**PROGRAM SUMMARY**

The School of Social Work at San Diego State University (SDSU) and the Division of Global Public Health at the University of California (UCSD), San Diego, offer a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Research on Substance Use (JDP).

This program is designed to prepare the next generation of leaders in substance use research with the knowledge and skills to advance evidence-based and applied substance use research interventions, programs, and policies.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

To facilitate the development of JDP trainees who, upon graduation, are capable of conducting high caliber, high impact and meaningful substance use research to reduce the impact of problems related to substance use and co-occurring diseases.

Upon graduation JDP graduates will:

1. Apply and build upon extant social science theories and conceptual models related to substance use research
2. Lead new avenues of research to prevent initiation of substance use and addiction and
3. Develop and evaluate applied prevention programs and reduce harm related to substance use and misuse and associated health and societal outcomes

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The JDP focuses on interdisciplinary approaches to address the use and misuse of substances and the enormous social and health consequences of such use and related policies. Interdisciplinary training opportunities draw from a variety of disciplines including: Psychology, Pharmacology, Neuroscience, Anthropology, Political Science, Economics, Public Health, Social Work, Latin American Studies, and Global Health.

The program will include a prevention research orientation focusing on the development and evaluation of disease prevention and health promotion recommendations, programs and policies. A harm reduction perspective is also emphasized to reduce negative consequences associated with drug use and co-occurring disorders. Students will acquire advanced skills and knowledge in these areas, building on a solid foundation of current and emerging theory, research methods, and analytic approaches related to scientific and cultural understanding of substance use and related problems.

Using a socio-ecological perspective, students also will gain critical understanding of the pharmacology, etiology and epidemiology of substance use and its related problems, as well as the effectiveness and efficacy of interventions, programs, and policies designed to ameliorate such problems.

Graduates of the program will be prepared to take leadership roles in areas such as research, academics, clinical practice, government and non-governmental agencies, and policy.
PROGRAM CURRICULUM

To earn their Ph.D. students will take course work at both universities. The first year students are in residence at SDSU, while the second academic year is in residence at UCSD. Overall students must complete a minimum of 60 units.

Overview of anticipated student training:
Year One: Complete 24 semester units at SDSU
Year Two: Complete 36 quarter units at UCSD
Year Three: Research and work towards advancing to candidacy and doctoral dissertation research
Year Four: Complete dissertation work and dissertation defense

Please see listing of Year 1 core courses on JDP web site: socialwork.sdsu.edu/irsu

ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM

- Application cycle is from October to December for the following Fall.
- Applications are reviewed in the Spring of each year.
- On a competitive basis, funding is available for up to four stellar candidates each year. Four scholarships provide: $20,000 yearly teaching/research assistantship for up to four years. Funding is contingent on student progress and good academic standing.
- Students are expected to be available for full-time participation in the program.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants to the JDP must hold a master’s degree from an accredited (U.S. or equivalent) college or university from a related social/behavioral science or professional program (e.g., social work, public health, psychology, sociology, anthropology, economics) and fulfill the following requirements:

- Minimum grade point averages of 3.2 (undergraduate) and 3.5 (graduate)
- Must have evidence of foundational research experience (e.g., peer-reviewed publication record and prior coursework in graduate-level statistics and research methodology)
- GRE scores at the 55th percentile or above, and taken within the last five years
- TOEFL: Students who speak English as a second language will be required to present TOEFL scores
  The minimum required score for admission is 80 for the iBT test or 550 for the PBT test. Please note scores must be recent, within the past two years.
- All test scores must be submitted to SDSU, Institution Code 4682, www.ets.org

See socialwork.sdsu.edu/irsu for details

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