Graduate School Policies and Procedures (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/graduate/graduate-school-policies-procedures/) apply to this program.

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 department.

Introduction

If a student prefers 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

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 program courses taken at CU Denver 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. Students cannot complete program or ancillary course requirements as pass/fail.
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 MH must follow the rules of the Graduate School 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. Only one graduate-level online course (up to 3 hours) may be taken toward 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.

Required Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSCI 5013</td>
<td>Methods and Practices of Graduate Interdisciplinary Humanities (Must be taken during the first year, offered in the spring only.)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSCI 5020</td>
<td>Foundations and Theories of Interdisciplinary Social Science (Must be taken during the first year, offered in the fall only.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSCI 5023</td>
<td>Research Perspectives in Social Science</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Students must complete a total of 21-24 credit hours. Students completing a project rather than a thesis take 24 hours of electives, while thesis students complete 21 hours of electives. Students may choose to create their own curriculum from at least two disciplines addressing their specific research interest.</td>
<td>21-24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In addition to the MSS Core requirements, students must:

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

### MSS Elective Pathways

#### 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 epidemiology, public health and public health education, and health planning.

**In addition to the MSS Core requirements, students must:**

**Code** | **Title** | **Hours**
---|---|---
Take 9 credit hours of approved methods courses - some of these courses have prerequisites that must be met: | |
ANTH 6063 | Qualitative Research Design and Methods | 3
HBSC 7041 | Research Design and Methods in the Health and Behavioral Sciences I | 3
HBSC 7061 | Quantitative Methods in the Health and Behavioral Sciences | 3
HBSC 7071 | Social and Behavioral Perspectives in Population Health | 3

**Code** | **Title** | **Hours**
---|---|---
Take a minimum of 6 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 | 3
ANTH 5300 | Migrant Health | 3
ANTH 5600 | Medical Anthropology | 3
COMM 5500 | Health Communication | 3
COMM 5550 | Rhetorics of Medicine & Health | 3
COMM 5620 | Health Risk Communication | 3
ECON 6210 | Public Finance | 3
ENVS 6230 | Environmental Epidemiology | 3
GEOG 5230 | Hazard Mitigation and Vulnerability Assessment | 3
GEOG 5235 | GIS Applications in the Health Sciences | 3
GEOG 5710 | Disasters, Climate Change, and Health | 3
HLTH 6010 | Health Care Systems | 3
HLTH 6070 | International Health Policy and Management | 3
PHIL 5242 | Bioethics | 3
PSCI 5354 | Seminar: Environmental Politics and Policy | 3
PUAD 5615 | Health Policy | 3
WGST 5345 | Gender, Science and Medicine: 1600 to the Present | 3

**Code** | **Title** | **Hours**
---|---|---
Take at least one ethnic studies methods/theory course | |
ETST 5000 | Research Methods in Ethnic Studies | 3
EDFN 5001 | Problematizing Whiteness: Educating for Racial Justice | 3

**Code** | **Title** | **Hours**
---|---|---
Take 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 | 3
COMM 5270 | Intercultural Communication | 3
EDFN 5050 | Critical Issues in American Education | 3
ENGL 5460 | Contemporary World Literature | 3
ETST 5020 | Race, Culture and Immigration | 3
ETST 5021 | Black and Latino Children in Families and Schools | 3
ETST 5030 | Race, Religion and Belonging in the United States | 3
ETST 5165 | Cultural Diversity Awareness in the Workplace | 3
ETST 5220 | African-American Literature | 3
or ENGL 5220 | African-American Literature | 3
ETST 5305 | Women of Color Feminisms | 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

**Code** | **Title** | **Hours**
---|---|---
HIST 5455 | African Struggle for Independence | 3
HIST 5462 | Islam in Modern History | 3
PSCI 4446 | Advanced Indigenous Peoples’ Politics | 3
PSCI 5094 | Seminar: Urban Politics | 3
PSCI 5145 | Indigenous Politics | 3
PSCI 5206 | Social Movements, Democracy and Global Politics | 3
PSCI 5245 | Gender, Globalization and Development | 3
PSCI 5256 | Seminar: National Question and Self-Determination | 3
PSCI 5446 | Advanced Indigenous Peoples’ Politics | 3
PSCI 5545 | Immigration Politics | 3
PSCI 5914 | Community Organizing and Community Development | 3
SOCY 5050 | Health Disparities | 3
SOCY 5440 | Poverty and Social Inequality | 3
SOCY 5460 | Hate Groups and Group Violence | 3
SOCY 5690 | Crime and Inequality Over the Life Course | 3
SPAN 5020 | Spanish Sociolinguistics | 3
SPAN 5060 | Dialects of the Spanish-Speaking World | 3
SPAN 5076 | Spanish in Colorado | 3
SPAN 5080 | Spanish in the United States | 3
SPAN 5521 | Mexican Literature I: pre-Columbian and Colonial | 3
In addition to the MSS Core requirements, students must:

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

**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.

**In addition to the MSS Core requirements, students must:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 5216</td>
<td>Seminar: International Relations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Code**

**Title**

**Hours**

Take the following methodology course or one approved by the MSS program advisor:

- PSCI 5216 Seminar: International Relations

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

**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 MIMSS faculty.

**In addition to the MSS Core requirements, students must:**

Complete a project or thesis on an approved social justice related topic.

**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.

**In addition to the MSS Core requirements, students must:**

Complete a project or thesis on an approved social justice related topic.
In addition to the MSS Core requirements, students must:

**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.

In addition to the MSS Core requirements, students must:

Complete a project or thesis on an approved society and environment related topic.

### Code | Title | Hours
--- | --- | ---
ANTH 5053 | Quantitative Methods in Anthropology | 3
ANTH 6063 | Qualitative Research Design and Methods | 3

**WGST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>or WGST 5511</td>
<td>Methods and Theories of Feminism and Gender Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or SSCI 5510</td>
<td>Methods and Theories of Feminism and Gender Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or HUMN 6010</td>
<td>Methods and Theories of Feminism and Gender Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Take all required methods courses**

**Take one technical course from the list below:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 6200</td>
<td>Risk Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 5060</td>
<td>Remote Sensing I: Introduction to Environmental Remote Sensing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 5080</td>
<td>Introduction to GIS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 5235</td>
<td>GIS Applications in the Health Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Complete a project or thesis on an approved women’s and gender studies related elective coursework from the list below, substitutions may be approved by the student’s advisor:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>or WGST 5511</td>
<td>Methods and Theories of Feminism and Gender Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or SSCI 5510</td>
<td>Methods and Theories of Feminism and Gender Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or HUMN 6010</td>
<td>Methods and Theories of Feminism and Gender Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Take 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WGST 5500</td>
<td>Feminist Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PHIL 5500</td>
<td>Feminist Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Take at least one WGST theory course**

**Hours**

**Complete a project or thesis and an oral comprehensive defense of that work, in order to graduate.**
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 hours of course work. In the case of a project, students will submit a project proposal after 33 hours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSCI 6950</td>
<td>Master's Thesis</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSCI 6960</td>
<td>Master's Project or Report</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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