

SOCIOLOGY

Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Sociology

Minor in Sociology

Master of Arts degree in Public Sociology

Department of Sociology

Behavioral & Social Sciences 518

707-826-3139

www.humboldt.edu/sociology

Affiliated Research Institutes

Altruistic Personality and Prosocial
Behavior Institute

California Center for Rural Policy (CCRP)

Center for Applied Social Analysis and
Education (CASAE)

Humboldt Institute for Interdisciplinary
Marijuana Research (HIIMR)

Humboldt Journal of Social Relations (HJSR)

Department Chair

Mary Virnoche, Ph.D.

Graduate Coordinator

Meredith Williams, Ph.D.

THE BA PROGRAM

Students completing this program will have demonstrated:

- the ability to think critically about social justice efforts and inequalities in communities and environments
- a solid foundation in sociological theory
- the ability to make linkages between empirical data and theoretical concepts
- development of appropriate research designs and instruments to answer sociological questions
- application of appropriate techniques to the analysis and presentation of data
- the ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing.

Sociology students find an active and supportive departmental culture that surrounds coursework in sociological theory, methods, and current social issues. Department faculty members have a strong commitment to social justice that shapes course offerings and content. Students prepare themselves for sociology-related careers as well as graduate studies. Service learning is integrated into the curriculum through the social problems course that includes volunteering with local community-based organizations.

The Sociology Student Association creates additional opportunities for students to

connect with each other, faculty, and local community organizations. Because of the breadth, adaptability, and practical applications of sociology, students with a BA in Sociology choose to work in many different sectors: non-profit, private business, social services, education, health services, public relations, criminal justice, and government.

Preparation

In high school take math, writing and social science courses (history, psychology, sociology).

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE

For a description of degree requirements to be fulfilled in addition to those listed below for the major, please see "The Bachelor's Degree" section of the catalog, pp. 66-80, and "The Master's Degree" section of the catalog, pp. 81-83.

Core Courses

SOC 104	(3)	Introduction to Sociology*
STAT 108	(4)	Elementary Statistics
SOC 201S	(4)	Social Issues & Action**
SOC 282L	(1)	Sociological Statistics Lab
SOC 303/SOC 303M	(3/1)	Race and Inequality**
SOC 310	(4)	Sociological Theory
SOC 372	(1)	Proseminar or
SOC 472	(1)	Graduate School Planning
SOC 382	(4)	Intro to Social Research
SOC 410	(4)	Contemporary Theory

Knowledge Based Requirements

Choose four courses with at least one from each category.

Inequalities and Change

SOC 305/SOC 305M	(3/1)	Modern World Systems*
SOC 316	(4)	Gender and Society*
SOC 345	(4)	New Media & Society
SOC 350	(4)	Social Movements
SOC 480	(1-4)	Special Topics

Environment

SOC 302/SOC 302M	(3/1)	Forests & Culture*
SOC 320	(4)	Environmental Sociology
SOC 363	(4)	Environmental Crime
SOC 370	(4)	Environmental Inequality & Globalization
SOC 480	(1-4)	Special Topics

Communities and Identity

SOC 306/SOC 306M	(3/1)	Changing Family**
SOC 308/SOC 308M	(3/1)	Sociology of Altruism & Compassion*

SOC 330	(4)	Social Deviance
SOC 411	(4)	Popular Culture
SOC 475	(4)	Community Organizing
SOC 480	(1-4)	Special Topics

Capstone

SOC 482	(3)	Internship, or
SOC 492	(3)	Senior Thesis

Undergraduate sociology students must earn a "C" or better in all courses taken to satisfy the requirements of the degree. Total major unit requirement: 47-48.

- No more than 8 units of upper division SOC courses that have GE designations (*) can be counted toward your major. Students may request that a Sociology course not listed above be approved to count in one of the above knowledge areas.
- The Department of Sociology offers 1-2 unit weekend workshops around pressing social issues and popular topics. We encourage our students to enroll in these workshops, but the units may not be counted as part of the required 47- to 48-unit major requirement with the following exception: Workshop units may be used to "make up" 1-2 units that a student may be short after transferring 3-unit courses from another college or university.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR

SOC 201S	(4)	Social Issues & Action**
SOC 382	(4)	Intro to Social Research

Plus twelve units of upper division sociology coursework. No more than one elective for your minor may be a sociology course with general education designation (*), and must be taken for 4 units.

Students must earn a "C" or better in all sociology courses taken to satisfy the requirements of the minor. To best meet student interests, minor electives should be selected in consultation with a sociology faculty member. Total minor unit requirement: 20.

- * General Education, Area D
- ** Service Learning Component
- + Diversity & Common Ground

THE PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY MA PROGRAM

Students completing this program will have demonstrated:

- a solid foundation in sociological theory
- a solid foundation in sociological methods
- professional socialization, including an understanding of social justice and ethical issues
- hands-on experience in either practicing or teaching sociology.

The master's program in public sociology, which focuses on public sociology, social justice and action, fosters a network of students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members who are committed to public sociology, justice and action. Public sociology represents work that takes sociological knowledge and skills beyond the confines of the academy into the communities where these resources are much needed. Whether speaking to girls and boys about media, gender, and violence or consulting with a non-profit on a community survey on corporatization and locally owned business, the work of our faculty and students is tightly interwoven with our local communities.

The concept of social justice emphasizes a holistic understanding of the relationships between people, built and "natural" systems, and the social implications of particular structures and relationships. Race, class, gender, and nation are central to analysis, as well as strategies for action. The action component emphasized in our program is tightly linked to the idea of public sociology. Yet, action represents for us a particular type of public sociology — we understand action as social change work that draws heavily on knowledge of social movements, community organizing, and conflict resolution as particular plans are strategized, implemented, and evaluated.

Our MA students choose an experience emphasis in either Practicing Sociology or Teaching Sociology. Regardless of their emphasis, our alumni graduate with a solid foundation in social theory and social research that is marked by a departmental commitment and curricular integration of public sociology and ecological justice, as well as knowledge and skills for social action. Sociology faculty members, along with the Sociology and CJS Community Advisory Board, cultivate a range of field placement opportunities for students emphasizing practicing sociology. Students develop their specialization by drawing on coursework, carefully selecting a field placement and working with faculty mentors. The Teaching

Sociology emphasis introduces students to pedagogy and theories of learning, while providing experience with college classroom teaching. Students explore issues unique to sociology classrooms, while developing approaches effective for education across multiple settings.

The emphasis in Practicing Sociology prepares students for professional positions in research, business, government, non-profits organizations and activist organizations. The emphasis in Teaching Sociology prepares students for community college and other education-related professional positions. Either emphasis is appropriate for students who wish to continue their graduate study in a Ph.D. program.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER'S DEGREE

Common Coursework (21 units)

SOC 583	(4) Quantitative Research Methods
SOC 584	(4) Qualitative Research Methods
SOC 605	(1) Graduate Proseminar in Sociology
SOC 610	(4) Contemporary Social Theory
SOC 650	(4) Race, Ethnicity & Gender
SOC 665	(4) Community, Ecology & Social Action

Social Action Electives (4 units)

Select one of the following:*

CRIM 487	(4) Community Action Research
FILM 455	(4) Grant Writing or
FILM 455S	(4) Grant Writing
SOC 350	(4) Social Movements
SOC 475	(4) Community Organizing
SOC 535	(4) Dispute Resolution

* Other courses that are social action oriented and experience based may be approved by the Graduate Coordinator.

Area Seminar Electives (4 units)

Select one of the following:

SOC 530	(4) Individual & Society
SOC 550	(4) Social Structure & Inequality

Experience Emphasis Coursework Electives (3 units total)

SOC 590	(1-2) Practicing Sociology (Enroll in one unit fall semester of first year. Enroll in two units spring semester of first year.)
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or

SOC 560	(2) Teaching Sociology, and
SOC 595	(1) Teaching Assistantship

Thesis or Project (6 units)

SOC 690 (1-5) Master's Degree Thesis, or
SOC 692 (1-5) Master's Degree Project

The decision to enroll in "project" or "thesis" units is based on the orientation and content of the student work itself and is not dictated by the experience emphasis. Students should review the discussion of thesis and project units in the Public Sociology "Graduate Manual" and work with the graduate coordinator and their committee chair in determining the most appropriate course number (SOC 690 or SOC 692) for their work. Students emphasizing Public Sociology should enroll in thesis or project units concurrently with their field placements (see below).

Grade and Progress Requirements

Students must earn a "B" (3.0) or better in all courses taken to satisfy the requirements of the degree. The department reserves the right to dismiss from the program a student who does not make academically adequate and timely progress in moving through degree requirements. For more information, see the graduate school handbook regarding academic probation and disqualification.

ADDITIONAL MA DEGREE INFORMATION

Field Site Placement Requirements

Students emphasizing Public Sociology are required to complete 240 hours of field placement work that may include up to 40 hours of academic administrative work such as scheduling and meeting with faculty advisors, preparing and submitting required reporting and evaluation information, and formatting final products as required by the graduate school. Students should work closely with the Graduate Coordinator to identify a placement that will best support their interests and long-term goals, as well as provide them with experience in either program evaluation or community action.

Teaching Assistantship

Students emphasizing Teaching Sociology are required to complete at least one SOC 595: Teaching Assistantship, which provides an opportunity to be mentored and observe/learn in a real classroom. Participation in a teaching assistantship requires prior or concurrent enrollment in SOC 560 Teaching Sociology. A student must enroll in SOC 595 Teaching Assistantship (1 unit) each time the student accepts a teaching assistantship. Only one teaching assistantship counts toward the 38 units required for the degree, though we encourage you to complete more.

Teaching Associates (Optional)

Students may apply for a teaching associate position, which is a paid union position. Teaching associates will work with a faculty member in one of two large lecture courses: SOC 104 (Intro to Sociology) or SOC 303 (Race and Inequality). Teaching associates will not only attend lectures provided by the faculty of record, but will additionally run up to three recitation (discussion) sections with 25-33 students per section. Teaching associates will also provide grading in the courses. This model provides teaching associates a hands-on experience in the classroom.

Teaching Internship (Optional)

In addition, there are occasionally opportunities for students to petition the department to be allowed to engage in a higher level teaching associate/internship with a faculty member. This allows advanced students to co-teach a course with a faculty member. The positions are reserved for only the very strongest of new teachers with evidence for readiness to teach their own class. If selected, one to two students will work with a faculty mentor to teach a section of an appropriate course. The student should enroll in SOC 682 Teaching Internship; the course is not required for the MA. Prerequisites for participating in the Teaching Internship include SOC 560 Teaching Sociology and SOC 595 Teaching Assistantship, and having served as a teaching associate as described in the above paragraph.

Plans of Study Submission Including Committee Identification (Semester Two)

After completing one semester of coursework (preferably early in the second semester of coursework), a student should consult with the graduate coordinator to

develop and submit a "Plan of Study" (see website for sample). The plan sets student goals and strategies for accomplishment including not only coursework, but also additional professional development plans such as professional meeting attendance and networking strategies. The plan also requires that the student, with the help of the graduate coordinator, secure the commitment of two sociology graduate faculty members to serve on the thesis or project committee. This plan must be submitted to the graduate coordinator and will be placed in the student's permanent file.

Advancement to Candidacy Application (Semester Three)

Usually near the end of the third semester or early fourth semester in the program, students submit their applications for candidacy. This application includes a list of approved classes, a title and abstract of the thesis or project, internal review board (IRB) approval documentation and the signatures of the committee members, as well as the signature of the graduate coordinator. The application when approved places the student on the program for graduation.

Project or Thesis Work, Continuous Enrollment Requirements, and Leave of Absences

Once a student is approved for candidacy, they are required to enroll in at least one unit of thesis or project work every semester (fall and spring) until work is complete and each committee member has provided written acceptance of the project or thesis. Students must file a formal "leave of absence" application if they are unable to continue enrollment (see Graduate School Handbook).

Supplemental Coursework

Students may enroll in additional courses to supplement their coursework and further develop interests and expertise. Students desiring additional preparation for professional positions in program evaluation are encouraged to take advanced statistical analysis courses in other departments to supplement their core of methodology courses and/or take SOC 683 Advanced Research Training (4 units).

Conditional Program Admission

Students who lack adequate undergraduate preparation in sociological theory and methods may receive conditional program admission. Conditionally admitted students must complete with an "A-" or better all or some of the following undergraduate courses:

SOC 310	(4) Sociological Theory
SOC 382	(4) Intro to Social Research
SOC 410	(4) Contemporary Social Theory
STAT 108	(4) Elementary Statistics



To help you plan your MA in Sociology, please see the "Graduate Program Manual" on the sociology website.