

SOCIOLOGY, MA

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Introduction

The MA Program in Sociology at CU Denver provides a coherent, progressive, educational experience that prepares students for either immediate entry to a master's level career or continued study in Ph.D. programs. The program requires completion of 33 total credit hours, 27 of which are courses and 6 comprise the student's comprehensive paper. The comprehensive paper is either a thesis or an internship with a final report.

Please click here (<http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/graduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/sociology/>) to see Sociology department information.

MA Program Strengths

- **Emphasis on Methodology** - This program distinguishes itself, in part, by its strong emphasis on methodology. All students are required to take 9 credit hours of research methodology and analysis (Research Methods, Quantitative Data Analysis, and Qualitative Data Analysis).
- **An Urban Environment** - The MA program in Sociology at CU Denver benefits tremendously from its location in a state capital and one of the fastest-growing urban areas in the U.S. This dynamic context provides a natural classroom for teaching our specialties: Health & Society; Crime, Law & Deviance; and, Family, Social Services & Community.
- **Institutional Connections** - Our proximity and institutional connection to the top-rated University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus (AMC) offer training opportunities as well, which are facilitated by engagement of departmental faculty with AMC medical researchers. In addition, strong integration of our faculty with the CU Denver campus community supports collaborative teaching and training efforts with faculty in the Departments of Geography, Anthropology, and Health & Behavioral Sciences.

Substantive Concentrations

In addition to education and training for sociology generalists, the program offers concentrations in three substantive areas. To receive an area concentration, students must successfully complete three courses within the area. Eligible courses are either within or outside the department, but the student may only take two courses outside the department.

Concentrations

Crime, Law and Deviance

The focus of this concentration is to provide students with an in-depth understanding of criminology including the social construction of laws, the causes of crime, reactions to law violations, and the prevention, control, and treatment of crime. Additionally, the program teaches students how deviant categories are created, how groups gain control over social definitions, and the consequences these definitions have in the form of norms, laws, and social sanctions. The concentration on

crime, law, and deviance also focuses on how legal systems maintain and reproduces social inequalities. This offers an essential foundation for students pursuing careers in criminal justice, victim and community services, criminal law, and non-profit organizations in local and international contexts. Students may ultimately use this degree to conduct social research on crime, influence public policy, and inform government decisions about crime and law.

Health and Society

Enhancing the health and quality of life for individuals and communities are central goals to societies the world over. Health and medical sociology is a subfield devoted to the study of population health, health care systems and policy, and the social dimensions of illness and healing. Health and medical sociologists study the causes of health inequalities, social constructions of health and illness, origins of medical authority, doctor-patient relationships, community influences on health, and the social forces that affect policy. The Sociology Department's MA concentration in Health and Society provides training in the core research methodologies and theories of medical sociology, examining individual experience, institutional structures, laws and policies that affect health, and broader systems of inequality that lead to unequal rates of illness and access to care. This area of concentration provides in-depth training and is ideal for students interested in further graduate-level study and social research on health and medicine as well as those interested in careers in public health, health care services, and non-profit organizations.

Family, Social Services, and Community

Families play a significant part in individuals' lives and society. At the micro or interpersonal level they are a setting for small-group processes such as socialization, conflict, communication and intimacy. At the meso or institutional level they interact with other major social institutions including those affecting education, law, healthcare, religion, the economy, criminal justice, and welfare. At the macro or structural level, the family—in its varied and diverse forms also is key to understanding how inequality is experienced and reproduced in society. The interplay of these multiple levels—the micro or interpersonal, the meso or institutional, and the macro or structural—is important as well as individuals influence social structures and institutions, and the latter, in turn, affect family interactions and relationships. This concentration provides in depth understanding of the complex role of families and family members at multiple levels, as well as the social systems, organizations and communities responsible for supporting families and individuals.

Program Requirements

The MA program in Sociology provides a coherent, progressive educational experience that prepares students for either immediate entry to a master's level career or continued study in a PhD program. Students choose from two options for their Comprehensive Paper that completes the master's degree: either a 6-credit thesis, or a 3-credit applied experience plus a 3-credit paper. The program also offers 3 concentration areas (Crime, Law & Deviance; Health & Society; Family, Social Services & Community) for students seeking specialization in high-demand career areas.

1. Students must complete a minimum of 27 SOCY credit hours.
2. Students must complete a minimum of 33 graduate (5000-level) or higher credit hours.

- Students must earn a minimum grade of B (3.0) or better in all core courses, a B- (2.7) in all other courses taken at CU Denver and must achieve a minimum cumulative major 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.
- Students must complete all coursework with CU Denver faculty.

Program Restrictions, Allowances and Recommendations

- Students can take an unlimited number of sociology graduate (5000-level) seminars to fulfill their 12 elective credits requirement, or a combination of the following:
 - Independent study: maximum 6 semester hours
 - Graduate level courses in other departments: maximum 6 semester hours
 - Internship: maximum 3 semester hours
- SOCY 5000 Professional Seminar: Sociological Inquiry must be taken in the first fall semester. SOCY 5024 Seminar: Research Methods I must be taken before SOCY 5183 Seminar: Quantitative Data Analysis and SOCY 5193 Seminar: Qualitative Data Analysis.

Required Courses

Tier I Knowledge

Code	Title	Hours
<i>Take the following Core courses</i>		15
SOCY 5000	Professional Seminar: Sociological Inquiry ¹	3
SOCY 5016	Social Theory	3
SOCY 5024	Seminar: Research Methods I ¹	3
SOCY 5183	Seminar: Quantitative Data Analysis ¹	3
SOCY 5193	Seminar: Qualitative Data Analysis ¹	3

¹ SOCY 5000 Professional Seminar: Sociological Inquiry must be taken in the first fall semester. SOCY 5024 Seminar: Research Methods I must be taken before SOCY 5183 Seminar: Quantitative Data Analysis and SOCY 5193 Seminar: Qualitative Data Analysis. Students must earn a B or better in all core courses.

Electives

Tier 2 Knowledge Applied to Substantive Areas

Code	Title	Hours
<i>Take a minimum of 12 elective credits.</i>		12
Students can take an unlimited number of sociology graduate (5000-level) seminars to fulfill their 12 elective credits requirement, or a combination of the following: Independent study: maximum 6 semester hours Graduate level courses in other departments: maximum 6 semester hours Internship: maximum 3 semester hours		
SOCY 5020	Race, Culture and Immigration	3
SOCY 5050	Health Disparities	3
SOCY 5110	Sociology of Health Care	3
SOCY 5220	Population Change and Analysis	3
SOCY 5270	SocI Meanings of Reproduction	3
SOCY 5290	Aging, Society and Social Policy	3
SOCY 5440	Poverty and Social Inequality	3

SOCY 5460	Hate Groups and Group Violence	3
SOCY 5475	Self and Identity	3
SOCY 5550	Seminar: Sociology of the Family	3
SOCY 5590	Crime, Justice, and the City	3
SOCY 5610	Sociology of Religion	3
SOCY 5640	Sociology of Childhood and Adolescence	3
SOCY 5650	Sociology of Adulthood and Aging	3
SOCY 5660	Seminar: Social Psychology	3
SOCY 5690	Crime and Inequality Over the Life Course	3
SOCY 5740	Courts & Society	3
SOCY 5750	Seminar: Criminology	3
SOCY 5770	Advanced Topics in Sociology	1-3
SOCY 5780	Violence in Relationships	3
SOCY 5840	Independent Study: SOCY	1-3
SOCY 5995	Global Study Topics	3-6

Comprehensive Paper

Students must choose **one** of the following Comprehensive Paper options:

Thesis Option

Code	Title	Hours
<i>Take the following</i>		6
SOCY 5955	Master's Thesis	6

Applied Project

Code	Title	Hours
<i>Take the following</i>		6
SOCY 5840	Independent Study: SOCY	3
	or SOCY 5939 Internship	
SOCY 5964	Master's Report	3

For further information about the Department of Sociology or the MA program, visit the Sociology website (<https://clas.ucdenver.edu/sociology/>).

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