

THE PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY MA PROGRAM

Students completing this program will have demonstrated:

- a solid foundation in sociological theory
- a solid foundation in sociological methods
- professional socialization, including an understanding of social justice and ethical issues
- hands-on experience in either practicing or teaching sociology.

The master's program in public sociology, which focuses on public sociology, social justice and action, fosters a network of students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members who are committed to public sociology, justice and action. Public sociology represents work that takes sociological knowledge and skills beyond the confines of the academy into the communities where these resources are much needed. Whether speaking to girls and boys about media, gender, and violence or consulting with a non-profit on a community survey on corporatization and locally owned business, the work of our faculty and students is tightly interwoven with our local communities.

The concept of social justice emphasizes a holistic understanding of the relationships between people, built and "natural" systems, and the social implications of particular structures and relationships. Race, class, gender, and nation are central to analysis, as well as strategies for action. The action component emphasized in our program is tightly linked to the idea of public sociology. Yet, action represents for us a particular type of public sociology — we understand action as social change work that draws heavily on knowledge of social movements, community organizing, and conflict resolution as particular plans are strategized, implemented, and evaluated.

Our MA students choose an experience emphasis in either Practicing Sociology or Teaching Sociology. Regardless of their emphasis, our alumni graduate with a solid foundation in social theory and social research that is marked by a departmental commitment and curricular integration of public sociology and social justice, as well as knowledge and skills for social action. Sociology faculty members, along with the Sociology and CJS Community Advisory Board, cultivate a range of field placement opportunities for students emphasizing Practicing Sociology.

Students develop their specialization by

drawing on coursework, carefully selecting a field placement and working with faculty mentors.

The teaching sociology emphasis introduces students to pedagogy and theories of learning, while providing experience with college classroom teaching. Students explore issues unique to sociology classrooms, while developing approaches effective for education across multiple settings.

The emphasis in Practicing Sociology prepares students for professional positions in research, business, government, non-profits organizations and activist organizations. The emphasis in teaching sociology prepares students for community college and other education-related professional positions. Either emphasis is appropriate for students who wish to continue their graduate study in a Ph.D. program.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER'S DEGREE

Common Coursework (21 units)

SOC 583	(4) Quantitative Research Methods
SOC 584	(4) Qualitative Research Methods
SOC 605	(1) Graduate Proseminar in Sociology
SOC 610	(4) Contemporary Social Theory
SOC 650	(4) Race, Ethnicity & Gender
SOC 665	(4) Community, Ecology & Social Action

Social Action Electives (4 units)

Select one of the following*:

CRIM 487	(4) Community Action Research
FILM 455	(4) Grant Writing or
FILM 455S	(4) Grant Writing
SOC 350	(4) Social Movements
SOC 475	(4) Community Organizing
SOC 535	(4) Dispute Resolution

* Other courses that are social action oriented and experience based may be approved by the Graduate Coordinator.

Area Seminar Electives (4 units)

Select one of the following:

SOC 530	(4) Individual & Society
SOC 550	(4) Social Structure & Inequality

Experience Emphasis Coursework Electives (3 units total)

SOC 590	(1-2) Practicing Sociology (Enroll in one unit fall semester of first year. Enroll in two units spring semester of first year.)
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SOC 560	(2) Teaching Sociology, and
SOC 595	(1) Teaching Assistantship

Thesis or Project (6 units)

SOC 690	(1-5) Master's Degree Thesis, or
SOC 692	(1-5) Master's Degree Project

The decision to enroll in "project" or "thesis" units is based on the orientation and content of the student work itself and is not dictated by the experience emphasis. Students should review the discussion of thesis and project units in the Public Sociology "Graduate Manual" and work with the graduate coordinator and their committee chair in determining the most appropriate course number (SOC 690 or SOC 692) for their work. Students emphasizing practicing sociology should enroll in thesis or project units concurrently with their field placements (see below).

Grade and Progress Requirements

Students must earn a "B" (3.0) or better in all courses taken to satisfy the requirements of the degree. The department reserves the right to dismiss from the program a student who does not make academically adequate and timely progress in moving through degree requirements. For more information, see the graduate school handbook regarding academic probation and disqualification.

ADDITIONAL MA DEGREE INFORMATION

Field Site Placement Requirements

Students emphasizing Practicing Sociology are required to complete 240 hours of field placement work that may include up to 40 hours of academic administrative work such as scheduling and meeting with faculty advisors, preparing and submitting required reporting and evaluation information, and formatting final products as required by the graduate school. Students should work closely with the Graduate Coordinator to identify a placement that will best support their interests and long-term goals, as well as provide them with experience in either program evaluation or community action.

Teaching Assistantship

Students emphasizing teaching sociology are required to complete at least one SOC 595: Teaching Assistantship, which provides an opportunity to be mentored and observe/learn in a real classroom. Participation in a teaching assistantship requires prior or concurrent enrollment in SOC 560 Teaching Sociology. A student must enroll in SOC 595 Teaching Assistantship (1 unit) each time