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. 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.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HUMN/SSCI 5025</td>
<td>Foundations and Theories of Interdisciplinary Humanities (Must be taken during the first year, offered in the fall only.)</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>or IDST 5022</td>
<td>Foundations and Theories of Interdisciplinary Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDST 5013</td>
<td>Methods and Practices of Graduate Interdisciplinary Studies (Must be taken during the first year, offered in the spring only.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDST 5023</td>
<td>Research Perspectives in Interdisciplinary Studies</td>
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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.

General MSS Track (p. 2)
- Community Health Track (p. 2)
- Ethnic Studies Track (p. 2)
- International Studies Track (p. 3)
- Social Justice Track (p. 3)
- Society and the Environment Track (p. 4)
- Women’s and Gender Studies Track (p. 4)

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

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>36</td>
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1 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.

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<td></td>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>15</td>
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**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.

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<td></td>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>15</td>
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Complete at least one ethnic studies methods/theory course:

ANTH 5063  Ethnographic Methods: Principles, Ethics, and Critiques
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

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:

ANTH 5290  Anthropology and Public Health
ANTH 5300  Immigrant 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

Complete at least one ethnic studies methods/theory course:

ETST 5000  Research Methods in Ethnic Studies
EDFN 5001  Problematizing Whiteness: Educating for Racial Justice

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:

ANTH 5350  Anthropology of Globalization
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
patterns and trends in the multifaceted discipline of international studies

Through humanistic and social science methodologies and hands-on experiences both in Denver and abroad, students learn to identify

International Studies Track

Complete the following methodology course or one approved by the MSS faculty. 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.

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

Total Hours 15

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.

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:

Code Title Hours
BUSB 5640 Legal and Ethical Environment of Business 3
COMM 5040 Communication, Prisons, and Social Justice 3
ENGL 5190 Advanced Topics in Writing, Rhetoric, & Linguistics 3
ENGL/HIST/ WGST 5306 Survey of Feminist Thought 3
HIST 5650 Globalization in World History Since 1945 3
HIST 5308 Crime, Policing, and Justice in American History 3
HIST 5412 Mexico and the United States: People and Politics on the Border 3
HIST 5455 African Struggle for Independence 3
PSCI 5025 Local Governance and Globalization 3
PSCI 5206 Social Movements, Democracy and Global Politics 3
PSCI 5225 Democracy and Democratization 3
PSCI 5245/ WGST 5248 Gender, Development and Globalization 3
PSCI 5274 Conflict Resolution and Public Consent Building 3
PSCI 5276 Conflicts and Rights in International Law 3
PSCI 5286 International Relations: War or Peace? 3
PSCI 5414 Non-Profits and Social Change 3
PSCI 5545 Immigration Politics 3
PSCI/WGST 5555 International Women’s Resistance 3
PSCI 5837 Contemporary Issues in Civil Liberties 3
SOCY 5440 Poverty and Social Inequality 3
SOCY 5460 Hate Groups and Group Violence 3
SSCI/HUMN/ Methods and Theories of Feminism and Gender 3
WGST 6010 Studies 3
WGST 5303 Sex and Gender in Modern Britain 3
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.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>Complete at least one WGST theory course:</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGST/ENGL/HIST 5306</td>
<td>Survey of Feminist Thought</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGST/PHIL 5500</td>
<td>Feminist Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGST/SSCI/HUMN 6010</td>
<td>Methods and Theories of Feminism and Gender Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>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:</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRJU/PUAD 5910</td>
<td>Nature and Scope of Interpersonal Violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRJU/PUAD 5930</td>
<td>Interpersonal Violence Law and Public Policy</td>
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<td>ENGL 5000</td>
<td>Studies of Major Authors</td>
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<td>PSCI 4827</td>
<td>Women and the Law</td>
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<td>PSCI/WGST 4215</td>
<td>Women’s Rights, Human Rights: Global Perspectives</td>
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<td>PSCI/WGST 4564</td>
<td>Gender and Politics</td>
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<td>PSCI 5245/WGST 5248</td>
<td>Gender, Development and Globalization</td>
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<td>SOCY 5550</td>
<td>Seminar: Sociology of the Family</td>
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<td>SSCI/HUMN 5770</td>
<td>Viewing Empire: The Art of Imperial and Colonial Propaganda</td>
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<td>WGST 5230</td>
<td>Women in the West</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGST/HIST 5303</td>
<td>Sex and Gender in Modern Britain</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGST/ENGL 5306</td>
<td>Survey of Feminist Thought</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGST/HIST 5307</td>
<td>History of Sexuality</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGST/ENGL/PHIL 5308</td>
<td>Contemporary Feminist Thought</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGST/HIST 5345</td>
<td>Gender, Science and Medicine: 1600 to the Present</td>
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<td>WGST/RLST 5420</td>
<td>Goddess Traditions</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGST/PHIL 5500</td>
<td>Feminist Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGST/ENGL/RLST 5730</td>
<td>Whores and Saints: Medieval Women</td>
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<td>WGST 5511</td>
<td>French Women Writers</td>
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<td>WGST/PSCI 5555</td>
<td>International Women’s Resistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGST/IDST/HUMN 5720</td>
<td>Sex, Gender, and Visual Representation</td>
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Total Hours: **21**
Complete a project or thesis on an approved women's and gender studies related topic.

Total Hours 15

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