



Public Sociology, M.A.

You've decided you're going to make a difference in the world and Cal Poly Humboldt's Master of Arts in Public Sociology can help you make that happen. Our program places social justice and environmental sustainability at our core. We teach students to translate their work for both the academic and non-academic world and work toward community empowerment. You'll be able to apply your new skills in diverse settings, ranging from small nonprofit agencies, to tribal social services, large public organizations, and international programs.

Experience Your Learning

Real-world experience is an essential part of your master's in Public Sociology education at Cal Poly Humboldt.

Graduate students are actively involved in faculty research and social action projects through several research institutes, many of which are linked with community organizations and government agencies:

- The Altruistic Personality and Prosocial Behavior Institute seeks out ways to enhance altruism and prosocial behavior in society.
- California Center for Rural Policy is dedicated to improving the lives of rural people in California through community-based, innovative research.
- Humboldt Institute for Interdisciplinary Marijuana Research conducts, analyzes, and disseminates research. It also provides expertise in policy makers, health care and medical professionals, businesses, and the media, among others.
- Humboldt Journal of Social Relations, an internationally recognized peer-reviewed online journal housed in the Department of Sociology.

Did you know?

- Students learn multiple skills, including qualitative and quantitative research, program evaluations, effective teaching, advanced professional communication skills, and equity-minded orientations to create just and inclusive communities and workplaces.
- You can join professional associations and attend and present papers at relevant conferences like the Pacific Sociological Association, the American Sociological Association, and the Critical Criminology Association, among many others.
- Working professionals can get their degree part time or full time, taking evening classes.



Academics & Options

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Program Emphases

Teaching

Students learn cutting-edge pedagogical practices, and receive both hands-on experience and close mentorship. This is great preparation for teaching at a community college, facilitating and leading groups, designing educational materials, or securing a teaching assistantship in a Ph.D. program.

Practicing

Students develop into well-trained and valuable applied sociologists. They build their skills through classes, a 240-hour placement with a community partner, paid research opportunities, and their thesis/capstone work.

After Graduation

Preparation for a Ph.D.

Graduates will have the solid background in sociological theory, research methods, and quantitative analysis that one needs to be successful in a Ph.D. program. You will have the opportunity to write a thesis, which can transfer to research-based Ph.D. programs.

Preparation for the workforce

Graduates develop into well-trained and valuable applied sociologists. By the time you complete your degree, you will have experience designing and conducting your own research, working with community partners, performing high-level data analysis, and making academic/community presentations.

Careers

Former Humboldt Public Sociology graduates have gone on to work and lead in the nonprofit sector, activist organizations, social service agencies, higher education, and community colleges, and to further study at PhD programs, and much more!

- Advertising Quantitative/Qualitative Researcher
- Data Analyst
- Financial Specialist – Social and Health Services
- Food Policy Researcher and Advocate
- Health Policy Researcher
- Harm Reduction Specialist
- Recruiter/Program Analyst – Housing Authority
- City Planner
- Public Policy Analyst/Researcher
- Community College or University Instructor/Professor



I was given multiple research, teaching [and mentorship] opportunities that have translated well to my current Ph.D. program ... [These] experiences, and ... support from faculty have been some of the most valuable education I have ever received ... For anyone interested in further information or questions regarding graduate school, I invite you to email me at stonet5@unlv.nevada.edu.

Torisha Stone (2018), Ph.D. student at University of Nevada, Las Vegas