Fact Sheet
MA in Applied Sociology: College of Liberal Arts
A graduate program for individuals seeking to understand and study the social forces that change our world.

Program Description
The Master of Arts (MA) Program in Applied Sociology combines the study of sociological theory with practical training in research methods, statistics, and evaluation research. The program’s applied focus integrates research approaches and coursework that emphasize faculty core strengths in medical sociology, criminology, urban sociology, survey methods, race, gender, and immigration.

Our graduates are researchers, managers, instructors, policy analysts, and service providers in government, community agencies and in corporations throughout the area. Many have continued their studies in PhD programs at UMass Boston and other universities throughout the nation.

Benefits of Studying Sociology on the Graduate Level
- Development of analytical and research skills desired by research institutes, non-profit agencies, and government agencies.
- Intimate knowledge of the factors influencing social change.
- Preparation for leadership positions in policy development, health care, community development, veteran services, criminal justice, social service agencies, higher education, and think tanks.

Program of Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Courses</th>
<th>SOCIOL 600 Foundations of Applied Sociology</th>
<th>SOCIOL 650 Methods I</th>
<th>SOCIOL 651 Methods II (i.e. Statistics)</th>
<th>SOCIOL 605 Applied Sociological Theory</th>
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<td>Internship</td>
<td>SOCIOL 698 Fieldwork / Internship OR SOCIOL 610 Teaching Sociology [Students may take both if interested]</td>
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<td>Capstone Requirement</td>
<td>SOCIOL 694 Masters’ Paper Seminar (6 credits) OR Thesis Option for 9 credits (over two semesters)</td>
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<td>Electives</td>
<td>9-15 Credits [Dependent on choice of internship and capstone options]</td>
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Individualized Program Content: Electives and Certificates
Students in the MA Program in Applied Sociology complete between 9 and 15 credits of electives depending on their area of interest and their professional goals. Students also have the option of completing a certificate in Survey Research, Forensic Services, Conflict Resolution or Gender, Leadership and Public Policy while enrolled in the MA Program.

Faculty and Research Expertise
With a strong commitment to research, our nationally recognized faculty guides students through an exploration of the human condition, globalization, culture, and the current issues that affect us all. Our faculty are engaged with an impressive range of public concerns and issues of global and national importance. [https://www.umb.edu/academics/clas/sociology/faculty]

Admission Requirements
- Strong undergraduate record (3.0 minimum). Evidence of undergraduate study of sociology.
- Transcripts for all undergraduate and/or graduate programs attended
- Completed Application and Required Fee
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE) Scores
- Three letters of reference from individuals attesting to one’s potential for graduate study in applied sociology. At least one letter must be from a faculty member.
- Personal statement of interest in sociology, including the applicant’s desired area of specialization or focus.
- Written sample of academic writing in sociology or related field. (approx. 1500 words)
- Resume

Applications are due October 1 for Spring admission; March 1 for Fall admission. All applications must be submitted online through UMass Boston Graduate Admissions [www.umb.edu/admissions/grad/apply]

Affordability
As the only public university in Boston, the cost of graduate study is substantially less than that of applied programs offered by neighboring private institutions. The MA program offers a limited number of assistantships. Most graduate assistants work 4.5 or 9 hours per week during the semester(s) they are supported, although occasionally a student may receive a 13.5- or 18-hour assistantship.
Assistant receive a stipend in addition to tuition remission and partial fee payment including health insurance. Teaching assistants are expected to complete the program’s seminar on teaching.

Core Course Descriptions

**SOCIOL 600 Foundations of Applied Sociology:**
Required of all accepted first-year MA students. The course engages students in the field and substance of applied sociology.

**SOCIOL 605 Applied Sociological Theory:**
Examines the nature and aims of applied and basic sociological theory.

**SOCIOL 607 Contemporary Sociological Theory:**
To further the knowledge of sociological theory by focusing on theoretical trends after World War II.

**SOCIOL 610 Teaching Sociology – Theory and Practice:**
Designed for graduate students who are interested at the college and university level and/or in the scholarship about teaching and learning.

**SOCIOL 650 Methods of Research I:**
Focusing on methods of collecting information about social beliefs and social processes, including the operation of social service and other programs.

**SOCIOL 651 Methods of Research II:**
Focusing on the interpretation, analysis and presentation of quantitative data.

**SOCIOL 694 Master’s Research Seminar:**
Course guides students in their design and completion of the Masters Paper in the MA Program.

Transferring Courses into the Applied Sociology Program
Before enrollment in the program, students should consult with the graduate program director regarding transfer credits if these are intended to satisfy degree requirements.

**Note:** Only two graduate courses (6 credits) can be transferred into the program.

Completion Requirements
Graduate seminars are scheduled in the late afternoon and evening (2.5 hours, once per week). Full-time students can complete requirements for the MA in two years. All matriculated students, whether full- or part-time, must complete the degree requirements within five years.

Research Resources for Graduate Students
Resources for graduate students at UMass Boston include computing laboratories, a survey research center, centers and institutes that conduct research on a range of social policy issues, an active graduate student organization and extensive online and shelved library resources. Our membership in the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) provides access to hundreds of datasets for research on important topics. The Boston area itself provides a rich environment for making valuable academic connections and finding career opportunities.

UMass Boston
University of Massachusetts Boston, part of the five-member University of Massachusetts system, is an urban public university located on Boston Harbor and just three miles from downtown Boston.

The campus houses research and teaching laboratories, a greenhouse, two theaters, an art gallery, an observatory, athletic facilities, extensive computer resources and the Healey Library. The peninsula where our campus sits is also home to the JFK Presidential Library and the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate. We are easily reached by public transportation and are conveniently located off of Route 93.

UMass Boston’s diverse and focused student body creates an atmosphere of open inquiry and lively discussion that is ideal for higher learning. Graduate study at UMass Boston includes 27 doctoral programs and more than 90 masters, post-masters and graduate certificate programs.

For Further Information about the Master’s Program in Applied Sociology please contact:

Sarah Bopp, MS
Graduate Programs Coordinator
sarah.bopp@umb.edu / 617-287-5717

Andrea Leverentz, PhD
Graduate Program Director
andrea.leverentz@umb.edu / 617-287-6265

Additional Opportunities for Graduate Study
- PhD Program in Sociology,
- Accelerated BA/MA in Applied Sociology
- Graduate Certificate in Survey Research

[https://www.umb.edu/academics/cla/sociology/graduate_programs](https://www.umb.edu/academics/cla/sociology/graduate_programs)

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