

APPLIED SOCIOLOGY (MA)

FORENSIC SERVICES (GRADUATE CERTIFICATE)

Faculty

Paul Benson, PhD, *University of North Carolina Chapel Hill* • Social Psychiatry
• Medical Sociology • Deviance

Milton Butts, PhD, *University of Pennsylvania* • Criminology • Delinquency
• Race Relations

Jorge Capetillo-Ponce, PhD, *New School for Social Research* • Social Theory • Race and Ethnic Relations • Communications

Xiaogang Deng, PhD, *State University of New York Buffalo* • Deviance
• Criminology • Research Methodology

Robert A Dentler (Emeritus), PhD, *University of Chicago* • Evaluation Research
• Social Policy • Social Problems • Sociology of Education

Estelle Disch, PhD, *Tufts University*
• Gender • Human Services • Deviance

Gerald R Garrett (Emeritus), PhD, *Washington State University* • Alcohol Addiction • Criminology • Social Deviance and Control

Susan Gore, PhD, *University of Pennsylvania* • Medical Sociology
• Research Methodology

Laura L Hansen, PhD, *University of California, Riverside* • Social Network Analysis • Criminology • Corrections Organizations

Stephanie Hartwell, PhD, *Yale University*
• Criminal Justice • Substance Abuse
• Forensics • Mental Health

Glenn Jacobs, PhD, *Temple University*
• Race and Ethnic Relations • Social Problems • Sociological Theory

Richard Kronish, PhD, *University of Wisconsin, Madison* • Social Policy • Social Deviance and Control • Sociology of Work

Calvin J Larson (Emeritus), PhD, *University of Oregon* • Criminology • Sociological Theory

Siamak Movahedi, PhD, *Washington State University* • Social Psychiatry • Social Psychology • Research Methodology
• Social Statistics

Russell K Schutt, PhD, *University of Illinois, Chicago* • Sociology of Law • Homelessness
• Sociology of Organization • Research Methodology

Edward Stern, JD, *Boston University*
• Sociology of Law • Criminal Justice
• Juvenile Justice (Part-time)

Mohammed A Tamdgidi, PhD, *State University of New York Binghamton* • Social Theory • Sociology of Knowledge
• Mysticism • Utopia

James J Willis, PhD, *Yale University*
• Criminology • Deviance • Sociology of Law

The Program

The Master of Arts Program in Applied Sociology, through courses and internships, provides students with skills and knowledge directly applicable to a host of professional settings, including criminal justice agencies, human service organizations, health care institutions, alcohol and substance abuse treatment programs, and applied research firms, as well as laying a foundation for doctoral study. Course work in core areas such as social theory, social policy analysis, complex organizations, and research methods provides students a broad understanding of the relevance of sociology in examining and treating complex social problems, as well as specific job skills useful in applied settings and in advanced studies. The program offers specialized course work in a number of areas, including criminology/corrections, health care, gerontology, alcohol/substance abuse, and forensic services. This range of possibilities enables students to pursue specialized study according to their interests and career objectives. An important feature of the program is its field work option—an internship that reflects the academic and professional interests of the student. Internship placements are generally in public and private agencies and may be either service or research oriented.

The program seeks applicants whose career and academic interests are oriented toward either applied areas or future doctoral study. Graduate seminars are scheduled in the late afternoon and evening hours to accommodate those with employment and other obligations. Full-time students can complete requirements for the MA in two years. Part-time students will be admitted to the program if they meet graduate admissions criteria. All students admitted into the program must complete degree requirements within five years. Non-matriculated students who hold a BA degree may enroll in selected courses (and not more than a total of two) provided they demonstrate suitable qualifications for graduate study to the program director and instructor.

Facilities

A range of computational and research resources is available to students in the program. Major statistical packages and other software are available in computer labs and graduate student offices. The Healey Library offers an extensive online journal collection, as well as books, journals, and government documents on-site.

These resources are complemented by extensive social science data archives and ongoing social science research projects. Through the Social and Demographic Research Institute at UMass Amherst, students have access to data obtained from Gallup polls, surveys of prison inmates, observations of plea bargaining, records of Massachusetts court cases, and hundreds of other studies of national and local populations. Through the Center for Survey Research at UMass Boston, the program maintains close ties to survey research projects. Ongoing faculty research provides additional opportunities for student projects.

University membership in the Boston Library Consortium permits student and faculty access to periodicals, books, and a variety of technical material not available in the University's Healey Library.

Degree Requirements

Courses

Candidates for the MA degree in applied sociology must earn a minimum of 36 semester credits, at least 30 of which must be in courses offered in the program. To graduate, students must have an overall grade point average of 3.0.

Each student's course work includes the following:

1. SOC 600 (Foundations).
2. Two courses in research methodology (SOC 650, 651).
3. Two of the following: SOC 601, 605, 620, 641.
4. At least two courses related to an area of concentration such as criminology/corrections, medical sociology, dispute resolution, or gerontology.
5. A field work course (SOCIOL 698, 3-6 credits). The required field work/internship component may be waived if the student has had substantial experience in an appropriate field work setting—for example, a social or human service agency.

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Thesis, Master's Paper, or Comprehensive Examination

As the program's capstone requirement, each student chooses to complete a master's thesis, write a master's paper, or take a comprehensive examination. Students choosing the thesis option earn nine of their required 36 credits through writing the thesis (SOCIO 699), a project supervised by a thesis committee. The master's thesis, submitted at the conclusion of degree work, must show evidence of analytical thinking, methodological skill, and competence in the substantive area under investigation. Students choosing to write a master's paper register for a six-credit Master's Research Seminar (SOCIO 695) during which they write a research paper. To enroll in this seminar, students should have already satisfied all the requirements of the undergraduate and graduate research methods sequence. The master's paper is evaluated by the supervising professor and another member of the faculty. The master's paper must show the student's general competence in sociological theory, methodology, and one substantive area.

Students are eligible to take the comprehensive examination after completing a minimum of 30 credits. Independent study (SOCIO 696) may be taken in preparation for the examination.

Transfer Credits

Please see the general statement of transfer credit requirements for all graduate studies programs in the "Regulations, Procedures, and Degree Requirements" section of this publication.

Before enrollment in the program, students should consult with the graduate program director regarding transfer credits or UMass Boston undergraduate credits if these are intended to satisfy degree requirements.

Students may obtain and satisfy degree credits by concentrating in course work in selected other graduate programs. In particular, full-time students in the MA Program in Applied Sociology may pursue a course of study leading to a certificate in gerontology, dispute resolution, or forensic services. Please note: Enrollment in these areas is contingent on approval of the respective program directors.

Admission Requirements

Please see the general statement of admission requirements for all graduate studies programs in the "Admissions" section of this publication.

Candidates for admission to the MA program in Applied Sociology must provide evidence of ability to perform successfully at the graduate level. Such evidence includes:

1. A strong undergraduate record in sociology and related subjects, with at least a 3.0 GPA in sociology and related course work and, normally, an overall GPA of at least 3.0. Applicants who do not hold a BA in sociology should have at least 18 semester credits or the equivalent in undergraduate sociology or another behavioral or social science field related to program objectives.
2. Successful completion of one or more undergraduate courses in sociological theory, research methodology, and statistics. Candidates admitted to the program who are deficient in any of these areas may be required to take undergraduate courses in the Department of Sociology to be completed not later than the end of the second semester of residence in the program.
3. A statement of 1,200 words by the applicant on his or her academic and career interests in applied sociology. The statement should indicate the candidate's current specialization interests (see "Additional Instructions for All Applicants" in the Graduate Admissions Application Instructions at the back of this publication).
4. A score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
5. Three letters of recommendation from individuals acquainted with the applicant's interests who are qualified to evaluate his or her potential for sustained graduate study in applied sociology. When possible, at least one of the letters should be from a faculty member with whom the applicant is studying or has studied.

Candidates for admission interested in applying for a graduate assistantship should write to the director of the MA Program in Applied Sociology. Awards are made by the graduate program committee to qualified students who will be enrolling in six or more credits each semester. For complete information, see the "Assistantships and Financial Aid" section of this publication.

A Five-Year Accelerated Combined BA/MA Program

An accelerated five-year BA and MA program is also available for eligible UMass Boston undergraduate students interested in applied sociology. By entering this program students can earn both a bachelor's degree in their field of interest and a master's degree in applied sociology in less time than earning these degrees separately would require. Students are accepted into the full-time master's degree program in their junior year, begin taking graduate courses in their senior year, and complete the requirements in the fifth year. On completion of all requirements, students will be awarded both bachelor's and master's degrees. Students who do not complete the entire program, or do not have the required GPA to be awarded an MA degree, may choose to apply appropriate earned credits toward the bachelor's degree. This program consists of 140 credits (104 undergraduate and 36 graduate level credits or their equivalents) which can be completed in five years. Students, however, may carry less than a full course load and complete the program at a slower rate.

Admission Requirements

Students should apply to this program when they have taken at least three courses in sociology but no later than the second semester of their junior year. Applicants must have a minimum 3.00 overall grade point average. However, conditional admission may be granted to students with a lower GPA upon the recommendation of the graduate program director. Conditional status will be reassessed no later than the completion of twelve credit hours. A grade point average of 3.00 or better in courses completed is required for removal of conditional status. Admission decisions follow the same procedures and standards used to evaluate graduate applicants to the MA program. However, the GRE is not required (though it may be submitted as additional data).

Graduate Certificate in Forensic Services

The Graduate Program in Applied Sociology, in cooperation with the University's Division of Continuing Education, is partner to a 16-credit Graduate Certificate Program in Forensic Services, designed for criminal justice and mental health professionals.

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Criminal investigation, law, psychological assessment and evaluation, and the workings of related social service systems are all broadly encompassed by the term "forensic services." The certificate program is designed to enable students to serve as effective professionals in a variety of social service settings, by providing them with a strong academic grounding in the behavioral sciences as well as practical skills in the fields of mental health and criminal justice.

The program's emphasis on analysis and its interdisciplinary approach are strengthened by partnership with other academic units. Among these are UMass Boston's undergraduate Criminal Justice Program, Department of Psychology, and Graduate Program in Counseling, as well as the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts School of Medicine.

The Forensic Services Certificate Program seeks to help students increase their understanding of public health and the law, especially in areas where issues of mental health and criminality intersect and diverge. Students interested in policy or social service provision for vulnerable populations have the opportunity to take advantage of the program's focus on such specific areas as alternatives to incarceration, clinical assessment, corrections, criminal justice, criminality, law, mental illness, offenders, parole, the police, private agencies, probation, public systems, substance abuse, treatment services, and violence.

Requirements

Students in the certificate program complete five three-credit courses and a one-credit field experience project:

COUNSL 604: Foundations in Mental Health
 PSYCH 614: Forensic Psychology
 SOCIOL 598: Field Experience Project (1 credit)
 SOCIOL 623: Alcohol, Drugs, and Crime
 SOCIOL 467/667: Sociology of Law
 SOCIOL 618: Seminar in Psychiatric Epidemiology and Forensic Services (with UMass Medical School faculty).

Admission Requirements

Please see the general statement of admission requirements for all graduate studies programs in the "Admissions" section of this publication.

Further Information

For specific information about the Forensic Services Certificate Program, please call the program office at 617.287.6276.

Course Prerequisites

Please consult UMass Boston's undergraduate catalog for complete information about the undergraduate courses listed here as prerequisites for individual graduate-level courses.

Courses

SOCIOL 598 Field Experience Project

This course includes site visits and observation time spent in the field at state or social service agencies.

1 Credit

SOCIOL 600 Foundations of Applied Sociology

This course is required for all formally accepted first-year students. The purpose of the course is a) to engage students in the field and substance of applied sociology, in order to strengthen their understanding of how theories, concepts, and sociological research are central to social problem-solving, policymaking, and the skills required in a variety of occupational settings; b) to involve students at the beginning of their graduate education in designing their studies to meet their educational, career, and personal objectives; and c) to maximize and facilitate student utilization of the curriculum, faculty, and departmental/university resources.

Prerequisite: Enrollment in the MA Program in Applied Sociology.

3 Lect Hrs, 3 credits

SOCIOL 601 Complex Organizations

The course acquaints students with studies of complex organizations that throw light on decision-making and conflict in the setting of formal organizations. Students will study how policies emerge and how they are translated into action. They study research illuminating the nature and functions of rules, the initiation and consequences of political processes, the role and problems of street-level bureaucrats, and the impact of social, political, and economic conditions on organizational behavior. Theories and concepts are applied to human service organizations, and their distinctive features are discussed.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

3 Lect Hrs, 3 Credits

SOCIOL 605 Applied Sociological Theory

This course examines the nature and aims of applied sociological theory. Of special interest is the bearing of pure or basic sociological theory on applied research and problem solving, the differences between pure and applied sociological theory, and the relevance of applied theory for basic sociological theory. Other topics include the theoretical implications of moral and ethical concerns and restrictions in applied social research and employment and the nature of the values and assumptions involved in efforts to devise and implement policy intended to treat social problems.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

3 Lect Hrs, 3 Credits

SOCIOL L609 (GERON L609, PPOL L609) Qualitative Methods and Field Research

This course is designed to introduce students to qualitative research methods; its specific focus is on policy research and aging. Students practice the skills needed to observe the world around them by attending to social phenomena, descriptively and analytically. The course functions as both a seminar and a research workshop, and students learn by engaging in a field work project.

Prerequisites: GERON 601, 602, or 603, or permission of instructor.

3 Lect Hrs, 3 Credits

SOCIOL 618 Psychiatric Epidemiology and Forensic Services

This course provides necessary professional skills and helps students understand forensic evidence and its use in courts. Topics include research in psychiatric epidemiology, sources of violence, recidivism, and risk assessment.

3 Lect Hrs, 3 Credits

Applied Sociology

SOCIOL 620

Social Problems

An analysis of theories to explain the historical development of social problems. Theories include Marxian and non-Marxian analyses, micro- and macro-theoretical approaches such as functionalism, conflict, interactionism and deviance perspectives. Special attention is given to the application of theories for the understanding of such contemporary social problems as unemployment and poverty, problems of urban communities, inter-group conflict/relations, individual deviance, and others.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

3 Lect Hrs, 3 Credits

SOCIOL 621

Social Psychiatry

Sociological analysis of psychiatric theories and practices; examination of the effect of social structure on the construction, diagnosis, and treatment of mental disorders.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

3 Lect Hrs, 3 Credits

SOCIOL 622

Comparative Approaches to Deviance and Social Control

This course considers the relation between deviance and societal development, concentrating on the effects of modernization, urbanization, and industrialization on definitions of deviance and on the incidence and control of various kinds of deviant behavior. Methodological problems of cross-cultural comparison are addressed, and comparative material on violent crime, juvenile delinquency, prostitution, alcoholism, and other types of deviance is drawn from Western Europe, the former Soviet Union, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

3 Lect Hrs, 3 Credits

SOCIOL 623

Alcohol, Drugs, and Crime

This course focuses on the multifaceted associations among alcohol, drug use, and crime in America. It distinguishes legal and policy issues from competing paradigms and contrasts criminal justice and public health models. State-of-the-art etiology, epidemiology, prevention, and treatment studies correlating criminality and substance misuse are assessed and evaluated in historical and sociocultural contexts. The course highlights social service systems in relation to current practices and institutionalized definitions of health and illness, crime and criminals.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

3 Lect Hrs, 3 Credits

SOCIOL 641

Social Policy I

An in-depth examination of major factors shaping social policy, including historical antecedents; public and private sectors; the interaction of social policy, economy, and politics; and how issues become defined as social problems.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

3 Lect Hrs, 3 Credits

SOCIOL 642

Social Policy II

A continuation of SOCIOL 641 with special emphasis on problems and issues in implementing social policy, its impact on both recipients and non-recipients of services, and principles of social policy analysis and research. Special attention is given to selected problem areas, such as income-maintenance programs, manpower policy, race and ethnic relations, crime and delinquency, and health-care programs.

Prerequisite: SOCIOL 641 or permission of instructor.

3 Lect Hrs, 3 Credits

SOCIOL 650

Methods of Research I

This course focuses on methods of collecting information about social beliefs and social process, including the operation of social service and other programs. The course requires students to conduct exercises that will give them firsthand experience in various approaches to data collection and management. Emphasis is given to techniques of survey, field, and experimental research.

Students are introduced to the use of computers. (Course offered in the fall only.)

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

3 Lect Hrs, 3 Credits

SOCIOL 651

Methods of Research II

A continuation of SOCIOL 650, focusing on the interpretation, analysis, and presentation of quantitative data. Course exercises use descriptive statistics, cross-tabulation and regression analysis, as well as related inferential statistics, to analyze social data. Procedures for computer-based statistical analyses are introduced and used throughout the course. No prior experience with computers or knowledge of statistical formulae are required. (Course offered in the spring only.)

Prerequisite: SOCIOL 650 or permission of instructor.

3 Lect Hrs, 3 Credits

SOCIOL 655

Evaluation Research

An advanced course in the theory and practice of evaluation of public policy and social service programs for social science students and practitioners. Basic knowledge of research methods is assumed, but relevant issues in research design and implementation are reviewed. The course provides general overview of evaluation theory and landmark evaluation studies, as well as analysis of commonly used evaluation models and of practical and political issues involved in design and implementation of evaluations. Design of an evaluation of a social agency program is required.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and permission of instructor.

3 Lect Hrs, 3 Credits

SOCIOL 667/467

Sociology of Law

This course provides a general analysis of the social origins, operations, and consequences of law and legal process. Alternative theories of the relation between law and society are considered. Special attention is given to criminal law, the operation of juvenile courts, discretion in the legal system, and methods of legal research. Alternative methods of dispute resolution are considered.

3 Lect Hrs, 3 Credits

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SOCIOL 681

Health Care Policy

This course focuses on recent changes in health care policy and in the organization of medicine, with special attention to the impact of these changes on the delivery, distribution, and quality of health services. Additional emphasis is given to the history of medicine; the political economy of health care; inequality in utilization of and access to health services; rising costs and cost containment programs; attempts at regulation; and government health programs and private health service organizations.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and permission of instructor.

3 Lect Hrs, 3 Credits

SOCIOL 682

Social Psychological Context of Health Care

This course highlights the role of the social sciences in dealing with problems of health care practice, focusing on research contributions to health maintenance, prevention, treatment, and quality of care. Topics include the nature and goals of client-practitioner relationships, health education, behavioral and psychosomatic medicine, and the linkages between social problems and medical problems.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

3 Lect Hrs, 3 Credits

SOCIOL 683

Socio-Medical Aspects of Aging

This course focuses on several issues: the epidemiology of health problems associated with aging; social support systems for the elderly; stress and health; medical and psychiatric treatment of the aged; comparative analysis of health care settings; characteristics of the dying process; cross-societal comparison of the medical problems and the medical care of the elderly.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

3 Lect Hrs, 3 Credits

SOCIOL 690

Classic and Contemporary Views of the Nature of Crime

This course examines the social nature of crime. It explores a variety of theoretical perspectives, including anomie/strain theory, social disorganization theory, social control theory, social learning theories, opportunity theory, deterrence theory, and conflict theory. The various theories are examined through an extensive review of recent empirical studies. Special attention is given to methodological problems in specifying theories for empirical study. Discussion topics also include the adaptability of these theories to social policy and their varying political and social acceptability during particular historical periods.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

3 Lect Hrs, 3 Credits

SOCIOL 691

Contemporary Issues in Responding to Crime

This seminar focuses on responses to crime. As individual citizens and as a community, we respond to crime in a variety of ways. The issues covered in this course may therefore include anything from informal responses—such as fear of crime, the reporting of crime to the police, and the organizing of neighborhood watch groups and crime stopper programs—to formal responses, which include police decisions to arrest or handle informally, bail decisions, issues of sentencing, the use of imprisonment, community corrections, parole and probation, and the death penalty. The course emphasizes the social nature of responses to crime and generally focuses on one or a few of these topics each semester.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

3 Lect Hrs, 3 Credits

SOCIOL 695

Master's Research Seminar

This course guides students in their design and completion of the master's paper. It operates as an intellectual workshop where throughout the semester students share with the group the process as well as the results of their research. Special attention is given to the formation of research questions, research methodology, and writing appropriate literature reviews.

Hrs by arrangement, 6 Credits

SOCIOL 696

Independent Study

In-depth study of a particular topic according to the student's interests. Independent study projects are expected to make an important contribution to a student's training in applied sociology. All projects are under the supervision of a faculty advisor, who is responsible for guiding and evaluating the student's work. An application and detailed proposal must be submitted to the graduate program director not later than two weeks before the end of the semester previous to that in which SOCIOL 696 is to be taken.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and permission of the graduate committee.

Hrs by arrangement, 3-4 Credits

SOCIOL 697

Special Topics in Applied Sociology

An advanced seminar on selected topics in applied sociology. The course content and credit vary according to topic. Details on special topics courses will be announced during the advance registration period.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

3 Lect Hrs, 3-6 Credits

SOCIOL 698

Field Work

Intensive field work and/or internship in a public or private research or practice setting jointly supervised by faculty and agency-based staff. Placements made according to student interest and internship availability.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

Hrs by arrangement, 3-6 Credits

SOCIOL 699

Thesis Research in Applied Sociology

Supervised thesis research open to students who elect the thesis option. The research is conducted under the supervision of a faculty committee consisting of a primary faculty advisor and two additional faculty members, who are responsible for advising the student in preparing and carrying out the thesis project and for evaluating and judging its acceptability.

Prerequisite: Permission of the graduate program director and committee.

Hrs by arrangement, 9 Credits