

MEMORANDUM

To: Potential PhD Program Applicants

From: Dean Sarah Gehlert *Sarah Gehlert*
Professor Michael S. Hurlburt *Michael Hurlburt*
Associate Professor, Director of Doctoral Programs, and Chair of the PhD Program

Date: October 22, 2020

Subject: One-year suspension of admissions to PhD program

Each year faculty members in the Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work look forward to the opportunity and privilege to train and mentor outstanding PhD student colleagues who will assume the responsibilities of leadership as scholars, teachers and stewards of the social work profession. We aim to train individuals who embody a commitment to social justice and excellence in scholarship, and who are equipped to contribute to solving the vexing social challenges of a century in which rapid change in normative.

With this consistent mission, it is difficult to share that 2020 has presented highly unusual circumstances for universities, including USC, that require we suspend admissions to our PhD program for the coming '21/'22 academic year. Financial challenges, heightened by the Covid-19 pandemic, mean that we will not consider applications for admission to the PhD program this year. We anticipate encouraging applications again beginning July 1st of 2021, and we look forward to continuing a tradition of outstanding PhD education with an incoming cohort of students for the '22/'23 academic year.

