

**University of Colorado Denver**

**Department of Sociology**

**Graduate Program Handbook**

2023-2024

The information in this handbook provides specific information on the MA Sociology program and supplements the University of Colorado-Denver's Graduate Student Rules and Graduate Student.

Revised April 2023

## Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Contact Information.....	4
Overview of the Department.....	5
Degree Requirements.....	7
Faculty Advising and Support.....	10
Comprehensive Paper Process.....	10
Additional Information.....	15
Faculty Research Specialties.....	16
Graduate Course Descriptions.....	18
Advisor Designation Form.....	21
MA Proposal Approval & Committee Designation Form.....	23

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to the master's program in sociology at the University of Colorado Denver. We are excited to offer you rigorous sociological training in a supportive and vibrant atmosphere. Our program has been producing MA graduates for more than 25 years. Our graduates have gone on to positions in universities, colleges, research organizations, non-profits, and private sector organizations around the globe.

The goal of this handbook is to make the process of navigating our MA program clear. Please keep in mind, however, that our program and the University are dynamic institutions. This handbook is a "living" document, meaning that we regularly update it to keep pace with the University's objectives and policies. We recommend you remain aware of updates throughout the academic year that may impact you and your academic progress. Please take time to read the information presented in the handbook and let us know if you have questions.

We hope you will make the most of your time here by engaging in campus events and community activities. We also encourage you to reach out and connect with the wonderful faculty, staff, and students here in the Department and throughout the University. Together we will ensure you have an invaluable scholarly experience as you explore and contribute to the discipline of sociology.

The Faculty of the Department of Sociology  
University of Colorado Denver

## 2. CONTACT INFORMATION

*Department Location:*

*Mailing address:*

Campus Box 105, P.O. Box 173364, Denver, CO 80217-3364

*Street address:*

Lawrence Street Center, 1380 Lawrence Street, Suite 420, Denver, CO 80204  
(Use this address for priority delivery, such as FedEx)

Phone: (303) 315-2148      Fax: (303) 315-2149

Website: <http://clas.ucdenver.edu/sociology/>

*Department Chair:* Keith Guzik      Office 420E  
303-315-2148  
[Keith.Guzik@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Keith.Guzik@ucdenver.edu)

*Director of Graduate Studies:* Adam M. Lippert      Office 420U  
303-315-2146  
[Adam.Lippert@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Adam.Lippert@ucdenver.edu)

*Program Assistant:* Anne Beard      Office 420  
303-315-2148  
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### **3. OVERVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT**

#### **a. Mission Statement**

The mission of the Sociology Department at the University of Colorado Denver is to provide a coherent, progressive experience that prepares students for either immediate entry to master's level careers or continued study in Ph.D. programs. This preparation includes (1) developing a deep understanding of sociological concepts and theories; (2) understanding and executing basic research methods including qualitative and quantitative data analysis; (3) understanding how professional sociology is practiced in academia and in the community; and (4) demonstrating critical thinking skills, methodological rigor, and deep theoretical understanding in the production of a comprehensive paper.

#### **b. Graduate Faculty**

Currently, the Department of Sociology graduate faculty consists of ten rostered faculty members and one part-time lecturer (listed below). They are diverse in their theoretical orientations, methodological approaches, and substantive interests. Their strong teaching backgrounds allow the department to provide rigorous graduate training in social theory, research methods, and both quantitative and qualitative analyses. Furthermore, their knowledge of substantive areas allows for concentrations in Crime, Law and Deviance; Health and Society; and Family, Social Services, and Community.

*Our fulltime graduate faculty:*

Keith Guzik, Professor and Chair  
Jennifer Reich, Professor  
Adam M. Lippert, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies  
Esther Sullivan, Associate Professor  
Edelina Burciaga, Assistant Professor  
Maren Scull, Associate Professor, CTT and Undergraduate Advisor  
Jenny Vermilya, Associate Professor, CTT  
Kari Alexander, Senior Instructor

#### **c. Our Strengths**

*Faculty Research Agendas*

Currently, the central foci of the graduate faculty are Crime, Law, and Deviance; Health and Society; and Urban Inequality. These foci areas have direct connections to key issues in our community, nation, and world today. These areas are also cited by the American Sociological Association as being in relatively high demand in the labor market.

*Size*

The small size of the Department of Sociology is tremendously beneficial for graduate students. Faculty members understand that everyone has different interests and goals in mind when joining our program. Therefore, graduate students receive personalized and attentive advising throughout their graduate careers. Every effort is made to enable students to achieve their individual goals and satisfy their scholarly curiosity within the parameters of the program.

*Urban Location*

CU Denver is situated within the heart of the city. As such, it is an intellectual center where the diverse social dynamics of race, gender, and class intersect. Much inspiration and opportunity exists for applied research within such a fruitful environment.

*Collaborative Environment*

The Sociology faculty has established a collegial relationship with other departments in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Anschutz Medical Campus. This results in an opportunity to connect with those in other disciplines and across campuses who have similar substantive interests and methodological approaches.

**5. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

The graduate program requires a minimum of 33 graduate credit hours for graduation. This includes 27 credit hours of 5000-level coursework, where 15 credits are for core courses and 12 credits are for elective courses. The final six credits are earned by completing one of four culminating options, generally over two semesters.

**a. Core Courses (15 credits)**

*Courses*

The following five core courses (15 credits) are required for the MA Degree.

SOCY 5000 Professional Seminar	3 credits (offered each fall)
SOCY 5016 Social Theory	3 credits (offered annually)
SOCY 5024 Research Methods	3 credits (typically offered in fall)
SOCY 5183 Quantitative Data Analysis	3 credits (typically offered in spring)
SOCY 5193 Qualitative Data Analysis	3 credits (typically offered in spring)
<b>Total</b>	<b>15 credits</b>

*Sequencing and Standards*

The department requires that (a) SOCY 5000 Professional Seminar be taken the first fall semester following admission to the program; and (b) SOCY 5024 Research Methods (offered in the fall) must be taken before Qualitative or Quantitative Data Analysis (both offered in the spring). Thus, students typically enroll in the Professional Seminar and Research Methods courses their first semester.

Students must earn a B or higher in core classes in order for these classes to count toward the MA degree.

## **b. Elective Courses (12 credits minimum)**

### *Courses*

Four graduate-level electives (12 credits) are required for the MA Degree. No more than two electives (six credits) can come from outside the department, and no more than one elective (three credits) can be an independent study without prior approval by the Director of Graduate Studies. A fifth elective is required of students completing the program via our “fifth elective + short report” option, and six electives in total are required for the extended coursework option (see below).

### *Sequencing and Standards*

In general, electives may be taken at any time during the program. However, electives cannot be taken in lieu of completing the core courses in the appropriate sequence. For example, a student may not take an elective during the first semester unless he/she is also enrolling in Professional Seminar.

Students must earn a B- or higher in elective classes in order for these classes to count toward the MA degree.

*Note: new policies in the office of graduate education allow a one-time grade of a ‘C’ for credit in any graduate class. The requirements for a B in required and B- in elective courses otherwise apply.*

## **c. Culminating Options (6 credits)**

### *Courses*

The program requires a comprehensive paper, report, project, or portfolio representing the culmination of the master’s program experience. The student and advisor collaborate and, based on the student’s goals, choose one of four routes: a master’s thesis (typical for those students who plan to pursue a PhD after completing their MA), an internship with applied project, a fifth elective with a short report, and the six elective extended coursework option.

The MA thesis experience requires students to enroll in a total of six credits of Master’s Thesis hours (SOCY 5955) spread over two semesters. The applied project is also six credits total, with three credits of either Internship (SOCY 5939) or Independent Study (SOCY 5840) and three credits of Master’s Paper (SOCY 5964) spread over two semesters. The fifth elective + short report requires that a fifth 5000-level elective be taken in our outside of the Sociology program along with three credits of Master’s Report (SOCY 5964). Finally, the six elective extended coursework option requires only two additional 5000-level electives and the compilation of a portfolio of final projects from about five (5) graduate courses that mutually represent the student’s MA-level knowledge, skills, and abilities. All options require a defense before three graduate faculty members, two of which must be rostered Sociology faculty.

### *Sequencing and Standards*

Comprehensive paper courses are taken during the final two semesters of the program. Students must earn a B or higher for these classes to count toward the MA degree. Grades

for Master's Thesis and Master's Paper hours are not issued until the final product has been successfully defended and all conditions have been met.

**d. Program Course Checklist**

Course Requirements

- SOCY 5000 Professional Seminar
- SOCY 5024 Research Methods
- SOCY 5015 Social Theory
- SOCY 5183 Quantitative Data Analysis
- SOCY 5193 Qualitative Data Analysis
- Elective Course 1 (5000 level and above)
- Elective Course 2 (5000 level and above)
- Elective Course 3 (5000 level and above)
- Elective Course 4 (5000 level and above)

Comprehensive Paper:

Applied Project:

- SOCY 5939 Internship (3 credits) or SOCY 5840 Independent Study (3 credits) and
- SOCY 5964 Master's Paper (3 credits)

or Thesis:

- SOCY 5955 Master's Thesis (6 credits)

or Fifth Elective + Short Report

- One additional elective (3 credits) to be taken within or outside of Sociology
- SOCY 5964 Master's Paper (3 credits)

or Extended Coursework

- Two additional electives (6 credits) to be taken within or outside of Sociology
- Portfolio defense (no credits)



**e. Sample Two-Year Plan Timeline**

First Year					
Fall	SOCY 5000 Professional Seminar			3	
	SOCY 5024 Research Methods			3	
	Elective Course #1			3	
				Subtotal	9
Spring	SOCY 5183 Qualitative Data Analysis			3	
	SOCY 5193 Quantitative Data Analysis			3	
	Elective Course #2			3	
				Subtotal	9
Second Year					
	Master's Thesis track			Applied Project track	
Fall	SOCY 5955 Master's Thesis		3	SOCY 5939 Internship OR SOCY 5840 Independent Study	
	SOCY 5016 Social Theory		3	SOCY 5016 Social Theory	
	Elective Course #3		3	Elective Course #3	
				Subtotal	9
Spring	SOCY 5955 Master's Thesis		3	SOCY 5964 Master's Final Paper	
	Elective Course #4		3	Elective Course #4	
				Subtotal	6
Total					33

**f. Sample Three-year Plan Timeline**

First Year					
Fall	SOCY 5000 Professional Seminar			3	
	SOCY 5024 Research Methods			3	
				Subtotal	6
Spring	SOCY 5183 Qualitative Data Analysis or 5193 Quantitative Data Analysis			3	
	Elective Course #1			3	
				Subtotal	6
Second Year					
Fall	SOCY 5016 Social Theory			3	
	Elective Course #2			3	
				Subtotal	6
Spring	SOCY 5183 Qualitative Data Analysis or 5193 Quantitative Data Analysis			3	
	Elective Course #3			3	
				Subtotal	6
Third Year					
	Master's Thesis track			Applied Project track	
Fall	SOCY 5955 Master's Thesis		3	SOCY 5939 Internship OR SOCY 5840 Independent Study	
	Elective Course #4		3	Elective Course #4	
				Subtotal	6
Spring	SOCY 5955 Master's Thesis		3	SOCY 5964 Final Master's Paper	
				Subtotal	3
Total					33

## 6. FACULTY ADVISING AND SUPPORT

### a. Director of Graduate Studies

Students should contact the Director of Graduate Studies with questions relating to their progress through the program. He is available to recommend courses, discuss advisor and committee selection, provide examples of successful student work, and more. He can also help connect students to resources on campus including student groups, library tutorials, writing assistance, mental health services, and special events. Our current Director of Graduate Studies is Dr. Adam Lippert (Adam.Lippert@ucdenver.edu).

### b. Graduate Advisor

Students are required to designate a Graduate Advisor before or upon completion of 12 credits in our program. This is accomplished by submitting to the Director of Graduate Studies a completed *Advisor Designation Form* located at the end of this handbook. Typically, students work with advisors who are a strong fit to their academic interests. Students may change advisors as needed or desired. Students are encouraged to consult with the Director of Graduate Studies about choosing an advisor.

### c. Comprehensive Paper Committee

Prior to the start of a student's final semester in the program the student must submit to the Director of Graduate Studies a completed *MA Proposal Approval & Committee Designation Form* can be found at the end of this handbook. This form requires that the student has put together comprehensive paper committee.

The student's principal advisor will serve as the chair of this committee. With the oversight and guidance of her/his advisor, the student will develop a proposal. Two additional faculty members must also approve of the proposal and agree to serve on the comprehensive committee. All committee members must have graduate faculty status with the Graduate School. The chair and at least one of the two committee members must have majority appointments in the Department of Sociology. While students work primarily with their chair during the comprehensive process, it is essential to select committee members who, because of their scholarly expertise, can contribute to the student's work and provide appropriate feedback on drafts. These standards apply to all culminating options including the short report and applied projects tracks.

## 7. COMPREHENSIVE PAPER PROCESS

The process of completing the comprehensive paper requires discipline and a good deal of work researching, writing, and re-writing material. Students should anticipate completing several drafts before it is ready for a defense. This is often the most challenging phase of the master's program. However, with a good foundation of coursework, guidance from faculty with appropriate expertise, and a strong proposal this can also be the most exciting period of a student's graduate career.

### a. Human Subjects

Students planning to use of human subjects in their research (e.g. as survey respondents, interviewees, and/or test subjects) must submit review forms and obtain approval from

The Colorado Multiple Institutional Review Board (COMIRB) before beginning such research. We recommend students work with their advisor to submit this application as soon as they know what their comprehensive paper will entail and before drafting the full proposal. This would typically be the semester (or summer) before their final year in the program. That way, the project can be reviewed while the student is developing the full proposal.

The Colorado Multiple Institutional Review Board (COMIRB) is responsible for reviewing and overseeing human subject research conducted at the University of Colorado Denver. Legal requirements to protect human subjects apply to a much broader range than many researchers realize, and applying the regulations is not always a straightforward process. Researchers are advised to consult with faculty and COMIRB when uncertain whether the activity is considered human subject research.

Information on the COMIRB on the Denver campus is available at:  
[www.ucdenver.edu/research/comirb](http://www.ucdenver.edu/research/comirb).

## **b. Proposal**

Prior to working on a comprehensive paper, all students are required to complete a proposal under the guidance of one's primary advisor. Proposals typically include a timeline for completion, and outline the scope, significance, and methodology that will be used in their comprehensive paper. While guidelines and examples are available through the Director of Graduate Studies, students should defer to any specific requirements laid out by their primary advisor. An approved proposal is required to be submitted to the Director of Graduate Studies with the signed *MA Proposal Approval & Committee Designation Form* (referenced above and included at the end of this handbook) no later than the start of the student's final semester in the program.

## **c. Comprehensive Paper Options**

### *Option 1: Thesis*

The master's thesis can be a qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods research study. The length and structure of the thesis is negotiated between the student and their advisor. The purpose of the thesis is to demonstrate the student's ability to execute a professional level sociological study. The skills required to demonstrate this ability include:

- Familiarity with previously published literature on the problem;
- Formulation of a hypothesis or research question;
- Specification of appropriate procedures or research design;
- Collecting or accessing relevant information or data;
- An appropriate analysis of materials;
- An appropriate interpretation of the results, conclusions and implications of the study;

- Effective written communication of the information in an appropriate style (e.g., ASA); and
- A satisfactory oral defense of the work.

*Option 2: Applied Project*

The master's applied project option refers to an applied sociological experience and a final paper that is associated with the experience. Applied experiences are usually internships but may be other forms of community engagement or organizational involvement. The associated final paper could be an educational curriculum, grant application, or program evaluation; or it could be a sociological analysis of the experience itself. This option allows for a great deal of flexibility for the student and advisor to identify the skills and experiences that will best aid the student's goals and future trajectory. Like traditional theses, these projects require a three-person committee, a proposal, and a successful oral defense.

*Option 3: Fifth Elective + Short Report*

This option entails completion of a fifth elective, either from Sociology or another program listed on a menu of courses the department will provide students.<sup>1</sup> Using the substantive and methodological skills accrued from their coursework, students would develop a report of approximately 15-20 pages assessing a topic that is of sociological significance. A report developed by the student and under supervision of their advisor should summarize (a) the topic of interest, (b) its sociological relevance, (c) the materials and methods used to investigate and analyze the topic, (d) key findings according to standards within the discipline, and (e) a brief discussion and conclusion detailing the implications of the research findings, which may include policy responses implied by the findings and future directions in both scholarly and applied work related to the student's chosen topic. Like the thesis and applied project, the report shall be presented by the student to their committee at a formal defense. Students should note that the report is a "research report" and is akin to the scientific work produced at research organizations, think tanks, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

*Option 4: Extended Coursework + Portfolio*

To support students with a continued desire for class-based learning and skills acquisition, we offer the extended coursework option that requires an additional two electives totaling six credits. These credits can be taken in the Sociology Department or from another department, but must be 5000-level courses or higher. For students electing this option, the two additional electives would replace other requirements from the three culminating options already in place: a thesis, an internship with applied project, or a short research report. Students interested in this option must receive the approval of the graduate program director before enrolling. In addition, students will assemble a portfolio of final projects from about five (5) graduate courses that showcase the student's MA-level knowledge, skills, and abilities accrued from their coursework. Like other culminating options, the portfolio must be successfully defended before a committee of three graduate faculty members before the MA can be conferred.

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<sup>1</sup> We note that the option to take more than two electives from outside the Sociology Department will be reserved only for students electing the extended coursework options.

#### **d. The Oral Defense**

Once a graduate student has completed his/her comprehensive experience or research, the student will submit and revise drafts of the paper until his/her advisor (and committee) decides that the work is ready to be defended. It is then the student's responsibility to schedule the exam and make sure that all committee members agree to the date, time, and place.

During the defense the student typically gives a brief (15 minute) oral presentation of the work to the committee and any other attendees. Next, the committee asks questions and makes comments about the work, and the student is expected to respond and defend the work in a professional manner. Members of the committee will immediately meet to decide whether the work is passable. If so, the committee will either approve the work as is or, more commonly, approve the work with conditions. Any conditions must be met in accordance with the Graduate School deadlines for graduation.

#### **e. Timing Considerations**

Students must be registered for at least one credit during the semester in which the student successfully defends the comprehensive paper. It is important that students adhere to all Department and Graduate School deadlines in order to ensure a smooth graduation process. Students who miss any of the deadlines will be required to delay their graduation and register for the subsequent semester (summer session is considered a separate semester). A good deal of paperwork is required by both the Department and the Graduate School, especially during the final semester of the program. Students are responsible for keeping aware of the deadlines and forms required by the Graduate School for graduation. Students should consult the Graduate School website for the most up-to-date deadlines and forms: <http://www.ucdenver.edu/GraduateSchool>.

### **8. Additional Policies**

#### *Addressing Deficiencies*

Students who have been accepted into the program but have been identified as having deficiencies in areas such as academic writing, sociological theory, or statistics may be asked to address these deficiencies before and/or during the first semester of enrollment by taking undergraduate courses.

#### *Combined BA/MA (4+1) Students*

Our program offers a combined BA/MA program for high-achieving CU Denver undergraduate sociology majors. Their applications to the graduate program are evaluated alongside traditional MA applications, and they are held to the same requirements and standards as traditionally-admitted students throughout the program.

#### *Transfer Credit*

The Department of Sociology may accept up to 12 credits of appropriate course work from other accredited graduate programs with the Department's Graduate Committee approval. Students must submit a syllabus, which includes a list of readings and assignments, along with an official transcript for each transfer course for evaluation. No transfer credits will be granted for courses in which the student receives a grade of B- or below.

### *Academic Standards*

Students are required to maintain a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.00 in all course work applied to the degree program. Grades received in courses transferred from another institution and/or grades earned while classified as a special student are not included in the cumulative G.P.A. Courses taken as pass/fail will not apply toward the degree. Consistent with Graduate School policies, students will be placed on academic probation if their cumulative G.P.A. falls below a 3.0 or if they earn a course grade less than a B-. In the semester following placement on probation, the student must achieve a 3.0 G.P.A. in all course work taken that semester and earn no lower than a B in all courses undertaken. Otherwise, the student will be dismissed from the program by the Graduate Dean in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies.

### *Incomplete and In Progress Grades*

When a student has special circumstances that make it impossible to complete course assignments, faculty members have the discretion to award an incomplete grade. Incomplete grades are not awarded for poor academic performance or as a way of extending assignment deadlines. While not required, a CLAS course completion agreement form is strongly suggested when faculty and student agree on an incomplete grade. Graduate students have three semesters (one academic year) to finish incomplete work or it converts to a grade of F.

When a student is working on master's thesis or master's paper credit hours, the supervising instructor will issue an In Progress (IP) grade for those courses until the student has successfully defended and satisfied all conditions of the thesis or paper.

### *Independent Studies*

Graduate students may take up to a total of three independent study credits as elective credits under the direct supervision of a graduate faculty member and with the approval of the Program Director. A formal contract (i.e. special processing form) that outlines the project and grading criteria, must be drawn up between supervisor and student prior to commencement of the independent study. This form is sent to the CLAS Dean's Office and serves as the registration form.

The minimum CU Denver G.P.A. required to register for independent study credits is 3.00. Each independent study project may be taken for 1-3 credits. The primary purpose of independent study is to enable students to pursue knowledge in an area not covered by a regularly offered course or to pursue an area of research in much greater depth than is possible through an existing course. Independent study places the major responsibility for learning directly upon the student. Therefore, students should not undertake to do an independent study unless they can assume considerable responsibility in planning and carrying out a project independently. Students are not permitted to consider an independent study until they have completed the core course requirements.

### *Time-to-Degree*

Students have up to seven years to complete their master's degree beginning with the start of coursework after they have been admitted to the program. Students can request a leave of absence if situations arise that legitimately affect the ability to complete the program within this time span, but the leave must be approved by the sociology program.

## **7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **a. Financial Aid and Assistantships**

#### *Scholarships*

The department offers occasional merit-based scholarships. Further tuition assistance and financial aid information can be found at the Student Service Center in the lobby of the North Classroom Building. For scholarship information, students should contact the UCD Scholarship/Resource Office (CU Denver Building, Suite 110).

#### *Teaching Assistantships*

The Department of Sociology offers teaching assistant and/or grader positions to current MA students. These assistantships require five to ten hours of work per week. The Department Chair, after consulting with faculty, will determine which students qualify to be teaching assistants. Please ask the Director of Graduate Studies for more information.

#### *Research Assistantships*

Research assistant positions may be available depending on individual faculty member's research. Please reach out to individual faculty members about their research and whether they have positions available.

*Additional Opportunities:* We often receive research, teaching, and other opportunities on campus and beyond. These notices will be sent to your CU Denver email through the Graduate Student listserv. Please be sure to evaluate these opportunities and their appropriateness, as the Department does not screen them.

### **b. Graduate Student Liaison**

The position of graduate student liaison is assigned to a current full-time graduate student by the Department Chair. The function of the graduate student liaison is to serve as an informal communication link between graduate students and the faculty. As the representative of the sociology graduate student body, the liaison will communicate to the faculty students' needs, concerns, complaints, as well as transmit relevant departmental information to the students. However, all students are encouraged to communicate with faculty on an individual basis and each student is responsible for acquiring official information from the Department of Sociology.

### **c. Sociological Professional Organizations**

Students are encouraged to actively participate in sociological professional organizations such as the American Sociological Association (ASA) and the Pacific Sociological Association. There are many benefits in becoming a student member of professional organizations. Every year, CU Denver Sociology graduate students travel to present their papers at the meetings of sociological organizations. Graduate students are eligible for a free one-year membership to ASA if they have never been a member. For more information on these organizations please visit their websites:

*American Sociological Association*  
[www.asanet.org](http://www.asanet.org)

*Pacific Sociological Association*  
[www.pacificsoc.org](http://www.pacificsoc.org)

## **8. GRADUATE FACULTY RESEARCH SPECIALTIES**

There are three research areas that the department identifies as major strengths. Each area has faculty with whom students can consult when their research interests fall within the three areas.

***Family, Social Services, and Community:*** Jennifer Reich, Jenny Vermilya

***Crime, Law and Deviance:*** Edelina Burciaga, Keith Guzik, Maren Scull, Esther Sullivan

***Health and Society:*** Kari Alexander, Adam Lippert, Jennifer Reich

In addition to these departmental strengths, our graduate faculty represent a wide range of interests and research agendas. Graduate students are encouraged to reach out to faculty throughout the program. Here is a list of our contact information and research interests:

**Kari Alexander, Senior Instructor (Ph.D., University of Colorado Boulder)**

Phone: 303-315-2137

Email: [kari.alexander@ucdenver.edu](mailto:kari.alexander@ucdenver.edu)

*religion, health, research methods, quantitative analysis*

**Edelina Burciaga, Assistant Professor (Ph.D., University of California, Irvine)**

Phone: 303-315-2145

Email: [edelina.burciaga@ucdenver.edu](mailto:edelina.burciaga@ucdenver.edu)

*race and ethnicity, law, immigration, education, qualitative methods*

**Keith Guzik, Professor and Chair (Ph.D., University of Illinois, Urbana)**

Phone: 303-315-2147

Email: [keith.guzik@ucdenver.edu](mailto:keith.guzik@ucdenver.edu)

*criminology, law & society, science & technology, social theory, research methods*

**Adam Lippert, Associate Professor (Ph.D., The Pennsylvania State University)**

Phone: 303-315-2146

Email: [adam.lippert@ucdenver.edu](mailto:adam.lippert@ucdenver.edu)

*quantitative methods, medical sociology, population health, demography*

**Jennifer Reich, Professor (Ph.D., University of California, Davis)**

Phone: 303-315-2135

Email: [jennifer.reich@ucdenver.edu](mailto:jennifer.reich@ucdenver.edu)

*family, healthcare, law and policy, gender*



**Esther Sullivan, Associate Professor (Ph.D., University of Texas, Austin)**

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*inequality and poverty, ethnography, urban sociology, law & governance, housing, health*

**Maren Scull, Associate Professor, CTT (Ph.D., Indiana University)**

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Email: maren.scull@ucdenver.edu

*deviance, social psychology, sexualities, gender*

**Jenny Vermilya, Assistant Professor, CTT (Ph.D., University of Colorado Boulder)**

Phone: 303-315-2138

Email: maren.scull@ucdenver.edu

*gender, animals & society, occupations*

## **9. GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **SOCY 5000 Professional Seminar: Introduction to Sociological Inquiry**

Professional Seminar is designed to orient new graduate students to graduate education and the profession of sociology. Students are introduced to aspects of their graduate and professional careers and acquainted with the CU Denver Sociology graduate program and members of the graduate faculty and their research and interests. The seminar is generally instructed by the Graduate Program Director, but many topics are also guided by other faculty members in the department.

*Offered every fall semester.*

### **SOCY 5024 Research Methods**

Problems and procedures in research design, data collection and processing.

*Offered every fall semester.*

### **SOCY 5015 Social Theory**

An overview of major theories across the social behavioral sciences examining social order, integration, conflict, and change. The course emphasizes a cross-disciplinary approach highlighting works of historical and contemporary relevance.

*Offered annually.*

### **SOCY 5183 Quantitative Data Analysis**

A research-oriented seminar stressing the utilization of social data already collected in the test or generation of sociological theory.

*Prerequisites: SOC 5024 Research Methods*

*Offered every spring semester.*

**SOCY 5193 Qualitative Data Analysis**

A research-oriented seminar stressing the collection and analysis of qualitative data used in the production of sociological understanding and theory.

*Prerequisites:* SOC 5024 Research Methods

*Offered every spring semester.*

**SOCY 5050 Health Disparities**

A seminar reviewing and investigating the sources of health disparities across gender, age, race/ethnicity and socioeconomic status in the United States and abroad.

**SOCY 5110 Sociology of Health Care**

Examines the health care institutions of the United States. Issues such as rising costs, the effect of class, racial and gender inequality, the professionalization and monopolization of roles, current restructuring, construction of illness and health, managed care, health care for profit, and the ethics of health care decisions.

**SOCY 5220 Population Change and Analysis**

The sociological importance of population study, advanced demographic analysis, and population theory.

**SOCY 5430 Societies in Transition**

A description and analysis of changing social structures and social relationships as a response to technological innovation and change.

**SOCY 5440 Social Inequality**

The historical development of various systems of production of social surplus, its differential distribution among distinct social groups, and the effects on social structure.

**SOCY 5590 Crime, Justice, and the City**

Why are inequality, crime, and police unevenly spread across cities. Class examines why crime varies by neighborhood, whether place-based policing is racially biased, and why prisons are filled with people from just a few zip codes. Examines racial and economic segregation, gentrification, white flight, and suburbanization in the context of criminal justice. Focus on research using mapping, interviews, statistics, and ethnography.

**SOCY 5640 Sociology of Childhood and Adolescence**

An in-depth overview of the theories and research regarding the life course understanding of infancy, childhood, and adolescence. Children's lives and cultures in relation to adults and their transition from childhood to adolescence are studied.

**SOCY 5660 Social Psychology**

Sociological approaches to the study of the self, role theory, persons in situations, identifications, socialization, and other characteristics of persons in society.

**SOCY 5680 Hate Groups and Group Violence**

Social sciences help us understand the phenomena of hate groups and group violence and contribute toward their elimination. Examples are examined using theoretical perspectives on different levels of analysis and within different areas of research.

**SOCY 5690 Crime and Inequality Over the Life Course**

A life-course perspective on issues of inequality and crime. Studies transitions, trajectories and turning points as key features of the life course. Considers how life inequalities and criminal behavior are shaped by the timing of experiences, historical and geographic contexts, other people's lives, and human agency.

**SOCY 5750 Criminology**

An intensive review and analysis of the literature and research dealing with the sociology of crime in modern society.

**SOCY 5770 Advanced Topics in Sociology****SOCY 5939 Internship****SOCY 5940 Independent Study****SOCY 5955 Master's Thesis and SOCY 5964 Master's Paper**



Department of Sociology

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

**Advisor Designation Form**

*Student:* \_\_\_\_\_  
Name (print) Student ID # Date

Upon completing 12 credits (if not earlier), graduate students are expected to select an advisor. Complete submit this form in person or by email to the Director of Graduate Studies. The student and advisor collaborate to develop a course of study aligned with the student’s goals. The advisor also serves as the chair of the student’s comprehensive paper committee, providing guidance at all stages and helping the student select second and third committee members.

*If an advisor change is needed or desired, an additional form will be provided. Please fill out the following and return to the Graduate Program Director.*

Advisor: I agree to advise this student.

*Advisor:* \_\_\_\_\_  
Name (print) Signature Date

Received by:

*Dir. of Graduate Studies:* \_\_\_\_\_  
Name (print) Signature Date

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## MA Proposal Approval & Committee Designation Form

*Student:* \_\_\_\_\_  
Name (print)
Student ID #
Date

Thesis Option     Applied Experience and Paper Option (check one)

Anticipated Graduation:  December     May     August (check one) \_\_\_\_\_  
Year

*This form must be signed and submitted (in person or by email) to the Director of Graduate Studies prior to the student's final semester in the program.*

*To the Student:*

Please have this form signed by the three faculty members who have agreed to serve as your graduate committee. Submit this form and a copy of the proposal to the Graduate Program Director for signature and filing.

*To the Graduate Committee Members:*

Your signature below indicates that you have read and approved the proposal presented by this student. This student can now proceed to the next stage of work. You further agree to serve as a member of the student's graduate committee and participate in the student's defense.

Graduate Committee Members:

*Chair:* \_\_\_\_\_  
Name (print or type)
Signature
Date

*Member:* \_\_\_\_\_  
Name (print or type)
Signature
Date

*Member:* \_\_\_\_\_  
Name (print or type)
Signature
Date

Received by:

*Dir. of Graduate Studies:* \_\_\_\_\_  
Name (print)
Signature
Date