

Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine
Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University



ENTRANCE EXAM PROGRAM (REQUIREMENTS FOR RESEARCH PROPOSAL IN THE SPECIALTY)

Degree: Doctor of Philosophy based on the Educational Standard "Master," Degree
Qualification "Specialist" (NQF 7) Educational and Scientific Program: Social Work
Specialty 231 Social Work (full-time (day, evening), distance learning)



Uman - 2023

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The entrance exam program, which includes requirements for a research proposal in the specialty (Degree: Doctor of Philosophy, Educational and Scientific Program: Social Work, Specialty 231 Social Work), is compiled in accordance with Appendix 11 "Admission Rules for Higher Education in Postgraduate Studies and Doctoral Programs at Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University in 2023" (approved by the decision of the Academic Council of Uman State Pedagogical University named after Pavlo Tychyna, Protocol No. 14 dated April 25, 2023).

According to Section III of the Higher Education Standard of the third (educational and scientific) level, the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, field of knowledge 23 Social Work, Specialty 231 Social Work (approved by the order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine No. 1495 dated December 30, 2021), the program provides for the assessment of the individual's acquisition of competencies and learning outcomes defined by the higher education standard in the field of specialty 231 Social Work for the second (Master's) level of higher education.

The program is developed taking into account the specific features of the Educational and Scientific Program "Social Work" of the third (educational and scientific) level of higher education (2023).

The program includes requirements for the procedure of preparation, presentation, and evaluation of research proposals by applicants in the specialty 231 Social Work (Degree: Doctor of Philosophy).

As part of the entrance exams, which serve as the selection procedure for applicants to the Educational and Scientific Program "Social Work" of the third (educational and scientific) level of higher education, specialty 231 Social Work at Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University, there is an interview based on the submitted research proposal, which includes the presentation of a document prepared in advance by the applicant and its discussion.

The main goal of the research proposal in the specialty is to determine the applicant's level of knowledge required to conduct a specific scientific study and their ability to formulate and justify the initial scientific principles and ideas. It also assesses the applicant's inclination for independent analysis of fundamental and applied scientific problems, as well as their motivation and ability to develop research competencies in justifying a relevant social work scientific problem.

The applicant should have knowledge of:

- Ethical principles, standards, and values of social work.

- Specifics of evaluating the process and outcomes of professional activities and the quality of social services.
- Conditions for assessing the social consequences of human rights policies, social inclusion, and sustainable development of society.
- Contemporary theories, methodologies, and methods of social and other sciences, including methods of mathematical statistics and quantitative sociological methods, relevant to fundamental and applied research in the field of social work.
- Methods of diagnosing, forecasting, designing, and modeling social situations.

The applicant should be able to:

- Solve complex problems and issues that require updating and integrating knowledge in conditions of incomplete/insufficient information and conflicting demands.
- Critically evaluate the results of scientific research and various sources of knowledge about social work practices, formulate conclusions and recommendations for their implementation.
- Utilize foreign sources in conducting scientific research and applied activities, express themselves in a foreign language both orally and in writing.
- Collect and perform quantitative and qualitative analysis of empirical data.
- Independently and autonomously seek information necessary for professional growth, acquire and assimilate it, generate new knowledge, and develop professional skills and qualities.
- Analyze the social and individual context of problems concerning individuals, families, social groups, communities, formulate the purpose and tasks of social work, and plan interventions in complex and unpredictable circumstances in accordance with the values of social work.
- Evaluate the social consequences of human rights policies, social inclusion, and sustainable development of society, develop recommendations for improving the legal framework of social work.
- Develop criteria and indicators for the effectiveness of professional activities, apply them in evaluating the work performed, and provide recommendations for ensuring the quality of social services and managerial decisions.
- Determine the methodology of applied scientific research and apply methods of quantitative and qualitative analysis of results, including methods of mathematical statistics.
- The research proposal in the specialty is submitted by the applicant

(in printed and electronic form) along with other documents specified in section 6.5 of Appendix 11 "Admission Rules for Higher Education in Doctoral Studies and Doctoral Degree Programs at Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University in 2023." The results of the research proposal are taken into account during the competitive selection of candidates for a Doctor of Philosophy degree (section 7.1 of Appendix 11).

The entrance examination policy adheres to the principles of academic integrity as defined by the Code of Academic Integrity of Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University.

APPROXIMATE THEMATIC DIRECTIONS OF THE RESEARCH PROPOSAL

A research proposal in the field of social work is a scientific text (abstract) that provides a rationale for an actual scientific problem in social work. It is based on a critical review of relevant information sources such as scientific papers, periodicals, internet resources, etc. The research proposal outlines the problem that the applicant intends to investigate during their studies in the Bachelor's program in Social Work.

Potential thematic areas for research include:

Theory and methodology of social work:

Philosophy and ethics of social work

Categorical framework of social work

Development of social work theory

Models of social work practice

Research methods in social processes

History of social work

International social work

Social work practice:

Social assistance and services for socially vulnerable groups, at-risk populations, and individuals in crisis, experiencing marginalization and social exclusion

Social work in the socialization of individuals

Community development and social partnership

Prevention of negative social phenomena

Implementation of health promotion practices

Counteracting discrimination, stigmatization, and social exclusion based on any characteristics

Social work management:

Management of social work institutions

Quality assurance in social work services

Development of supervision in social work

Prevention of professional burnout among social workers

Organization and optimization of volunteer activities

Digitization of social work and provision of social services using modern information technologies

Development of professional competencies of social workers:

Current issues in social education, vocational guidance, and professional selection

Professional development and establishment

Optimization of professional training programs

Ensuring and functioning of professional ethical norms in social work

Comprehensive issues in the field of social work:

Theory and methodology of social work

Practice of social work

Professional competencies of social workers and instructors in higher education institutions

Interdisciplinary research in social work:

Considering the contextual framework, historical and regional specificities, and the experience of scientific schools within the university

Inclusive education

Youth work

Gender socialization

Social-psychological aspects of personal and group development

Social work in the community, etc.

REQUIREMENTS FOR STRUCTURE AND FORMATTING OF THE RESEARCH PROPOSAL

If the applicant has any achievements or personal developments related to the research proposal topic (participation in scientific projects, articles, abstracts, conference presentations), or if they have chosen and approved a dissertation topic at a meeting of the Academic Council of Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University, it is advisable to mention it in the text of the research proposal.

The abstract, serving as the research proposal, should:

- Be informative and objectively convey information, ensuring a comprehensive presentation.
- Provide a fair evaluation of the material contained in primary sources.
- Demonstrate productivity by including creative or critical analysis of the referenced sources.

The writing style should be scientific and professional.

The structure of the abstract should include the following elements: title page, table of contents, introduction, main body (sections, subsections, and subheadings), conclusions, list of references, and appendices.

The title page is the first page of the abstract (Appendix 1).

The table of contents (Appendix 2) should start on a new page immediately after the title page. It should include: introduction, sequentially listed titles of all sections, subsections, conclusions, list of references, and appendices.

The content should be evenly distributed according to the abstract's outline:

- Introduction (should justify the relevance and practical significance of the chosen research topic, define the aim and objectives of the work). When assessing the state of research on the scientific problem, briefly highlight the range of known scientific concepts that have developed in the field. In the brief literature review of the sources the author worked with, evaluate their usefulness, accessibility, and express your own attitude towards their content.

The main body (addresses the topic of the abstract by exploring the main issues. It is necessary to focus on analyzing the questions posed in the referenced sources, drawing conclusions regarding their theoretical and practical significance). The content of the abstract should correspond to its topic, aim, and objectives. In the sections of the main body, it is important to systematically address all the planned questions, justify and explain the main points, supporting them with specific examples and facts, and formulating thoughts clearly, simply, correctly, and unambiguously. The text should be logically structured.

Conclusions - scientific-theoretical and practical summaries of the analysis conducted on the subject matter of the abstract (assess the degree of achieving the aim and fulfilling the tasks of the work; briefly outline and characterize the known scientific approaches to the researched problem, as well as identify new aspects and points of discussion that require further investigation; determine what is valuable in the referenced works, what requires additional analysis and clarification, and what raises doubts); provide theoretical and practical recommendations derived from the analysis (they should be logically connected to the content presented).

List of references.

Appendices (which may include regulatory documents, materials revealing social work experience, methodological developments, research results, survey questionnaires, as well as tables, statistical data, diagrams referred to in the text of the abstract, etc.).

Requirements for formatting an abstract:

- The length of the abstract should be 15-20 pages. The list of references, appendices, tables, and figures that occupy a full page area are not included in the total length. However, all pages of these elements should be numbered consecutively.
- The work should be neatly handwritten or printed with adherence to stylistic and grammatical norms.
- The text of the abstract must include references to the literature and other sources used in its preparation.
- The abstract should be written in the official language.
- Format: A4, Times New Roman font, size 14, line spacing 1.5, paragraph indentation 1.25 cm, all margins 2.5 cm. Use the Word editor and save the file as RTF.
- In the text, use symbols such as double quotation marks («...»), hyphen (-), en dash (—), and apostrophe (').
- References to used sources should be indicated in square brackets, with the source number and page citation in that particular publication (e.g., [4, p. 56]).
- The list of references should be formatted according to the rules of DSTU 8302:2015.
- Abbreviations of words and phrases should comply with current standards in library and publishing practices (e.g., Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, hereinafter referred to as MES).
- Sections and subsections should have headings that accurately reflect their content. Section headings are usually centered. Print section headings in uppercase letters without punctuation at the end and without underlining. Start section headings with an appropriate indentation.
- The paragraph indentation should be the same throughout the text and equal to five characters (the standard indentation defined by word processors on PCs).
- If a heading consists of two or more sentences, separate them with a period. The distance between the heading and the following or preceding text, in a printed written work, should be at least two lines.
- Page numbering should be consecutive. Use Arabic numerals without dots or dashes and place them in the upper right corner of the page. The title page (Appendix 1) is included in the overall page numbering of the written work, but

the page number is usually not indicated on the title page. Sections should also be numbered using Arabic numerals.

- Illustrative material such as drawings, graphs, and diagrams should be placed directly after the first reference to them in the text. If a graph, diagram, or table does not fit on the page where the reference is made, it should be placed on the next page. Each piece of illustrative material should be referenced in the text.

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR RESEARCH PROPOSAL

The discussion and evaluation of the research proposal take place at a meeting of the working group of the Department of Social Pedagogy and Social Work at Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University. The procedure for discussing the research proposal includes:

- Presentation of the research proposal (a report by the presenter, up to 10 minutes);
- Questions to the presenter;
- Presenter's responses to the questions;
- Formulation of conclusions by the working group regarding the submitted research proposal and its evaluation.

Evaluation criteria for the research proposal (abstract): No. Criteria for evaluation

1. Justification of relevance, formulation of the aim, objectives, and definition of research methods.
2. Compilation of the abstract's structure.
3. Critical analysis of the essence and content of primary sources. Presentation of facts, ideas, and research results in a logical sequence. Analysis of the current state of research on the problem, consideration of trends for further development of the issue.
4. Availability of a sufficient number of contemporary normative and scientific sources.
5. Adherence to the rules of referencing scientific publications.
6. Evidential conclusions, substantiation of one's own position, proposals for problem-solving, identification of research prospects.

7. Adherence to the requirements for the technical formatting of structural elements in the work (title page, outline, introduction, main part, conclusions, reference list, appendices).
8. Persuasiveness of the presentation of the research proposal.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL EVALUATION

SCALES OF ASSESSMENT

The research proposal is assessed on a 200-point scale.

Level Points Oral Response Description

Failed 0 - 99 The presenter provides isolated pieces of information but does not fully comprehend the content of the research proposal, demonstrating insufficient knowledge and skills.

Passed Initial 100 The presenter demonstrates superficial knowledge and understanding of the main points of the research proposal but makes significant errors in presenting the material, indicating a lack of deep comprehension of theoretical concepts. The presenter possesses reproductive knowledge and shows initial skills but makes significant errors in verbal expression.

101 - 109 The presenter demonstrates superficial knowledge and understanding of the main points of the research proposal but makes some errors in presenting the material, indicating a lack of deep comprehension of theoretical concepts. The presenter possesses reproductive knowledge and shows initial skills but makes errors in verbal expression.

110 - 119 The presenter demonstrates superficial knowledge and understanding of the main points of the research proposal but makes occasional errors in presenting the material. The presenter possesses reproductive knowledge and shows initial skills but makes minor errors in verbal expression.

Average

120 - 129 The presenter demonstrates knowledge and understanding of the main points of the research proposal but makes significant errors in presenting the material, indicating a lack of deep comprehension of theoretical concepts. The presenter

possesses reproductive knowledge, partially answers questions, shows initial skills, but makes significant errors in verbal expression.

130 - 139 The presenter demonstrates knowledge and understanding of the main points of the research proposal but makes significant errors in presenting the material, indicating a lack of deep comprehension of theoretical concepts. The presenter possesses reproductive knowledge, partially answers questions, shows initial skills, but makes errors in verbal expression.

140 - 149 The presenter demonstrates knowledge and understanding of the main points of the research proposal but makes some errors in presenting the material. The presenter possesses reproductive knowledge, partially answers questions, shows initial skills, but makes minor errors in verbal expression.

Adequate 150 - 159 The presenter demonstrates sufficient knowledge and understanding of the main points of the research proposal but makes some self-corrected errors. There are occasional flaws in the logical sequence of presenting the material and minor violations of language norms. The presenter can compare and summarize the acquired knowledge.

160 - 169 The presenter demonstrates sufficient knowledge and understanding of the main points of the research proposal but makes some self-corrected errors. There are occasional flaws in the logical sequence of presenting the material and minor violations of language norms. The presenter can compare and summarize the acquired knowledge and draw their own conclusions.

170 - 179 The presenter demonstrates sufficient knowledge and understanding of the main points of the research proposal but makes some self-corrected errors. There are occasional flaws in the logical sequence of presenting the material and minor violations of language norms. The presenter can compare and summarize the acquired knowledge, draw their own conclusions, and show partial heuristic interest.

High 180 - 189 The applicant thoroughly and comprehensively presents the material, possesses research methods, can distinguish theoretical and factual aspects in the material. They demonstrate a complete understanding of the material, are knowledgeable about theoretical approaches and concepts, and logically and sequentially justify their thoughts. They deeply explore the essence of the question, apply theoretical knowledge to analyze social phenomena, provide examples of research.

190 - 199 The applicant thoroughly and comprehensively presents the material, possesses research methods, can distinguish theoretical and factual aspects in the material. They demonstrate a complete understanding of the material, are

knowledgeable about theoretical approaches and concepts, and logically and sequentially justify their thoughts. They deeply explore the essence of the question, apply theoretical knowledge to analyze social phenomena, provide examples of research, and draw from their own experience in social work.

200 The applicant thoroughly, comprehensively, and sequentially presents the material, possesses research methods, can distinguish theoretical and factual aspects in the material. They demonstrate a complete understanding of the material, are knowledgeable about theoretical approaches and concepts, and logically and sequentially justify their thoughts. They deeply explore the essence of the question, apply theoretical knowledge to analyze social phenomena, provide examples of research, and draw from their own experience in social work.

Recommended Sources

Primary sources

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Additional Sources

Scientific Works

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Information Sources

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4. Science. Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. Accessible at: <https://mon.gov.ua/ua/tag/nauka>
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Web Resources:

- <https://scholar.google.com/>
- <https://www.scopus.com/home.uri>
- <https://www.webofknowledge.com>

Approved at the meeting of the Department of Social Pedagogy and Social Work
(Protocol No. 11, dated April 20, 2023).

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