

# SOCIAL SCIENCE, MSS

## Overview

Please click here (<http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/graduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/social-science/>) to see more information about the program.

For flexibility in constructing an individualized course of study in the social sciences, the Master of Social Science emphasizes integration of knowledge across and beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries. Courses derive primarily from the social science disciplines, like anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, psychology, and sociology, but may be integrated with other disciplines and programs including English, philosophy, education, health sciences, public affairs, fine arts, and architecture. Students who choose the Master of Social Science program often develop interdisciplinary perspectives in areas like public policy, gender and identity studies, educational reform, cross-cultural studies, or politics.

The Social Science program provides background for advancement in business, education, social service, and government, or a basis for further graduate or professional study. MSS students often tailor their degree program for specific career and personal needs. Many simply seek intellectual enrichment.

Students may also focus in one of several areas of concentration or formal tracks. By focusing one's studies in a track, the student is able to develop a concentrated and interdisciplinary master level expertise in a given area of interest:

**Community Health Science**  
**Ethnic Studies**  
**International Studies**  
**Social Justice**  
**Society and the Environment**  
**Women's and Gender Studies**

These requirements are subject to periodic revision by the academic department, and the College reserves the right to make exceptions and substitutions as judged necessary in individual cases. Therefore, the College strongly urges students to consult regularly with their advisor to confirm the best plans of study before finalizing them.

**Graduate Education Policies and Procedures apply to this program.**

## Program Requirements

1. Students must complete a minimum of 36 approved credit hours.
2. Students must complete a minimum of 30 graduate (5000-level and above) approved credit hours.
3. Students must earn a minimum grade of B- (2.7) in all courses applied to the degree and must achieve a minimum cumulative program GPA of 3.0. All graded attempts in required and elective courses are calculated in the program GPA. Courses taken using P+/P/F or S/U grading cannot apply to degree requirements.
4. Students must complete all coursework with CU Denver faculty. Students may concurrently pursue graduate-level coursework at other CU system campuses with the approval of their MHMSS graduate advisor.

## Program Restrictions, Allowances and Recommendations

1. Courses credited toward the MSS degree must typically be taken at CU Denver (a maximum of 12 graduate semester hours may be transferred from other institutions after matriculating into the MSS program, subject to the MSS director's approval).
2. Each student's program is supervised by MHMSS faculty. All independent study, project, and thesis contracts must be approved in advance by the program director. A total of two independent study courses and one internship may count toward the degree.
3. A maximum of two 4000-level undergraduate courses may apply, with faculty approval.
4. Students wishing to count credits accrued from a study abroad program while pursuing the MSS must follow graduate education policies and procedures and must have approval of the program director in advance of studying abroad.
5. An oral exam defending the project or thesis before a committee of three faculty members must be passed in order to graduate.
6. A grade below *B- in any given course* will not be counted toward the degree.
7. Students may take up to three graduate-level online courses (up to 9 credits) towards the degree, with prior approval.
8. All students must complete and pass a final project or thesis and an oral comprehensive defense of that work, in order to graduate.

Code	Title	Hours
<i>Complete the following Core Seminar courses:</i>		9
SSCI/HUMN/ PHIL 5013	Methods and Practices of Graduate Interdisciplinary Humanities (Must be taken during the first year, offered in the spring only.)	
SSCI/HUMN 5020	Foundations and Theories of Interdisciplinary Social Science (Must be taken during the first year, offered in the fall only.)	
or SSCI/ HUMN 5025	Foundations and Theories of Interdisciplinary Humanities	
SSCI 5023	Research Perspectives in Social Science <sup>1</sup>	

*Complete a minimum of 21 credit hours of elective courses. Students may choose to create their own curriculum from at least two disciplines addressing their specific research interest.*

*Students may choose to follow an approved specialized track. Prior to taking electives, students must meet with a MHMSS program faculty advisor and establish their course of study. If students decide to change their course of study or want to substitute approved coursework, they must meet with a MHMSS program advisor in advance and gain pre-approval.*

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*Complete a Thesis or Project and an oral comprehensive defense of that work, in order to graduate.*

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Students completing a project rather than a thesis take 24 credit hours of electives, while thesis students complete 21 hours of electives.

In order to proceed with a project or thesis, all students must submit a proposal and gain approval from three faculty members and the program directors. Students who opt to complete a thesis will submit a thesis proposal after completing 30 credit hours of course work. In the case of a project, students will submit a project proposal after 33 credit hours.

SSCI 6950 Master's Thesis

SSCI 6960 Master's Project or Report

**Total Hours**

**36**

<sup>1</sup> Students should take this course after they have completed 21-24 credit hours and are ready to write a proposal for their thesis or project. This course is always offered in the spring and occasionally in the fall, as needed.

## General MSS Track

Students pursuing the general MSS degree track create a course of study based on their individual interests and goals. In consultation with a faculty advisor, students choose two or three academic disciplines as areas of concentration.

## Community Health Track

The Community Health track focuses coursework on social and communication theory, demographics and ethnic dimensions to public health, basic research methods, and statistics, in order to facilitate development of problem solving and critical thinking skills in the areas of epidemiology, public health and public health education, and health planning

Code	Title	Hours
<i>Complete nine credit hours of approved methods courses - some of these courses have prerequisites that must be met:</i>		
ANTH 6063	Qualitative Research Design and Methods	9
HBSC 7041	Research Design and Methods in the Health and Behavioral Sciences I	
HBSC 7061	Quantitative Methods in the Health and Behavioral Sciences	
HBSC 7071	Social and Behavioral Perspectives in Population Health	
<i>Complete a minimum of six credit hours of approved community health related elective coursework from the list below - substitutes may be approved by the student's advisor:</i>		
ANTH 5290	Anthropology and Public Health	6
ANTH 5300	Migrant Health	
ANTH 5600	Medical Anthropology	
COMM 5500	Health Communication	
COMM 5550	Rhetorics of Medicine & Health	
ECON 6210	Public Finance	
ENVS 5620	Health Risk Communication	
ENVS 6230/ HBSC 7310	Environmental Epidemiology	
GEOG 5230	Hazard Mitigation and Vulnerability Assessment	
GEOG 5235/ HBSC 7235	GIS Applications in the Health Sciences	

GEOG 5710 Disasters, Climate Change, and Health

HLTH 6010 Health Care Systems

HLTH 6070 International Health Policy and Management

PHIL/HUMN/  
SSCI 5242 Medicine, Health Care, and Justice: Bioethics

PSCI 5354 Seminar: Environmental Politics and Policy

PUAD 5615 Health Policy

WGST/HIST 5345 Gender, Science and Medicine: 1600 to the Present

*Complete a project or thesis on an approved community health related topic.*

**Total Hours**

**15**

## Ethnic Studies Track

The Ethnic Studies track explores the construction of race and ethnicity by governments and communities through the intersection of popular culture and public policy in both the historical and contemporary contexts

Code	Title	Hours
<i>Complete at least one ethnic studies methods/theory course:</i>		3
ETST 5000	Research Methods in Ethnic Studies	12
EDFN 5001	Problematising Whiteness: Educating for Racial Justice	
<i>Complete a minimum of 12 credit hours of approved ethnic studies related elective coursework from the list below, substitutions may be approved by the student's advisor:</i>		
ANTH 5350	Anthropology of Globalization	12
COMM 5270/ INTB 6270	Intercultural Communication	
EDFN 5050	Critical Issues in American Education	
ENGL 5460	Contemporary World Literature	
ETST/SOCY 5020	Race, Culture and Immigration	
ETST 5021/ HDFR 5020	Black and Latino Children in Families and Schools	
ETST/ RLST 5030/ HIST 5029	Race, Religion and Belonging in the United States	
ETST 5165	Cultural Diversity Awareness in the Workplace	
ETST/ENGL 5220	African-American Literature	
ETST/WGST 5305	Women of Color Feminisms	
HIST 5308	Crime, Policing, and Justice in American History	
HIST 5412	Mexico and the United States: People and Politics on the Border	
HIST 5455	African Struggle for Independence	
HIST/RLST 5462	Islam in Modern History	
PSCI 4446	Advanced Indigenous Peoples' Politics	
PSCI 5094	Urban Politics, Planning, and Development	
PSCI 5145	Indigenous Politics	
PSCI 5206	Social Movements, Democracy and Global Politics	
PSCI 5245/ WGST 5248	Gender, Development and Globalization	
PSCI 5256	Seminar: National Question and Self-Determination	

PSCI 5446	Advanced Indigenous Peoples' Politics
PSCI 5545	Immigration Politics
PSCI 5914	Community Organizing and Community Development
SOCY 5050	Health Disparities
SOCY 5440	Poverty and Social Inequality
SOCY 5460	Hate Groups and Group Violence
SOCY 5690	Crime and Inequality Over the Life Course
SPAN 5020	Spanish Sociolinguistics
SPAN 5060	Dialects of the Spanish-Speaking World
SPAN 5076	Spanish in Colorado
SPAN 5080	Spanish in the United States
SPAN 5521	Mexican Literature I: pre-Columbian and Colonial
SPAN 5522	Mexican Literature II: 19th to 21st Centuries
SSCI/HUMN 5540	Law, Diversity and Community in United States History
SSCI/HUMN 5770	Selling Empires: The Art of Visual Propaganda

*Complete a project or thesis on an approved ethnic studies related topic.*

**Total Hours** 15

## International Studies Track

Through humanistic and social science methodologies and hands-on experiences both in Denver and abroad, students learn to identify patterns and trends in the multifaceted discipline of international studies

Code	Title	Hours
<i>Complete the following methodology course or one approved by the MSS program advisor:</i>		
PSCI 5216	World Politics Seminar	3

*Complete a minimum of 15 credit hours of approved international studies related elective coursework from the list below, substitutions may be approved by the student's advisor:*

ANTH 5350	Anthropology of Globalization
COMM 5270/ INTB 6270	Intercultural Communication
COMM 5720	Dynamics of Global Communication
HIST 5032	Globalization in World History Since 1945
HIST 5412	Mexico and the United States: People and Politics on the Border
PHIL/HUMN 5220	Art, Beauty, and Aesthetic Criticism: Philosophy of Art
PSCI 5236	Seminar: American Foreign Policy
PSCI 5245/ WGST 5248	Gender, Development and Globalization
PSCI 5276	Conflicts and Rights in International Law
PSCI 5286	International Relations: War or Peace?
PSCI 5326	Advanced International Political Economy: Globalization
PSCI 5545	Immigration Politics
PSCI/WGST 5555	International Women's Resistance
SOCY 5460	Hate Groups and Group Violence
SOCY 5610/ RLST 5020	Sociology of Religion

SSCI/HUMN 5770	Selling Empires: The Art of Visual Propaganda
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*Complete a project or thesis on an approved international studies related topic.*

**Total Hours** 18

## Social Justice Track

The Social Justice track expands students' recognition of the many ways that they are already engaged as citizens and highlights their power to effect change through theoretical and moral education, critical thinking, and community engagement.

It is **highly recommended** that students in this track take at least one quantitative and/or one qualitative research methods course as part of their plan of study. There are quantitative and qualitative methods courses offered in Anthropology, Environmental Science, Political Science, Sociology, and Research, Evaluation, and Statistical Methodology (RESM), which can be approved by the student's MHMSS faculty.

Code	Title	Hours
<i>Complete a minimum of 12 credit hours of approved social justice related elective coursework from the list below, substitutions may be approved by the student's advisor:</i>		
BUSN 6540	Legal and Ethical Environment of Business	12
COMM 5040	Communication, Prisons, and Social Justice	
ENGL 5190	Advanced Topics in Writing, Rhetoric, & Linguistics	
ENGL/HIST/ WGST 5306	Survey of Feminist Thought	
HIST 5032	Globalization in World History Since 1945	
HIST 5308	Crime, Policing, and Justice in American History	
HIST 5412	Mexico and the United States: People and Politics on the Border	
HIST 5455	African Struggle for Independence	
PSCI 5025	Local Governance and Globalization	
PSCI 5206	Social Movements, Democracy and Global Politics	
PSCI 5225	Democracy and Democratization	
PSCI 5245/ WGST 5248	Gender, Development and Globalization	
PSCI 5274	Conflict Resolution and Public Consent Building	
PSCI 5276	Conflicts and Rights in International Law	
PSCI 5286	International Relations: War or Peace?	
PSCI 5414	Non-Profits and Social Change	
PSCI 5545	Immigration Politics	
PSCI/WGST 5555	International Women's Resistance	
PSCI 5837	Contemporary Issues in Civil Liberties	
SOCY 5440	Poverty and Social Inequality	
SOCY 5460	Hate Groups and Group Violence	
SSCI/HUMN/ WGST 5720	Sexuality, Gender and Their Visual Representation	
SSCI/HUMN/ WGST 6010	Methods and Theories of Feminism and Gender Studies	
WGST 5303	Sex and Gender in Modern Britain	
WGST/HIST 5307	History of Sexuality	

WGST 5345	Gender, Science and Medicine: 1600 to the Present	
<i>Complete a project or thesis on an approved social justice related topic.</i>		
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>12</b>

## Society and the Environment Track

Society and the Environment is an interdisciplinary track challenges students to apply knowledge from the social and biological sciences to environmental problems across a broad spectrum of institutional sectors and geographic locations

Code	Title	Hours
<i>Complete all required methods courses:</i>		6
ANTH 5053	Quantitative Methods in Anthropology	
ANTH 6063	Qualitative Research Design and Methods	
<i>Complete one technical course from the list below:</i>		3
ENVS 6200/ HBSC 7340	Risk Assessment	
GEOG 5060	Remote Sensing I: Introduction to Environmental Remote Sensing	
GEOG 5080	Introduction to GIS	
GEOG 5235	GIS Applications in the Health Sciences	
<i>Complete a minimum of 12 credit hours of approved society and environment related elective coursework from the list below, substitutions may be approved by the student's advisor:</i>		12
COMM 5282	Environmental Communication	
GEOG 5090	Environmental Modeling with Geographic Information Systems	
GEOG 5230	Hazard Mitigation and Vulnerability Assessment	
GEOG 5265	Sustainability in Resources Management	
GEOG 5335	Contemporary Environmental Issues	
GEOG 5350	Environment and Society in the American Past	
GEOG 5420	The Politics of Nature	
GEOG 5440	Science, Policy and the Environment	
GEOG 5680	Urban Sustainability: Perspectives and Practice	
GEOG 5710	Disasters, Climate Change, and Health	
ENVS 5010	Landscape Biogeochemistry	
ENVS 5020	Earth Environments and Human Impacts	
ENVS 5280	Environmental Hydrology	
PSCI 5145	Indigenous Politics	
PSCI 5217	Human Rights: Theory and Practice	
PSCI 5236	Seminar: American Foreign Policy	
PSCI 5276	Conflicts and Rights in International Law	
PSCI 5354	Seminar: Environmental Politics and Policy	
PSCI/WGST 5555	International Women's Resistance	
<i>Complete a project or thesis on an approved society and environment related topic.</i>		
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>21</b>

## Women's and Gender Studies Track

Women's and Gender Studies are based in feminist theory, queer theory, post-colonial and ethnic studies, and a variety of social sciences and cultural studies

Code	Title	Hours
<i>Complete at least one WGST theory course:</i>		3
WGST/ENGL/ HIST 5306	Survey of Feminist Thought	
WGST/PHIL 5500	Feminist Philosophy	
WGST/SSCI/ HUMN 6010	Methods and Theories of Feminism and Gender Studies	
<i>Complete a minimum of 12 credit hours of approved women's and gender studies related elective coursework from the list below, substitutions may be approved by the student's advisor:</i>		12
CRJU/PUAD 5910	Nature and Scope of Interpersonal Violence	
CRJU/PUAD 5930	Interpersonal Violence Law and Public Policy	
ENGL 5000	Studies of Major Authors	
PSCI 4827	Women and the Law	
PSCI/WGST 4215	Women's Rights, Human Rights: Global Perspectives	
PSCI/WGST 4564	Gender and Politics	
PSCI 5245/ WGST 5248	Gender, Development and Globalization	
SOCY 5550	Seminar: Sociology of the Family	
SSCI/HUMN 5770	Selling Empires: The Art of Visual Propaganda	
WGST 5230	Women in the West	
WGST/HIST 5303	Sex and Gender in Modern Britain	
WGST/ENGL 5306	Survey of Feminist Thought	
WGST/HIST 5307	History of Sexuality	
WGST/ENGL/ PHIL 5308	Contemporary Feminist Thought	
WGST/HIST 5345	Gender, Science and Medicine: 1600 to the Present	
WGST/RLST 5420	Goddess Traditions	
WGST/PHIL 5500	Feminist Philosophy	
WGST/ ENGL 5510/ RLST 5730	Whores and Saints: Medieval Women	
WGST 5511	French Women Writers	
WGST/PSCI 5555	International Women's Resistance	
WGST/SSCI/ HUMN 5720	Sexuality, Gender and Their Visual Representations	
<i>Complete a project or thesis on an approved women's and gender studies related topic.</i>		
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>15</b>

To learn more about the Student Learning Outcomes for this program, please visit our website (<https://clas.ucdenver.edu/mhmss/mhmss-degree-information/>).