current trends in the field of study to position one's work at the forefront of current knowledge.
2. Produce original scientific contributions, validated by peers, that significantly advance the field of research.
3. Apply advanced research methodologies, including analytical, qualitative, quantitative, or mixed techniques, to process data.
4. Communicate concepts and results effectively and critically to diverse audiences while employing appropriate teaching strategies to support learning.
5. Demonstrate scientific integrity by adhering to professional standards, including consideration of the social, cultural, and ethical impacts of research.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission prerequisites: Master in Social Work

Field(s): social animation, special education, social studies, family, intercultural mediation, community health, humanities, social work, social service, social interventions and family dynamics, socio-educational counseling, community development and action, socio-cultural engineering, society, women's studies.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

180 Credits: Required Courses (174 Credits), Institution's Elective Courses (6 Credits).

Required courses (174 Cr.)

PhD Dissertation (12 Cr.). PhD Dissertation (15 Cr.). PhD Dissertation (15 Cr.). PhD Dissertation (15 Cr.). PhD Dissertation (27 Cr.). PhD Dissertation (30 Cr.). Seminar on Advanced Qualitative Research Applied to Social Work (3 Cr.). Seminar on Advanced Quantitative Research Applied to Social Work (3 Cr.). Dissertation Project: Development of the Analytical Framework (9 Cr.). Dissertation Project: Development of the Research Methodology (15 Cr.). Dissertation Project: Development of the Research Problem (15 Cr.). Dissertation Project: Finalization and Defense (15 Cr.).

Institution's Elective Courses (6 Cr.)

Choice of one of the languages: Doctoral Seminars (Arabic Language) (3 Cr.). Doctoral Seminars (English Language) (3 Cr.). Doctoral Seminars (French Language) (3 Cr.). Other Activities (3 Cr.).

SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

Semester 1

Code	Course Name	Credits
015PRTD1	Dissertation Project: Development of the Research Problem	15
015PTCAD1	Dissertation Project: Development of the Analytical Framework	9
015ST1AD1	Seminar on Advanced Qualitative Research Applied to Social Work	3
015SRQTD1	Seminar on Advanced Quantitative Research Applied to Social Work	3
	Total	30

Semester 2

Code	Course Name	Credits
015PTH3D2	Dissertation Project: Development of the Research Methodology	15
015PTFSD2	Dissertation Project: Finalization and Defense	15
	Total	30

Semester 3

Code	Course Name	Credits
015TDI1D3	PhD Dissertation	15
015TDI2D3	PhD Dissertation	15
	Total	30

Semester 4

Code	Course Name	Credits
015TDI3D4	PhD Dissertation	15
015TDI4D4	PhD Dissertation	12
089DOCAD2 or 089DOCGD2 or 089DOCFD2	Doctoral Seminars (Arabic Language) or Doctoral Seminars (English Language) or Doctoral Seminars (French Language)	3
	Total	30

Semester 5

Code	Course Name	Credits
015TDS5D5	PhD Dissertation	27
089ACT3D1	Other Activities	3
	Total	30

Semester 6

Code	Course Name	Credits
015TDS6D6	PhD Dissertation	30
	Total	30

COURSE DESCRIPTION

015TDI1D3	PhD Dissertation	15 Cr.
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First phase of the PhD dissertation writing.

015TDI1D3	PhD Dissertation	15 Cr.
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Second phase of the PhD dissertation writing.

015TDI1D3	PhD Dissertation	15 Cr.
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Third phase of the PhD dissertation writing.

015TD1D3	PhD Dissertation	15 Cr.
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Fourth phase of the PhD dissertation writing.

015TD1D3	PhD Dissertation	15 Cr.
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Fifth phase of the PhD dissertation writing.

015TD1D3	PhD Dissertation	15 Cr.
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Finalization and dissertation defense.

089DOCAD2	Doctoral Seminars (Arabic Language)	3 Cr.
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- 1- Learning to speak before an audience of researchers
- 2- Opening up to other disciplines
- 3- Exchanges between PhD candidates

089DOCGD2	Doctoral Seminars (English Language)	3 Cr.
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- 1- Learning to speak before an audience of researchers
- 2- Opening up to other disciplines
- 3- Exchanges between PhD candidates

089DOCFD2	Doctoral Seminars (French Language)	3 Cr.
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- 1- Learning to speak before an audience of researchers
- 2- Opening up to other disciplines
- 3- Exchanges between PhD candidates

089ACT3D1	Other Activities	3 Cr.
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Activities and seminars approved by the Doctoral School.

015ST1AD1	Seminar on Advanced Qualitative Research Applied to Social Work	3 Cr.
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This seminar develops the epistemological and methodological foundations specific to qualitative research applied to social work. It is designed to strengthen PhD candidates' practical capacity to deepen the scientific rigor of studies within this research tradition. To this end, it integrates theoretical contributions with applied exercises focused on their research topics, alongside critical analyses of scientific articles.

015SRQTD1	Seminar on Advanced Quantitative Research Applied to Social Work	3 Cr.
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This seminar further develops the epistemological foundations and key concepts of quantitative research as applied to social work. It is designed to strengthen PhD candidates' advanced methodological competencies, enabling them to rigorously apply quantitative tools in their research. It also introduces mixed methods, with particular attention to the conditions governing their integration and articulation. To this end, it emphasizes concrete applications grounded in their dissertation topics within the field of social work.

015PRTD1	Dissertation Project: Development of the Research Problem	15 Cr.
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The dissertation project is a document of approximately fifty pages comprising the formulation of the research problem, the theoretical framework, and the proposed methodological approach.

It is developed by the student under the supervision of the research advisor and is presented for defense before a jury. A minimum grade of 'Good' (14–15/20) is required for admission to the PhD track. In the event of failure, the student is allowed to resubmit the proposal within the same academic year; however, a second failure is not permitted.

At ESTS, the dissertation project is organized into four sections corresponding to its main components.

This first section is dedicated to the formulation of the research problem, grounded in a comprehensive review of existing knowledge on the topic at the Western, regional, and local levels. This process leads to the construction of a research question rooted in a concrete empirical situation, generating a clear scientific inquiry, and ensuring a rigorous articulation between contextual relevance and scientific significance.

015PTCAD1	Dissertation Project: Development of the Analytical Framework	9 Cr.
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This second section of the dissertation project focuses on the development of the analytical (or theoretical) framework, in which the PhD candidate clarifies their theoretical choices in relation to the research topic under study. Depending on the nature of the research, it includes the presentation of relevant theoretical approaches, the definition and articulation of key concepts (for qualitative research), or the construction of a conceptual framework and the operationalization of variables (for quantitative research). It also involves the justification of the selected theoretical perspective and highlights its relevance to the research question.

015PTH3D2	Dissertation Project: Development of the Research Methodology	15 Cr.
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This third section of the dissertation project is dedicated to the development of the methodological framework, through which the chosen empirical research design is presented and justified. It clarifies the epistemological stance and the methodological approach adopted (quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods), as well as the scope of the study. It further details the research design, including the target population, sampling strategy, data collection techniques, and procedures for their validation. It also sets out the planned research process and the methods of data analysis, along with anticipated limitations and potential biases. Finally, it addresses the ethical considerations governing the conduct of the research.

015PTFSD2	Dissertation Project: Finalization and Defense	15 Cr.
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This is the final part of the dissertation project, during which the PhD candidate ensures coherence between the different components of the work: the research problem, the analytical framework, and the methodological framework. At the end of the current semester of enrolment, the PhD candidate defends the project before a jury. Upon successful completion, submission of the project to the ethics committee is required prior to proceeding to the data collection phase.