Doctoral Programs in Social Work and Public Health Sciences
Preparing Leaders

Welcome to the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis. We prepare leaders in social work, public health and social policy — complementary professions aimed at supporting healthy and productive individuals, families, communities and systems.

Our collaborative and entrepreneurial community is dedicated to equity and committed to impact. We equip our students to think critically as social work and public health scientists, to succeed as independent investigators, and to understand and address challenges for the nation and world. The excellence and support of our faculty, the diversity and dedication of our students and the unique opportunities available through our School and Washington University create an unparalleled academic environment.

We hope you will learn more and join us.

Sincerely,

Mary M. McKay
Neidorff Family and Centene Corporation Dean, Brown School
Excellence & Support

We are part of Washington University, one of the nation’s preeminent research universities.

Our top-ranked school of social work, groundbreaking program in public health, renowned medical school and Institute for Public Health provide doctoral students extraordinary opportunities for scholarship and integrated learning. The School’s transdisciplinary programs will allow you to explore your field in innovative ways and create new depths of understanding.

The Brown School is dedicated to providing our doctoral students:

- Personalized and hands-on research experiences and mentoring by leading scholars
- A transdisciplinary curriculum that builds methodological and analytical skills
- Deep knowledge of their field’s theoretical and conceptual underpinnings, philosophy and history
- Professional growth, network building and successful placement throughout the world
- Flexibility in choosing a traditional dissertation format or a three-paper format
- Full-tuition scholarships, four-year stipends, and professional development accounts
Faculty Connections

The Brown School boasts top scholars and experts in their fields, committed to generating new knowledge and bringing that knowledge into both the classroom and the community. You and your work will receive the benefit of their mentorship and guidance.

Faculty areas of expertise include:

- Complex systems and systems science
- Dissemination and implementation science
- Epidemiology and biostatistics
- Evidence-based treatments and policies
- Family and child welfare
- Global health
- Health disparities and social determinants of health
- Health promotion and disease prevention
- Housing and homelessness
- Mental health and addictions
- Productive aging
- Public and health policy
- Social and economic development
- Urban design and the built environment
- Violence and injury prevention

During your first year, one of the directors of our doctoral programs will serve as your primary faculty advisor. A secondary faculty advisor will guide you through the university’s body of research in your mutual area of interest. In your second year, you have the flexibility to ask a faculty member of your choice to mentor you.

To learn more about our renowned faculty, visit brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty

“My experience at the Brown School was a time of great learning, growth and intellectual development. My courses were challenging yet the faculty were approachable and encouraging. The support I received from the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies and the Center for Social Development kept me moving forward to completion and financially made the whole endeavor possible. They enhanced my journey of inquiry, and I am forever grateful.”

—AMY LOCKLEAR HERTEL, PHD IN SOCIAL WORK ’15
Direct of American Indian Center at the University of North Caroline at Chapel Hill (UNC)
Clinical Assistant Professor, UNC School of Social Work
Innovative Research

The most vital and groundbreaking social work and public health research is being conducted at the Brown School and its 15 faculty-led research centers. You’ll have access to, and engagement with, the data, policies and strategies that are forging the future of these fields.

- Center for Diabetes Translation Research
- Center for Mental Health Services Research
- Center for Obesity Prevention and Policy Research
- Center for Public Health Systems Science
- Center for Social Development
- Center for Violence and Injury Prevention
- Envolve Center for Health Behavior Change
- Evaluation Center
- Health Communication Research Laboratory
- Institute for Advancing Justice Research and Innovation
- International Center for Child Health and Asset Development
- Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies
- Prevention Research Center in St. Louis
- SMART Africa Center
- Social System Design Lab

Learn more about our research depth at brownschool.wustl.edu/research.

Pre & Postdoctoral Training

The Brown School currently supports two NIH-funded T32 training programs for PhD students enrolled in our social work program, and for scholars already holding doctorates in social work and related disciplines, who are interested in addictions and mental health research. Both programs provide tuition fellowships and stipends, specialized coursework, and mentored research training for eligible applicants.

Our trainees have been very successful in pursuing research funding through NIH and other competitive funding sources, and our alumni hold faculty positions at some of the nation’s top research institutions.

Transdisciplinary Training in Addictions Research (TranSTAR) T32 Program:
Grant #: NIDA T32 DA 015035
NIMH Mental Health Services Research, Center for Mental Health Services Research:
Grant #: NIMH T32, MH19960

Find out more about these opportunities at brownschool.wustl.edu/PhDtraining.

“As a National Institute of Mental Health Predoctoral Fellow, I have been able to hone my grant writing and analytical skills. Additionally, the Race and Opportunity Lab within the Center for Social Development has contributed to my growth in leadership and enabled me to gain a deeper understanding of research methodology for the study of Black emerging adults.”

—ROBERT MOTLEY, JR., PHD STUDENT IN SOCIAL WORK
NIMH T32 Predoctoral Trainee
Program Curriculum

The curriculum at the Brown School emphasizes substantive, theoretical and methodological preparation.

Candidates for doctoral degrees must have and/or complete the following to graduate:

- Previously obtained master’s degree
- 72 graduate credit hours, which can include 21 master’s-level credits transferred from a relevant degree
- Two years of full-time coursework
- An additional two-three years for dissertation completion
- Three teaching practica for course credit
- Three research practica for course credit
- Completion of an area of specialization statement, qualifying examination and oral dissertation defense

The first year of study includes basic principles in research, statistics and measurement, as well as theoretical orientations and content fortifying the knowledge base of social work or public health. The second year offers a more individualized program of study. A curriculum plan is developed by each student and advisor, focusing on an area of specialization.

Sample courses available to doctoral students include:

- Introduction to Advanced Research
- Conceptual Foundations of Social Science Research
- The Role and Use of Theory in Applied Social Research
- Theoretical Orientations in Public Health Sciences
- Foundations of Data Management
- Foundations of Data Analysis
- Generalized Linear Modeling
- Issues and Directions in Intervention Research
- Social Network Analysis
- Multilevel and Longitudinal Modeling
- Applied Linear Regression Analysis
- Propensity Scoring Analysis
- Qualitative Methods
- Survival Analysis
- System Dynamics
- Professional development seminars
- Elective courses taken in other departments throughout Washington University

“When I was looking into schools for my PhD, I knew I wanted a program that was grounded in robust quantitative and analytical methods. I chose the Brown School because it was clear that the faculty and leadership here feel the same way. Every semester I’ve taken at least one quantitative methods course that has helped me to extract the most value from my research as well as my theory and substantive area courses.”

—KARISHMA FURTADO, PHD STUDENT IN PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES
Research Outcomes

Our PhD students experience remarkable research opportunities and publication success during their time at the Brown School.

Recent graduates have disseminated their work in over 20 peer-reviewed publications, two co-authored or co-edited books, and more than 70 presentations at national and global scientific conferences.

STUDENT PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

*bold text denotes Brown doctoral student


Discover more outstanding work at brownschool.wustl.edu/PhDpublications

Outstanding Career Placements

As a result of their work, recent graduates have accepted significant accolades and career placements at universities and other leading research institutions.

RECENT STUDENT ACCOLADES

- American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children: 2017 Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award
- Council on Social Work Education: 2017-2018 Minority Fellow
- National Institute on Drug Abuse: 2017 Director’s Travel Award

RECENT STUDENT PLACEMENTS

- Assistant Professor at Boston College
- Assistant Professor at Case Western Reserve University
- Assistant Faculty at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore
- Assistant Professor at the Silver School of Social Work at New York University
- Assistant Professor at Saint Louis University
- Assistant Professor at the School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Arlington
- Assistant Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University
- Assistant Professor at the School of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin–Madison
- Health Science Administrator at the Indian Health Service
- Postdoctoral Fellow for the Center for Clinical Quality and Implementation Research at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

Meet all PhD students and candidates at brownschool.wustl.edu/PhDstudents
Our Campus Community

The Brown School and its affiliated research centers fill three interconnected buildings in the heart of Washington University, creating a comprehensive “campus within a campus” where students study, socialize, connect with faculty and attend classes.

Our facilities are designed to provide what you need to make the most of your days at the Brown School — including a café, study rooms, library and computer lab, and even lockers and showers for active commuters. Our tight-knit community provides easy access to the many trainings and one-on-one services offered by the Brown School. Event spaces are filled by guest speakers, conferences, panel discussions and professional development trainings — offering countless opportunities to connect with and learn from leaders in social work, public health and social policy.

Brown and WashU student groups offer more occasions for collaboration.

Groups include:

- Advocacy and Learning for Public Health Action
- American Indian Student Association
- Black Student Union
- Brown School African Students Association
- Children’s Advocacy for Resources and Empowerment
- Chinese Students and Scholars Association
- Global Health at the Brown School
- Graduate Professional Council
- Graduate Students with Children
- International Student Association
- Latino Graduate Student Alliance
- Leaders for Education, Action, and Policy
- Public Mental Health
- Sexuality and Gender Alliance
- Student Coordinating Council
- Women in Leadership
- WUVets
Discovering St. Louis

St. Louis provides big-city opportunities with a low cost of living, making it an accessible and desirable destination for our students.

On campus and around St. Louis, you’ll find opportunities for involvement and leadership, as well as exploration and entertainment. With St. Louis city’s 79 distinct neighborhoods, there is so much to discover.

Our students live throughout the city, and they appreciate WashU’s convenient location, served by several bus routes, bike paths and MetroLink light rail.

The eclectic restaurants and music venues of the Delmar Loop are within easy walking distance from campus. Across the street from the university, breathtaking Forest Park — recently named Best City Park by USA Today/10Best — provides 1,300 acres to explore, as well as many of the city’s free, world-class museums and events.

Learn more at brownschool.wustl.edu/STL.

“My family moved to St. Louis from New York City and feel like we have landed in a paradise. We have developed a wonderful connection with our neighbors, my wife volunteers in our local school district, our daughters love their schools, and we have found a supportive faith community. The low cost of living and cultural opportunities have been incredibly helpful. No place is perfect, and St. Louis has room to grow, but it has been wonderful taking baby steps towards an even better St. Louis with our community.”

— COLE HOOLEY, PHD CANDIDATE IN SOCIAL WORK
Join Us

We invite you to learn more about what the Brown School can offer you and your career in scholarship and social impact. For questions, to schedule a visit, or to get more information, contact:

**PhD Program in Social Work**
314.935.6605
phdsw@wustl.edu

**PhD Program in Public Health Sciences**
314.935.3599
brown-phdphs@wustl.edu

**Application requirements include:**

- Personal statement
- Undergraduate and graduate transcripts
- Master’s degree in relevant discipline
- GRE Scores
- Three letters of recommendation
- CV
- Writing sample

All applicants must meet the admissions requirements of the Graduate School at Washington University as well as the requirements of the applicable Brown School PhD program. **The application deadline for each program is December 1.**

**Social work applicants:** Access our online application at applyweb.com/wustl.

**Public health sciences applicants:** Apply through sophas.org.

The Brown School is a one-of-a-kind place to learn and grow as a doctoral student. From our extraordinary faculty and personal attention, to our research centers and newly expanded complex of buildings, students are immersed in a rich, interdisciplinary environment of ideas, resources and opportunities for hands-on learning. We invite you to join us.

–RENEE M. CUNNINGHAM-WILLIAMS
Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Doctoral Education
Director, PhD Program in Social Work
Director, NIDA T32 (TranSTAR) Pre- and Postdoctoral Training Program in Addictions

–DOUGLAS A. LUKE
Professor
Director, PhD Program in Public Health Sciences
Director, Center for Public Health Systems Science
OUR VISION

To create positive social change through our path-breaking research and educational excellence.

OUR MISSION

To educate and prepare future social work and public health leaders in areas of policy, practice and research.

....... 

To pioneer research and apply results to impact policy and practice locally, nationally and internationally.

....... 

To collaborate with organizations to use evidence to improve access to and quality of social services and to address social and economic justice.

Founded in 1925, the George Warren Brown School was named with a generous gift from Betty Bofinger Brown in memory of her late husband.