

SOCIOLOGY



Community Health and Medicine



Enhancing the health and quality of life for individuals and communities are central goals to societies the world over. Medical sociology is a subfield devoted to the study of the causes of health inequalities, social meanings of health and illness, doctor-patient relationships, community influences on health, and healthcare delivery systems and policies. The Sociology Department's Community Health and Medicine Certificate provides methodological and substantive training to examine individual experience, institutional structures, and laws and policies that affect health, as well as broader systems of inequality that lead to unequal rates of illness and access to care. This certificate is ideal for students planning to pursue graduate-level study and social research on health and medicine, as well as those interested in careers in community or public health, health care services, and non-profit organizations.

Upon successful completion of the certificate, students will:

- Identify key social factors that drive health disparities, including socioeconomic inequality, sexism, and race-based discrimination
- Articulate foundational theoretical perspectives outlining the mechanisms connecting social determinants of health to adverse health outcomes and health inequities
- Utilize analytic techniques common to interdisciplinary health scholarship, including knowledge of data sources, data management techniques, and both the quantitative and qualitative methods used by health scholars to assess population health
- Describe the current architecture of health policy in the US and abroad
- Plan original research projects investigating the connections among social factors and population health

Curriculum

To obtain the certificate, students must complete three core requirements and two electives, totaling a minimum of 15 hours. SOCY 3440 - Medical Sociology, is required and ideally taken prior to the required methods courses because it familiarizes students with key concepts related to medical sociology and population health that can be explored in the methods courses.

Core Requirements - All courses for certificates must be taken at CU Denver. If any of the following required courses were transferred, an elective from the approved electives below can be substituted for those missing credits.

- 1) SOCY 3440 - Medical Sociology (3 cr.)
- 2) SOCY 3115 - Quantitative Methods (4 cr.) and SOCY 3119 - Qualitative Methods (4 cr.)

OR

A statistics course in a student's major discipline (e.g., PSYC 2090, PSYC 3090, PSCI 3011, PHIL 3440, PHIL 2441, ECON 3801, ECON 3811, GEOG 2080, GEOG 4080) may be substituted for SOCY 3115. A qualitative methods course from the student's major discipline (e.g., COMM 4221, PBHL 4031) may be substituted for SOCY 3119. **Course substitutions must be approved by the certificate administrator.**

- 3) Two related electives from the following sample of approved courses:

SOCY 3010: Sociology of Human Sexuality
SOCY 3040: Drugs, Alcohol & Society
SOCY 4050: Health Disparities
SOCY 4110: Sociology of Health Care
SOCY 4220: Population Change and Analysis
SOCY 4270: Social Meanings of Reproduction
ANTH 3042: Cannabis Culture
ANTH 3202: Anthropology of Health Care Policy
ANTH 4010: Medical Anthropology: Global Health

ANTH 4080/PBHL 4080: Global Health Practice
ANTH 4290: Anthropology & Public Health
ANTH 4300: Migrant Health
ANTH 4600: Medical Anthropology
COMM 2500: Introduction to Health Communication
COMM 4500: Health Communication
COMM 4525: Health & Community
COMM 4550: Rhetorics of Medicine & Health
COMM 4558: Digital Health Narratives
COMM 4620: Health Risk Communication
ECON 4660: Health Economics
ENGL 4755: Illness & Disability Narrative
ETST 3002: Ethnicity, Health, & Social Justice
GEOG 3501: Geography of Health
GEOG 4235: GIS Applications in Health Sciences
GEOG 4710: Disasters, Climate Change, & Health
HEHM 3100: Introduction to Health Humanities
HIST 3606: Science, Technology, & Society in the Modern World
HIST 4345: Gender, Science, & Medicine: 1600 to the Present
HIST 4346: Medicine & Society: The Ancients to the Present
HIST 4348: Mind & Malady: A History of Mental Illness
PBHL 1001: Race, Gender, Class, & Health
PBHL 3002: Ethnicity, Health, & Social Justice
PBHL 3010: Human Sexuality & Public Health
PBHL 3030: Health Policy
PBHL 3041: Health, Culture & Society
PBHL 3051: Mental Illness & Society
PBHL 3070: Perspective in Global Health
PBHL 3081: Health in the City: Urban Health
PBHL 3091: Live Long & Prosper: Public Health & Aging
PBHL 4020: Global Health: Comparative Public Health Systems
PBHL 4040: Social Determinants of Health
PBHL 4090/ANTH 4090: Drug Syndemic
PHIL 3550: Philosophy of Death & Dying
PHIL 4242: Bioethics
PSCI 4330: U.S. Health Policy
PSYC 2205: Lifespan Developmental Psychology for Health Majors
PSYC 3262: Health Psychology
PSYC 3305: Abnormal Psychology
PSYC 3822: Aging, Brain & Behavior
WGST 4345: Gender, Science, & Medicine: 1600 to the Present

Program Requirements

Eligibility

Studying health and medical issues is a multidisciplinary endeavor drawing from diverse fields like Public Health, Anthropology, and Communications. CU Denver undergraduate students in any major may enroll in the program.

Application Procedures

Students may apply for the Community Health & Medicine Certificate at any point in their undergraduate studies. Contact the Community Health & Medicine Certificate Administrator, Dr. Teresa Cooney (teresa.cooney@ucdenver.edu).

Performance Requirements

Students must have a cumulative GPA of 1.7 or higher and earn a minimum of a “C-” in each course applied to the certificate. The certificate will be added to students’ transcript when all requirements are completed.