University of Massachusetts Boston

Graduate Program in Applied Sociology

PROGRAM MANUAL

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The Master of Arts Program in Applied Sociology offers students an innovative and challenging curriculum in applied research, social policy and social problems. Students graduate with skills and expertise required by many research, administrative, and clinical positions and as a foundation for doctoral studies. Program alumni work in criminal justice agencies, community and human service organizations, health care institutions, alcohol and substance abuse treatment programs and applied research firms; they go on to advanced study in sociology and related fields.

Several core courses provide a foundation in the theories and methods used by applied sociologists: applied sociology, social policy analysis, social problems, complex organizations, and research methods. Specialty courses and concentrations develop the necessary substantive expertise in areas ranging from criminology/corrections and the sociology of law to medical sociology, psychiatric epidemiology and alcohol, drugs & crime. Special concentrations, offered in collaboration with other programs, include forensic services (mental illness and crime), gerontology, dispute resolution, and counseling. With additional coursework, Graduate Certificates can also be obtained in several concentrations. Staff at the Center for Survey Research offer a Survey Research Practicum.

Many students complete a fieldwork course -- an internship that reflects the student’s academic and professional interests. Internship placements may be either service or research oriented; in either case, they enhance one’s understanding of the relationship between theory, research, policy, and practice. The internship can be waived for those with comparable experience and for those who complete the program’s course on teaching. All students must fulfill a capstone requirement to demonstrate their mastery of the knowledge and skills required by applied sociologists. This requirement can be satisfied by a Master’s Thesis, a Master’s Research Paper, or a Comprehensive Exam.

Graduate seminars are scheduled in the late afternoon and evening hours (2.5 hours, once per week) to accommodate those with employment and other obligations. Full-time students can complete requirements for the MA in two years. All matriculated students, whether full- or part-time, must complete degree requirements within five years. All students are expected to have a personal computer for completion of course assignments and for communication with other students and their professors.

A special 5-year combined BA/MA program for UMass/Boston undergraduates enables students to begin graduate coursework in their senior year and complete MA requirements in the subsequent year.
Admission Requirements

Applications and general graduate admission information are available in the Graduate Studies Bulletin and at the Graduate Admissions and Records Web site, http://www.umb.edu/admission_and_financial_aid/graduate/index.html. A $40 fee ($50 for non-residents) must accompany the application. All applications are sent to the Office of Graduate Admissions; when all materials have been submitted, they are sent to the Graduate Program in Applied Sociology for review.

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; applicants with an overall GPA of at least 3.0 will be preferred and those below 2.7 will not be considered. Applicants who do not hold a BA in sociology should have at least 18 semester credits or the equivalent in undergraduate sociology or another social science field related to program objectives.

2. Successful completion of 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 complete these undergraduate courses not later than the end of the second semester of residence in the program. In some cases a course with a strong theoretical component can be accepted as satisfying the theory prerequisite.

3. A statement of approximately 1200 words on academic and career interests in applied sociology, including the applicant’s desired area of specialization in the program.

4. Results of 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. At least one of the letters must be from a faculty member with whom the applicant is studying or has studied.

6. International students: Applicants from countries where English is not the primary language are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). A Declaration and Certification of Finances form must also be completed. International students should see the Graduate Admissions web site for additional instructions. The University International Student Services Office hosts a student orientation and a mandatory workshop on immigration regulations each term.
The Five-year Combined BA/MA Program

An accelerated five-year BA and MA program is also available for eligible 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. All 5-year applicants must have an overall undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0. 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. Admission decisions follow the same procedures and standards used to evaluate graduate applicants to the MA program, except that GRE scores are not required.

Upon completion of all requirements, students will be awarded both Bachelor and Master’s degrees. Students who do not complete the entire program or do not have the required GPA (3.0) to be awarded an MA degree, may choose to apply appropriate earned credits toward the bachelor’s degree. According to current regulations (Spring, 2002), 5-year students continue to be classified as undergraduates until they have earned a total of 120 credits, at which point they are reclassified as graduate students and are no longer eligible for financial aid that is restricted to graduate students. Current regulations do not permit 5-year students to receive the BA prior to completion of the MA; students who need to receive the BA degree and have satisfied all requirements for it can apply for graduation, but they must then reapply for admission to the graduate program.

This program consists of 140 credits (104 undergraduate and 36 graduate level credits or their equivalents) which can be completed in five years (although students may carry less than a full course load and complete the program at a slower rate).

Degree Requirements

Candidates for the MA degree in applied sociology earn a minimum of 36 semester credits, at least 27 of which must be in courses offered in the program. To graduate, students must have an overall grade point average of 3.0 (students may be placed on academic probation if their GPA falls below 3.0). The curriculum comprises courses (including an internship opportunity) and either a final research paper, thesis, or comprehensive examination.

Each student’s course work includes:

- **Core Courses.** Fundamentals of Applied Sociology (Soc 600), research methodology (Soc 650 and 651), and two courses out of the following: Complex Organizations (Soc 601), Social Policy (Soc 640), Social Problems (Soc 620), and Applied Social Theory (Soc 605).
• **Specialty Courses.** Students are expected to specialize in a substantive area by taking at least two courses from one of the following areas: medical sociology, criminology/corrections, social policy, forensic services (see details later in this manual), advanced research methods (evaluation research, survey research, qualitative methods), dispute resolution, gerontology, or counseling. Courses from different concentrations can be combined, with permission of the Graduate Program Director.

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**Field Work (Internship)**

Soc. 698 is the department’s internship course. It is designed to provide students with a meaningful practical experience in a social service, health care, criminal justice, or other government or community-based organization. Internships often lead to thesis or research paper projects and sometimes to job offers. Students seeking to earn internship credit must submit a short 1–2 page proposal to the Graduate Program Director. The GPD or other faculty can suggest (and in some cases arrange) internship sites. This proposal must identify the agency or other setting for the internship, the prospective supervisor, the type of work for which the intern will be responsible, the number of credits sought (3 or 6) and the faculty member who will supervise the internship (if not the GPD). The proposal must also outline a project that will be the focus of the internship and which includes some sociological literature that is relevant to understanding issues in the setting.

Workplace supervisors will be asked to verify the proposed arrangements and will be required to submit an evaluation of the student’s performance at the end of the semester. Students who enroll for 3 credits must plan on working for 10–12 hours per week and write a 5–10 page paper. A 6 credit internship requires 15–20 hours of work per week and a 10–20 page paper at the conclusion of the internship. This paper must be planned in consultation with the supervising member of the faculty and must analyze some work experiences in light of relevant sociological theory and/or research.

Graduate students who seek to complete a 6-credit internship are encouraged to enroll in one of the Sociology Department’s regular internship courses: Soc. 460, Sociology of Urban Social Service, or Soc. L461, Law and Criminal Justice. These internship courses include a weekly class meeting as well as work experience.

Students who have had relevant experience may apply for a waiver of this requirement by submitting: (1) a one-page description of their relevant work experience to the Graduate Program Director; and (2) some documentation from the worksite (such as a letter from the supervisor). Students for whom the internship requirement is waived do not receive credit for their prior experience. Students who plan to apply to a Ph.D. program after completion of the M.A. program can also request a waiver of the internship requirement, but they cannot
do so before their second year in the graduate program. The internship requirement is waived students who complete Soc. 610 (the teaching seminar).

**Capstone Options:**

**Thesis, Master's Paper, Comprehensive Examination**

Each student must complete one of the following capstone requirements for the MA degree: a Master's Thesis, a Master's (Research) Paper, or a comprehensive examination. The most appropriate capstone option varies with the goals, current situation, and background of each student, so the decision to choose a particular option should be made in consultation with the Graduate Program Director or another faculty adviser. The decision should be made no later than the end of the student’s third semester in the program (upon completing 27 credits).

The MA Thesis. The Master’s thesis involves a research project supervised by a 3-person thesis committee chosen by the student. At least two members of the thesis committee must be UMass Boston faculty members. One of these members, who is a member of the Sociology faculty, serves as the chair of the thesis committee and is primarily responsible for advising the student and monitoring her or his progress. The other committee member must have a master’s or doctoral degree, but could be a professor or staff member in another university or a professional working off campus in a relevant setting. While working on the thesis, the student enrolls for 9 credits in Soc. 699, but these credits are not received until the thesis is completed. Work on a MA thesis can be expected to take longer than one semester (and longer than either of the other two capstone options); after the first semester the student must pay a program fee each semester until completing the thesis. The completed thesis is presented orally in a thesis defense to the student’s thesis committee as well as other interested faculty and graduate students in the Department of Sociology.

The thesis must demonstrate analytical thinking, methodological skill, and competence in the substantive area under investigation. After the hearing, the 3-person thesis committee votes to approve the thesis, require additional changes in it, or deny approval. After its final acceptance by the committee, the thesis is reviewed by the Office of Graduate Studies and Research for adherence to the formatting requirements specified in the University’s Guidelines for the Preparation of Theses & Dissertations at the University of Massachusetts Boston (available from the Office of Graduate Studies and Research). This publication should be consulted before and during thesis preparation. At least two copies of the thesis must be sent to Graduate Studies for binding; one of these copies is shelved in the Healey Library and the other is given to the program. More information and suggestions are available in the Applied Sociology program’s Handbook for Thesis Writers.
The Master’s Research Paper. The Research Paper is written while students are participating in a six-credit Seminar (Soc. 695). To enroll in this seminar, students should have already completed the graduate Research Methods sequence (Soc. 650 and 651). The Master’s paper typically involves an investigation of a research question using previously collected quantitative data, a qualitative study using intensive interviews, or a content analysis based on media sources. It is evaluated by the supervising professor and another member of the faculty (usually by the course team teachers). The Master’s paper must show the student’s general competence in sociological theory and methodology, and their ability to investigate a research question in one substantive area.

The Comprehensive Examination. Students may write a comprehensive examination as their capstone experience after completing a minimum of 30 credits. Students are advised to enroll for 3 credit hours of Independent Study (Soc. 696) in the semester before they take the exam in order to review literature in the three exam areas: social theory (including organizational theory) and social policy, research methodology, and the student’s area of concentration. Students must answer two questions in each area (for a total of 6) within 6 hours (two hours per area). Each exam answer is graded by two faculty members; a third is used to resolve differences in grades. The Comprehensive Examination is offered at the end of each semester. More information is available in a separate publication.

Independent Study

Students may earn 3 credits for an Independent Study project (Soc. 696). This option is for students who have a special interest that they would like to pursue through intensive reading or original research and who can identify a faculty member who can supervise the project. In the semester before enrolling for Independent Study credit, students must submit a 1-3 page written proposal, after consultation with the prospective faculty supervisor. Independent Student proposals will be reviewed by the department’s curriculum committee.

Transfer Credits

At least 27 credits of the 36 required for the MA degree must be earned in courses offered by the Graduate Program in Applied Sociology (the Center for Survey Research practicum course and our cross-listed qualitative methods course (Soc. L609) are counted for this purpose as Applied Sociology courses). With approval, up to nine semester credits in graduate courses earned at UMass Boston, up to six credits earned at other colleges or universities, and no more than six semester credits in approved upper-division courses taken at the University of Massachusetts Boston (but not credited toward an undergraduate degree), may be credited toward the total required for the MA in Applied Sociology. The Graduate Program Director, in consultation with the program Graduate Committee, will evaluate the suitability of courses for transfer credit; no credit will be granted without approval.
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. Credits cannot be transferred if they have been used to fulfill requirements for another degree or if they were earned more than seven years before matriculation into the Applied Sociology program. Students in the 5-year BA/MA program cannot use undergraduate credits toward the MA if these are counting for the BA. All matriculated students expecting to enroll in courses outside the Applied Sociology program should first consult with the Graduate Program Director.

**Interdisciplinary Concentrations & Graduate Certificates**

Students may obtain and satisfy degree credits by enrolling in courses in selected other graduate programs, thus developing a more interdisciplinary perspective on complex social issues. Most students should complete no more than two courses outside of the Graduate Program in Applied Sociology, but, with permission, a third course can be accepted for credit toward the total of 36 credit hours required for the M.A. By completing additional courses beyond the 36 required for the M.A., full-time students in the MA Program in Applied Sociology may also satisfy requirements for a Graduate Certificate in forensic services, gerontology or dispute resolution. Please note: Enrollment in gerontology and dispute resolution is contingent on approval of the respective program directors. Five-year BA/MA Sociology students cannot enroll in these programs (or take courses in them) until they have obtained graduate standing by completing 120 total credit hours.

**Graduate Certificate in Forensic Services**

The Graduate Program in Applied Sociology, in cooperation with the University's [Division of Corporate, Continuing & Distance Education](https://www.umb.edu/cdce), offers a 16-credit Graduate Certificate Program in Forensic Services. Designed for criminal justice and mental health professionals, the Certificate Program provides a strong grounding in basic science, mental health counseling principles, and social theory, while at the same time offering practical skills and competencies in mental health and criminal justice, which will enable students to serve as effective professionals in a variety of social service environments where the problems of crime and mental illness intersect.

The program's emphasis on analysis and its interdisciplinary approach are strengthened by collaborations with other academic units: 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.
Students in the certificate program complete five three-credit courses and a one-credit field experience project (students matriculated in Applied Sociology should substitute Soc. 698 for Soc. 598):

COUNSL 604: Foundations in Mental Health
PSYCH 614: Forensic Psychology
SOCIOL 598: Field Experience Project (1 credit)
SOCIOL 618: Psychiatric Epidemiology and Forensic Services
SOCIOL 623: Alcohol and Crime
SOCIOL 667: Sociology of Law

Applied Sociology students may use Forensic Services courses as their area of concentration even if they do not complete the Certificate requirements, with the exception that enrollment in SOCIOL 598 and PSYCH 614 require special permission of the instructor.

**Graduate Certificate in Gerontology**

The Graduate Certificate in Gerontology provides students with a broad overview of issues in gerontology. Applied Sociology students can earn this certificate by completing five substantive 3-credit courses in gerontology, in addition to completing the Sociology MA requirements. Only two of these courses can be counted toward the MA degree, so students seeking the Gerontology Certificate must complete three additional courses. All gerontology courses are offered through the University’s Ph.D. Program in Gerontology.

The following gerontology courses can be used to satisfy the graduate certificate requirements (enrollment is only with permission of course instructor).

GERON 611: Health and Physical Aspects of Aging
GERON 614: Issues Concerning Specialized Populations of the Elderly
GERON 621: Social Aspects of Aging
GERON 623: Issues in Aging Policy
GERON 626: Economic Issues in Aging Populations
GERON 628: Psychology of Aging
GERON 631: Families of Later Life
GERON 721: History and Political Economy of Social Policy Toward the Elderly
GERON 724: Ethnic and Racial Diversity in Aging Societies
GERON 734: Law and Health Policy for the Elderly
GERON 761: Advanced Policy Analysis
GERON 771: Seminar in Long Term Care

Interested students may also be able to design an internship and/or a capstone experience (thesis, research paper, or comprehensive exam) in the area of gerontology.
Students wishing to earn a Graduate Certificate in Gerontology must have completed at least one semester in Applied Sociology. In addition, they must receive a formal recommendation from the Applied Sociology Graduate Program Director as well as approval from the Gerontology Center.

**Graduate Certificate in Dispute Resolution**

The Graduate Certificate in Dispute Resolution focuses on dispute resolution skills for professionals who manage conflict in their work. Completion of the graduate certificate requires completion of 12-credit hours in four courses, as well as a 6-credit internship. Only two of the four courses can be counted toward the MA degree, so students seeking the Dispute Resolution Certificate must complete two additional courses. All dispute resolution courses are offered through the University’s Graduate Program in Dispute Resolution.

The following dispute resolution courses must be completed to satisfy the graduate certificate requirements.

- DISRES 600: Negotiation
- DISRES 601: Mediation
- DISRES 602: Theories of Conflict Resolution
- DISRES 603: Advanced Mediation and Negotiation
- DISRES 698: Internship (6 credits)

Applicants to the Graduate Certificate Program in Dispute Resolution must have had some experience managing conflict. See the Graduate Studies Bulletin or the University’s web site for details.

**Concentration in Counseling**

Applied Sociology students interested in counseling can concentrate in this area by completing two courses that are offered by the University’s Graduate Counseling Program. Although Applied Sociology students can complete more than two Counseling courses, only two will be counted toward the Applied Sociology MA. Eligible courses are:

- COUNSL 604: Foundations of Mental Health Counseling
- COUNSL 607: Theories of Personality
- COUNSL 608: Abnormal Psychology
- COUNSL 614: Counseling Theory and Practice I
- COUNSL 620: Clinical Application of Human Development
- COUNSL 629: Representations of Gender
- COUNSL 663: Psychology of Death and Dying
- COUNSL 664: Child Abuse and Neglect
- COUNSL 672: Substance Abuse Counseling and Therapy
Graduate Assistantships and Financial Aid

The Program offers a limited number of graduate assistantships to support teaching, research, and administrative needs. Most graduate assistants work 5 or 10 hours per week during the semester(s) they are supported, although occasionally a student may receive a 15- or 20-hour assistantship. Assistants receive a stipend in addition to tuition remission, but must still pay program fees.

Candidates for admission who are 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. The Graduate Program Director assigns assistants to faculty based on faculty requests, student interests, and outside funding opportunities. The GPD arranges meetings of faculty and assistants to discuss the work assigned in the rare instances when disagreements arise. The Office of Graduate Studies and Research funds all teaching assistantships. Research assistantships may be funded by external sources, including research grants to faculty members and research contracts with local organizations.

Work-study grants and guaranteed loans are available on the basis of financial need through the University's Office of Financial Aid Services and special scholarships are available for international students. Additional information is available in the University's web site and at the U.S. Department of Education’s web site, www.fafsa.ed.gov. General employment information is available at a UMass site, www.umb.edu/students/sehs/employment.

A limited number of tuition waivers are awarded to qualified international student applicants each year, after a competitive review. Applications are mailed to all international students in February of each year, with a deadline for application in March and decisions in April. International students with assistantships are ineligible, nor are those without demonstrated financial need.

Facilities and Resources

Graduate students at UMass Boston have access to a wide range of advanced computer resources for statistical calculation, document preparation, and multimedia applications. A Graduate Research Computer Lab offers state-of-the-art computing, with CD/RW capabilities, digital cameras, and oversize graphics printers. Other campus labs offer Windows-based PCs and MACs with a range of software and high-speed Internet access. The Department of Sociology maintains several PCs for graduate student use in offices assigned to Graduate Assistants, but all graduate students are expected to have a computer for their own use at home.
Students have access to data in the holdings of the Interuniversity Consortium on Political and Social Research (ICPSR), including the General Social Survey, the World Values Survey, election surveys, surveys of prison inmates, observations of plea bargaining, records of Massachusetts court cases, and much else. Students may also be able to collaborate on research projects or, in some cases, obtain part-time employment, at one of the research institutes or centers at Umass Boston. In addition, program faculty maintain ongoing research and service ties with Boston-area agencies and organizations involved in community development, corrections, criminology, dispute resolution, health care, homelessness, and other areas, and graduate students may be able to use these ties to develop research and employment opportunities.

The University’s Healey Library provides on-line reference access to the social science journal literature and many other reference databases. In addition to its own journal and book holdings, the library provides student access to academic libraries throughout the Boston area through the Boston Library Consortium. The John F Kennedy Library and the Massachusetts Archives, adjacent to the campus, contain other documentary resources.

Graduate students may also submit papers to the departmental journal, *Discourse of Sociological Practice*. The journal is available on the Sociology department’s web site and can also be obtained through the department office. Several graduate students have published articles in the journal.

Many Sociology faculty are leaders and participants in professional associations in sociology, criminal justice and criminology, substance abuse, and health. Our graduate students often participate in conferences of these associations and present papers at them. Some graduate students who have been working with department faculty on research projects co-author articles that are published in professional journals.

**Program Retention & Graduation Procedures**

Degree-seeking graduate students are required to maintain continuous registration until the time their degree is awarded. Registration for courses in a given semester begins toward the end of the preceding semester and continues through the first week of classes. Active students are notified about registration procedures by mail before the registration period begins. Advising by the Applied Sociology Graduate Program Director or another member of the program faculty is required approximately every other semester.

Students who cannot enroll in courses in any semester prior to their graduation must pay a program continuation fee, including during those semesters that the student is working on an MA thesis but has already enrolled for thesis credit (Soc. 699). A leave of absence can be requested from the Graduate Program Director for up to two years, but the program fee must be paid each semester of the leave.
A maximum of 5 years is allowed for degree completion (excluding leaves of absence).

Students who have an outstanding financial obligation to the University are administratively withdrawn until the obligation is cleared. No credit can be earned, nor courses begun, nor degrees awarded until fees are paid. Students who are administratively withdrawn for more than one semester OR who have failed to maintain continuous enrollment must apply for readmission and pay a program fee for the skipped semesters.

Students may withdraw from the University up until the last day of classes of the semester and will then receive a W for each course in which they are enrolled. Ceasing to attend classes without completing a University Withdrawal Form will result in the grade of F for all courses.

The only passing grades for graduate students are C or higher; any grade lower than a C is recorded as an F. Moreover, a B average (3.0) must be maintained and is required for graduation. Students whose GPAs fall below 3.0 may be placed on academic probation (they will be notified in writing) and a student whose GPA in two semesters is below 2.8 is subject to academic dismissal. (Graduate students enrolled in undergraduate courses are graded based on graduate policies.)

Graduate students may not take courses on a pass/fail option, although SAT is given as a grade in capstone courses (thesis, MA paper) and in the internship course (Soc. 698) and Y is given temporarily for Soc. 699 until the thesis is completed. Graduate students can AUDIT courses by permission if they pay the required tuition and fees, but they then receive neither course credit nor a grade. Incompletes are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are only possible when the majority of coursework has been completed and the course cannot be finished due to unforeseen circumstances. A written agreement between the instructor and the student must be completed and filed with the GPD. The agreement must specify the work to be completed and the deadline for completion (no more than one year after the course).

Graduate students should be familiar with and adhere to the University’s Code of Student Conduct (See http://www.umb.edu/administration/student_affairs/dean/judicial/csc.html. In order to avoid problems, keep your name and address current with the Graduate Registrar (https://wise.umpasp.edu or just mail to the registrar’s office), as well as with the GPD. Graduate assistants must also inform the Office of Human Resources.

Graduation dates are August 31, the last Thursday in December, and the date of commencement in May or June. A $150 commencement fee is mandatory for all graduates. The Graduate Registrar sends out an Intent to Graduate Form to all
active graduate students with at least 20 credits; it is up to the student to complete and return this form. Students must inform the Graduate Program Director in the semester before they expect to graduate. A Degree Application form is available from the GPD and must be submitted to the Graduate Registrar’s Office at least 45 days prior to the desired degree date.

Students who have completed a Master’s Thesis as their capstone experience must submit it, after receiving Graduate Program approval, to the Office of Graduate Studies and Research before the end of the semester in which they wish to graduate. OGSR reviews the format of all theses (OGSR, 1999).

All records are reviewed by the Graduate Registrar prior to awarding a diploma. Diplomas are usually mailed within eight weeks of the graduation date.

Individuals holding bachelor’s degrees may register for graduate courses as non-degree (non-matriculated) students, with the permission of the GPD and the instructor, on a space-available basis, after the start of the registration period. No more than six credits earned as a non-degree student may be applied towards a graduate degree at UMass Boston.

**What Our Students and Graduates Do**

Many of our students have worked in human service or criminal justice agencies; others come directly from undergraduate work. Their research projects and internship experiences in the program prepare them for and connect them to career opportunities in a range of social and medical settings. Each year, some students present results of their research at conferences of professional organizations; the value of student projects has also been recognized in newspaper stories and by government agencies. Such projects have included

- investigate a literature program for probationers
- evaluate a delinquency prevention program,
- analyze how children of alcoholics function when they become adults,
- survey service needs of homeless persons,
- evaluate a local hospital’s computerized data management system,
- study recidivism among parolees,
- compare operations at two types of half-way houses,
- analyze the impact of stress on health.

Some graduates go on to doctoral study. Others work as applied researchers; community college teachers, or supervisors or counselors in service, health care, or criminal justice settings. Some job options can be found at [www.umb.edu/students/sehs/employment](http://www.umb.edu/students/sehs/employment) and at a site maintained by the Eastern Sociological Society (www.essnet.org/employment.htm).
Graduate Courses

**SOCIOL 598 Field Experience Project.** The 1-credit Field Observation course includes site visits and observational time spent in the field at state or social service agencies. This course is open only to students in the Graduate Certificate Program in Forensic Services. 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 the theories, concepts and research methods of sociology are central to social problem-solving, policymaking and to the skills required in a variety of occupation settings, b) to involve students at the beginning of their graduate education in designing their studies to meet their educational, career and personal objectives. Prerequisite: Enrollment in the MA Program in Applied Sociology. 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. 3 Credits

**SOCIOL 605 Applied Sociological Theory.** This course examines the nature and aims of applied and basic 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. 3 Credits

**SOCIOL L609 Qualitative Methods and Field Research.** This cross-listed course (with the PhD programs in Public Policy and Gerontology) is designed to introduce students to qualitative research methods. Students practice the skills needed to observe the world around us, by attending to social phenomena, descriptively and analytically. The course functions as both a seminar and a research workshop, in which students learn by doing. 3 Credits
**SOCIOL 610 Teaching Sociology: Theory and Practice.** This seminar is designed for graduate students who are interested in teaching careers at the college and university level and/or in the scholarship about teaching and learning. Teaching assistants who are involved in classroom practice are also welcome. The course will address both the theory and practice of teaching with a focus on the kinds of backgrounds, experiences, and learning styles that UMass Boston students bring to the classroom.

**SOCIOL 618 Psychiatric Epidemiology and Forensic Services.** This course will begin by orienting students to issues in the methods and findings of major psychiatric epidemiology studies, and then focus on these issues as they apply to a variety of criminal justice issues and settings. Understanding the epidemiology of mental illness in the general population is critical in considering the problem of mental disorders in the criminal justice system and for developing services to respond to those problems. 3 Credits

**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. 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. 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 Soviet Union, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America. 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. 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. 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 Credits

SOCIOL 650 Methods of Research I. 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 first-hand experiences 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.) 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 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. General overview of evaluation theory and landmark evaluation studies. 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: SOCIOL 650 or permission of instructor. 3 Credits

SOCIOL 658 The Theory and Practice of Interviewing. Theory and practice of interviewing for research, field work, and social services. Focus includes sociological perspectives on face-to-face interaction, role of the interviewer, basic interviewing skills. Practice interviewing required. 3 Credits
**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. 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. 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. 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. 3 Credits

**SOCIOL 691 Contemporary Issues in Responding to Crime.** This course 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 to crime--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. 3 Credits
**SOCIOL 695 Master's Research Seminar.** This course will guide students in their design and completion of the Masters paper in the Graduate Program in Applied Sociology. The course operates as an intellectual workshop in which students share the process as well as the results of their research with the group throughout the semester. Special attention is paid to research questions, social theory, research methods, literature reviews and presentation of findings. 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 varies 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. 9 Credits

**CSR 501/502 Survey Research Methods I and II.** This one- or two-semester course gives students a thorough understanding of both the theoretical and practical aspects of all phases of survey research, including question design and evaluation, sampling, computer-assisted interviewing, analyzing and presenting survey findings. A Boston metropolitan area survey may be conducted. It is offered when funding permits by sociologists at the University’s highly regarded Center for Survey Research. 3 Lect Hrs, 3 Credits for each semester.
Applied Sociology Faculty and Their Areas of Expertise

Full Time and Emeritus Faculty
Paul Benson, PhD, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill • Social Psychiatry
• Medical Sociology • Deviance
Milton L. Butts, Jr. PhD, University of Pennsylvania, Criminology • Delinquency • Race Relations
Jorge A. Capetillo-Ponce, PhD, New School for Social Research • Social Theory • Race and Ethnic Relations • Communication
Xiaogang Deng, PhD, State University of New York, Buffalo • Deviance
• Criminology • Research Methodology
Estelle Disch, PhD, Tufts University • Gender • Human Services • Deviance
Susan L. Gore, PhD, University of Pennsylvania • Medical Sociology • Research Methodology
Laura L. Hansen, PhD, University of California, Riverside • Social Network Analysis • White Collar Crime • Complex Organizations • Corrections • Youth Gangs
Stephanie W. Hartwell, PhD, Yale University • Criminal Justice • Substance Abuse • Forensics • Mental Health
Glenn Jacobs, PhD, Temple University • Race and Ethnic Group Relations • Social Problems • Sociological Theory
Phil Kretsedemas, PhD, University of Minnesota • Immigration • Social Welfare • Critical Race Theory • Political Sociology/Social Movements • Media Studies • Caribbean Studies • Democracy and Development
Richard Kronish, PhD, University of Wisconsin, Madison • Social Policy • Social Deviance and Control • Sociology of Work
Andrea Leverentz, PhD, University of Chicago • Social Control • Responses to Crime • Social Deviance • Urban Sociology • Qualitative Methods
Siamak Movahedi, PhD, Washington State University • Applied Sociology • Social Psychiatry
Russell K. Schutt, PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago • Complex Organizations • Homelessness • Sociology of Law • Research Methodology
Mohammed H. (Behrooz) Tamdgidi, PhD, State University of New York, Binghamton • Social Theory • Self and Society • World-Historical Sociology • Sociology of Knowledge • Social Movements • Utopias
Reef Youngreen, PhD University of Iowa • Social Psychology • Status Processes • Deviance

Adjunct Faculty
Charles Drebing, PhD, Fuller Theological Seminary • Clinical Psychology
• Evaluation Research • Psychosocial Rehabilitation • Neuropsychology
Dana Hunt, PhD, University of Pennsylvania • Substance Abuse • Evaluation Research
Edward M. Stern, JD, Boston University • Sociology of Law • Criminal & Juvenile Justice
**Helpful Resources**

[http://www.asanet.org/index.ww](http://www.asanet.org/index.ww)


Graduate Program in Applied Sociology. University of Massachusetts Boston.  
[http://www.sociology.umb.edu/graduate/graduate.htm](http://www.sociology.umb.edu/graduate/graduate.htm)

Office of Graduate Studies, University of Massachusetts Boston.  
[http://www.umb.edu/academics/graduate/](http://www.umb.edu/academics/graduate/)

Pine Forge Press, Sage Publications. Methods of research resources.  

For further information and application materials, write or call:

**Office of Graduate Admissions**  
University of Massachusetts Boston  
100 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125-3393  
Tel: 617 287-6000  
Fax: 617 287-6236

Web: [http://www.umb.edu/admissions/graduate/](http://www.umb.edu/admissions/graduate/)

Requests for general information about the program may also be addressed to:

**Stephanie Hartwell, Graduate Program Director**  
The Graduate Program in Applied Sociology  
University of Massachusetts Boston  
100 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125-3393  
Tel: 617 287-6250  
Fax: 617 287-6288  
Email: stephanie.hartwell@umb.edu