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

Our collaborative and entrepreneurial community is dedicated to social justice and 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 the 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
Dean
We are part of Washington University, one of the nation’s preeminent research institutions.

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, research 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 to choose 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 who are committed to generating new knowledge and bringing that knowledge to 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 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
Director, American Indian Center at the University of North Carolina 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 faculty-led research centers and organizations. You’ll have access to and engagement with the data, methods 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
- Concordance Institute for Advancing Social Justice
- Envolve Center for Health Behavior Change
- Evaluation Center
- Health Communication Research Laboratory
- Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies
- Prevention Research Center in St. Louis
- Social System Design Lab

Pre & Postdoctoral Training

The Brown School supports two NIH-funded T32 training programs for PhD students enrolled in our social work program, and for graduate scholars holding doctorates in social work and related disciplines, who are interested in mental health and addictions research. 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.

“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
Program Curriculum

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

Requirements for graduation:

- 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 doctoral coursework
- An additional two or three years of dissertation work
- Three teaching assistantships for course credit
- Three research assistantships 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 welfare, 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
- Generalized Linear Modeling
- Issues and Directions in Intervention Research
- Social Network Analysis
- Multilevel and Longitudinal Modeling
- Applied Linear Regression Analysis
- Propensity Score 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
Our Campus Community

The Brown School’s three buildings — including LEED Platinum-certified Hillman Hall — create a comprehensive “campus within a campus” where students study, socialize, connect with faculty and attend classes.

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, panel discussions and professional development trainings — offering countless opportunities to connect with and learn from leaders in the field.

With modern group study spaces, a well-resourced library and a healthy café — and even bike parking, lockers and showers for active commuters — our facilities have everything you need to make the most of your days.

Student Life & St. Louis

On campus and around St. Louis, you’ll find opportunities for involvement and leadership, as well as exploration and entertainment.

Brown School and Washington University student groups plan events that raise awareness and promote positive change, as well as social events for students to connect and unwind.

Students live in neighborhoods throughout the city, and take advantage of 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. Across the street from the university, breathtaking Forest Park provides 1,300 acres to explore — as well as many of the city’s free, world-class museums and events.

The region’s vibrant culture, sports scene and low cost of living make St. Louis an accessible and desirable destination for students.
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:

Brown School Doctoral Programs
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 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 & Associate Dean of Doctoral Education
Director, PhD Program in Social Work
Director, NIDA T32 (TransSTAR) Pre- and Postdoctoral Training Program in Addictions

—DOUGLAS A. LUKE
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.

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