



Families and Social Welfare Certificate



Families play a significant part in individuals' lives and society. In sociology, one approach is to view families as a small group, focusing on relational processes like support, socialization, conflict, and intimacy that constitute interactions among family members. Another approach views the family as a major social institution that interacts closely with other institutions including those affecting education, law, healthcare, religion, the economy, criminal justice, and welfare. The family—in its varied and diverse forms—is also key to understanding how inequality is experienced and reproduced in society, as substantial responsibility for caring, nurturing, and raising others is delegated to families. The interplay of these multiple levels—the micro or interpersonal, the meso or institutional, and the macro or structural—also interests sociologists, as individuals influence social structures and institutions, and the latter, in turn, affect family interactions and relationships. This certificate provides students a foundation for understanding the complex role of families and family members at multiple levels, as well as the social systems and organizations responsible for supporting families and individuals. The content and methods courses will prepare students for direct service positions working with individuals and families (e.g., human and social services), or research, policy or advocacy positions addressing family issues (e.g., housing, violence and abuse, parenting, social welfare). Students earning the certificate also will be well-positioned to pursue advanced degrees in social work, public health, counseling, law, sociology, or related disciplines.

Upon successful completion of the certificate, students will:

- Recognize the diversity of family structures within and across cultures
- Understand the theoretical perspectives explaining family behavior and relationships, and those addressing differences in the institution of family across cultures and over time
- Be familiar with current trends in family structure, and recent research on family functioning and well-being, and how family research informs advocacy and policy work, and social welfare programs
- Be able to apply the technical skills of their methodological training to conduct analyses about families and family life, and outcomes assessments for social welfare programs aimed at helping families
- Engage in original research projects involving family-related issues

Curriculum

To obtain the certificate, students must complete three core requirements and two electives, totaling a minimum of 15 hours. SOCY 3700: Sociology of the Family, is required and should be taken prior to the required methods courses because it familiarizes students with key family concepts that can be explored hands-on in their 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 3700 - Sociology of the Family (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 (e.g., COMM 4221, PBHL 4031) may be substituted for SOCY 3119. All methods substitutions must be approved by the certificate administrator to ensure they are equivalent courses to those they are replacing.

3) Two related electives from the following approved courses:

SOCY 3010: Sociology of Human Sexuality
SOCY 3080: Sex & Gender
SOCY 4270: Social Meanings of Reproduction
SOCY 4290: Aging, Society & Social Policy
SOCY 4640: Sociology of Childhood & Adolescence
SOCY 4650: Sociology of Adulthood & Aging
SOCY 4780: Violence in Relationships
COMM 1041: Interpersonal Communication
COMM 3275: Family Communication
COMM 4262: Mediation
ECON 1010: Economics of Social Issues
ECON 3100: Economics of Race and Gender
ECON 4210: Public Finance
ETST 2125: Biracial Family
ETST 3230: African American Family
HBSC 4110: Public Health Perspectives on Family Violence
HIST 4219: Depression, Affluence, and Anxiety: US History 1929 to Present
HIST 4222: U.S. Social Thought to 1860
HIST 4223: U.S. Social Thought Since 1860
HIST 4303: Sex & Gender in Modern Britain
HIST 4492 - United States History, 1919-1945
HIST 4493 - United States History, 1945-1973
HIST 4494 - United States History, 1973-Present
PHIL 3000: Ethics & Community Affairs
PHIL 3200: Social & Political Philosophy
PSCI 4009: Policy & Budgetary Process
PSCI 4024: Legislatures & Legislation
PSCI 4084: Local Government & Administration
PSCI 4085: Comparative Public Policy
PSCI 4324: Politics, Public Policy & Leadership
PSCI 4330: U.S. Health Policy
PSYC 3405: Family Psychology (Prereq: PSYC 1000, 1005)
PSYC 3205: Child Psychology (Prereq: PSYC 1000, 1005)
PSYC 3215: Adolescence & Adulthood (Prereq: PSYC 1000, 1005, or 3205)
PSYC 3235: Human Sexuality (Prereq: PSYC 1000, 1005)
PSYC 3612: Domestic Abuse
PSYC 4485: Cultural Diversity
CHIN 1000: China & the Chinese
HIST 3488: Tudor-Stuart England

Program Requirements

Eligibility

While housed in Sociology, the study of families and social welfare is in fact a multidisciplinary field that draws from diverse liberal arts fields, including Psychology, Communications, and History, among others. Thus, CU Denver undergraduate students in any discipline can enroll in the program.

Application Procedures

Students are encouraged to apply for the Families and Social Welfare Certificate at any point in their undergraduate studies. More information can be obtained from the Families and Social Welfare Certificate Administrator, Dr. Teresa Cooney at teresa.cooney@ucdenver.edu.

Performance Requirements

Students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher and earn a minimum of a “C” in each course applied to the certificate. The certificate will be transcribed when all requirements are completed.
